## **BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP**

LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

**REGULAR AUDIT** 

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 & 2021



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Members of the Board of Trustees Burlington Township 14006 Simmons Rd. Utica, OH 43080

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Burlington Township, Licking County, prepared by Julian & Grube, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them. In conjunction with the work performed by the Independent Public Accountant, the Auditor of State is issuing the following:

#### Finding for Recovery- Resolved Under Audit

**Ohio Rev. Code § 505.60(A)** states as provided in this section and section 505.601 of the Revised Code, the board of township trustees of any township may procure and pay all or any part of the cost of insurance policies that may provide benefits for hospitalization, surgical care, major medical care, disability, dental care, eye care, medical care, hearing aids, prescription drugs, or sickness and accident insurance, or a combination of any of the foregoing types of insurance for township officers and employees.

**Ohio Rev. Code § 505.601** states if a board of township trustees does not procure an insurance policy or group health care services as provided in section 505.60 of the Revised Code, the board of township trustees may reimburse any township officer or employee for each out-of-pocket premium attributable to the coverage provided for that officer or employee for insurance benefits described in division (A) of section 505.60 of the Revise Odde that the officer or employee otherwise obtains, if all of the following conditions are met:

- (A) The board of township trustees adopts a resolution that states that the township has chosen not to procure a health care plan under section 505.60 of the Revised Code and has chosen instead to reimburse its officers and employees for each out-of-pocket premium attributable to the coverage provided for them for insurance benefits described in division (A) of section 505.60 of the Revised Code that they otherwise obtain.
- (B) That resolution provides for a uniform maximum monthly or yearly payment amount for each officer or employee to cover themselves and their immediate dependents, beyond which the township will not reimburse the officer or employee.

Members of the Board of Trustees Burlington Township 14006 Simmons Rd. Utica, OH 43080 Page -2-

> (C) That resolution states the specific benefits listed in division (A) of section 505.60 of the Revised Code for which the township will reimburse all officers and employees of the township. The township may not reimburse officers and employees for benefits other than those listed in division (A) of section 505.60 of the Revised Code.

**Ohio Const. Art. II, Section 20** states that the general assembly, in cases not provided for in the constitution, shall fix the term of office and the compensation of all officers; but no change therein shall affect the salary of any officer during his existing term, unless the office be abolished.

In December 2014, Burlington Township Trustees approved the resolution for Township officials and employees to receive a reimbursement for personal out of pocket health care premiums up to \$4,000 per year payable at year-end under Ohio Rev. Code § 505.601. In January 2022, the Trustees Brad Kyle, Bradford McDaniel, and Jeff Paton voted to approve to increase the amount of reimbursement for health care premiums up to \$5,000 per year (via Resolution 2022-1). All three Trustees received a \$5,000 reimbursement in 2022. This occurred despite the fact that each of the Trustees were already serving their respective terms in which they received the increase. As a result, the \$1,000 amount received by the Trustees was an in-term increase in compensation in violation of the Ohio Const. Art. II, Section 20.

In accordance with the foregoing facts, and pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.28, a Finding for Recovery for public money illegally expended is hereby issued against Trustees Brad Kyle, Bradford McDaniel, and Jeff Paton, in the amount of \$1,000 each, and in favor of Burlington Township's General Fund.

This matter involving Township Trustees approving and accepting in-term increases in compensation will be referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission for any action they deem necessary. Township officials should consider training available from the Ohio Ethics Commission which can accessed at the following website address <a href="https://www.ethics.ohio.gov/index.html">https://www.ethics.ohio.gov/index.html</a>.

On July 19, 2023, all three Township Trustees have subsequently agreed to take a \$1,000 reduction in their 2023 health insurance reimbursement (\$3,000 maximum each) to return the finding amounts to the Township (via Resolution 8-2023). As such, the Finding for Recovery has been resolved under audit.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Burlington Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

August 31, 2023

### **BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP** LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

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#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

Burlington Township Licking County P.O. Box 55 Homer, Ohio 43027

To the Members of the Board of Trustees:

#### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type of the Burlington Township, Licking County, Ohio, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type of the Burlington Township, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) as described in Note 2.

#### Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the "*Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*" section of our report, the accompanying financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Burlington Township, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or changes in financial position, thereof for the years then ended.

#### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Burlington Township and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Burlington Township on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to meet the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and GAAP, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Though the Burlington Township does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the "Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting" paragraph above.

#### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Burlington Township's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Burlington Township's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Burlington Township Licking County Independent Auditor's Report

• conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Burlington Township's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 19, 2023 on our consideration of the Burlington Township's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Burlington Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Burlington Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Julian & Sube, the.

Julian & Grube, Inc. May 19, 2023

# Burlington Township Licking County, Ohio Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Governmental Fund Types Special General Revenue Permanent			Totals (Memorandum Only)				
Cash Receipts		General		<u> </u>	1 011			Olly)
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$	110,481	\$	250,851	\$	-	\$	361,332
Licenses, Permits and Fees	*	3,443	*	3,000	+	-	-	6,443
Intergovernmental		42,698		240,302		-		283,000
Earnings on Investments		4,411		1,530		-		5,941
Miscellaneous		1,709		914		-		2,623
Total Cash Receipts		162,742		496,597		-		659,339
Cash Disbursements								
General Government		118,291		_		_		118,291
Public Safety		-		105,997		-		105,997
Public Works		-		223,514		-		223,514
Health		-		7,749		-		7,749
Capital Outlay		-		98,970		-		98,970
Total Cash Disbursements		118,291		436,230		-		554,521
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		44,451		60,367		-		104,818
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		231,953		639,541		805		872,299
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	276,404	\$	699,908	\$	805	\$	977,117

See accompanying notes to the financial statement

#### **Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Burlington Township, Licking County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected threemember Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Homer Fire Department to provide fire services and Emergency Medical Services. The Township appropriates revenue received from outside millage (levies) to support- contracts for Fire and EMS services in Burlington Township.

Licking County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement protection within the Township.

#### Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in one public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statement provides additional information for this entity. This organizations is:

Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) – provides the Township with property and casualty coverage.

The Township's management believes this financial statement presents all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The Township's financial statement consists of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types.

#### Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

*General Fund* The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

*Special Revenue Funds* These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

*Gas Tax Fund* The Gas Tax Fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

*Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund* The Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund accounts for and reports that portion of motor vehicle license registration fees restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

*Road and Bridge Fund* The Road and Bridge Fund consists of property taxes and intergovernmental revenue restricted for road improvements, repairs, street signs, equipment, etc.

*Cemetery Fund* The Cemetery Fund accounts for the sale of cemetery lots, fees for burials and reports that portion for cemetery maintenance, equipment and repair.

*Fire District Fund* The Fire District Fund accounts for and reports property taxes (outside millage) restricted for Fire contracted services and special requests from Fire Department.

*Emergency Squad Fund* The Emergency Squad Fund accounts for and reports property tax (outside millage) restricted for EMS contracted services and special requests from Fire Department.

*Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax* The Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund accounts for and reports intragovernmental revenue restricted for maintenance, equipment, supplies and repair of roads within the Township.

*American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Fund* The American Rescue Plan Act accounts for and reports funding from the Federal Government and restricted for investments in infrastructures including but not limited to water, sewer, and broadband services. Expenditures must incur by December 2024, as per Federal Government guidelines.

**Permanent Funds** These funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Township had the following significant permanent fund:

*Cemetery Endowment Fund* The Cemetery Endowment Fund accounts for and reports interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement restricted for the general maintenance and upkeep of family lots in Homer and Patterson cemetery within the Township.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

This financial statement follows the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

This statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

#### **Budgetary Process**

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

*Appropriations* Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the account code level and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

*Estimated Resources* Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

*Encumbrances* The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

#### **Deposits and Investments**

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively. The Township had no investments during 2022.

#### Capital Assets

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statement does not report these items as assets.

### Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Township must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

*Nonspendable* The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

**Restricted** Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

*Committed* Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

*Assigned* Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

**Unassigned** Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 9.

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts							
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance				
General	\$145,858	\$162,742	\$16,884				
Special Revenue	400,194	496,597	96,403				
Total	<u>\$546,052</u>	<u>\$659,339</u>	\$113,287				

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures						
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance			
General	\$160,236	\$118,291	\$41,945			
Special Revenue	<u>745,826</u>	436,230	<u>309,596</u>			
Total	<u>\$906,062</u>	<u>\$554,521</u>	<u>\$351,541</u>			

#### Note 4 – Deposits

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Monies for all fund are maintained in this pool. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. A summary of the Township's deposit accounts are as follows:

Cash Management Pool:	2022
Demand deposits	\$976,312
Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	805
Total Deposits	\$977,117

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statement reflects net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2022, the Township has no unremitted employee payroll withholding

#### Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

#### Note 5 – Property Taxes

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable non-business, owner occupancy, and homestead exemption credits and/or homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statement includes these credits and/or deduction amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

The County is responsible for assessing property and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

#### Note 6 – Risk Management

#### Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc

The Township belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Effective November 1, 2010 (through October 31, 2017), the corridor is for losses paid is between 60% and 70% of casualty premiums earned in the first \$250,000. Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and remain unchanged effective November 1, 2021 and November 1, 2020. OPRM had 769 members as of December 31, 2021.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2021 (latest available information).

Assets	\$ 21,777,439
Liabilities	(15,037,383)
Members' Equity	\$ 6,740,056

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

#### Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

#### **Ohio Public Employees Retirement System**

The Township has four full-time employees (three trustees and one fiscal officer) and four part-time employees (one Zoning Inspector and three road/cemetery), belonging to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plans' benefits, which include post-retirement health care and survivor and disabilities benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

#### Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4 percent during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

#### Note 9 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

		Special		
Fund Balances	General	Revenue	Permanent	Total
Nonspendable:				
Corpus	0	0	500	500
Total	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue and permanent funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned. The Township had no outstanding encumbrances at year end.

#### Note 10 – Subsequent Event

On March 1, 2023, the Township passed a joint resolution with Miller Township to create a joint fire district, a jointly governed organization pursuant to ORC section 505.371, with the Homer Fire Department that will be called Homer Fire District to provide fire and EMS services to the residents of the Townships.

#### Note 11 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

#### Note 12 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 and the national state of emergency is set to expire in May, 2023. During 2022, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

The 2022 activity includes the receipt of \$68,367 and \$0 of expenditures. The receipt amount is reflected as intergovernmental receipts in the applicable Special Revenue Fund on the accompanying financial statement. Timeline under the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026.

# Burlington Township Licking County, Ohio Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types				Totals (Memorandum			
	(	General		Special Revenue	Perr	nanent	(Me	Only)
Cash Receipts		Julicial			1 011			Olly)
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$	107,692	\$	243,044	\$	_	\$	350,736
Licenses, Permits and Fees	φ	2,588	Ψ	5,800	4	-	φ	8,388
Intergovernmental		40,934		238,477		-		279,411
Earnings on Investments		159		73		_		232
Miscellaneous		12,374		5,600		_		17,974
Total Cash Receipts		163,747		492,994		-		656,741
Cash Disbursements								
Current:								
General Government		111,685		-		-		111,685
Public Safety		-		76,397		-		76,397
Public Works		923		243,512		-		244,435
Health		-		7,814		-		7,814
Capital Outlay		-		85,150		-		85,150
Total Cash Disbursements		112,608		412,873		-		525,481
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		51,139		80,121		-		131,260
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		180,814		559,420		805		741,039
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	231,953	\$	639,541	\$	805	\$	872,299

See accompanying notes to the financial statement

#### Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Burlington Township, Licking County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire and emergency medical service protection. The Township contracts with the Homer Volunteer Fire Department to provide Fire and EMS services. The Township appropriates revenue received from outside millage (levies) to support contracts for Fire and EMS services in Burlington Township.

Licking County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement protection within the Township.

#### **Public Entity Risk Pool**

The Township participates in one public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statement provides additional information for this entity. This organizations is:

Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) – provides the Township with property and casualty coverage.

The Township's management believes this financial statement presents all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The Township's financial statement consists of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types.

#### Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

*General Fund* The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Gund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred accordingly to the general laws of Ohio.

*Special Revenue Funds* These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specific purposes other than debt services or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

*Gas Tax Fund* The Gas Tax Fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair roads within the Township.

*Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund* The Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund accounts for and reports that portion of motor vehicle license registration fees restricted for maintenance and repair of road within the Township.

*Road and Bridge Fund* The Road and Bridge Fund consists of property taxes and intergovernmental revenue restricted for road improvements, repairs, street signs, equipment, etc.

*Cemetery Fund* The Cemetery Fund accounts for sale of cemetery lots, fees for burials and reports that portion for cemetery maintenance, equipment, repair.

*Fire District Fund* The Fire District Fund accounts for and reports property tax (outside millage) restricted for Fire contracted services and special request from Fire Department.

*Emergency Squad Fund* The Emergency Squad Fund accounts for and reports property tax (outside millage) restricted for EMS contracted services and special requests from Fire Department.

*Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Funds* The Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund accounts for and reports intragovernmental revenue restricted for maintenance, equipment, supplies and repair of roads within the Township.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Fund The American Rescue Plan Act accounts for and reports funding from the Federal Government and restricted for investments in infrastructures including water, sewer and broadband services. Expenditures must incur by December 2024, as per Federal Government guidelines.

**Permanent Funds** these funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings and not principle, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Township had the following significant permanent fund:

*Cemetery Endowment Fund* The Cemetery Endowment Fund accounts for and reports interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement restricted for the general maintenance and upkeep of family lots in Homer and Patterson Cemetery within the Township.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

This financial statement follows the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code section 117.38 and Ohio administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

This statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

#### **Budgetary Process**

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually. The major documents prepared are the Tax Budget, Certificate of Estimated Resources, and the Appropriation Resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The Certificate of Estimated Resources establishes limit on the amount the township may appropriate.

*Appropriations* Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the account code level and appropriations may not exceed resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year-end.

*Estimated Resources* Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

*Encumbrances* The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2021 budgetary activity appears in Note 3

#### **Deposits and Investments**

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively. The Township had no investments during 2021.

#### Capital Assets

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statement does not report these items as assets.

#### Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Township must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

*Nonspendable* The Township classifies assets as *no spendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

*Restricted* Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

**Committed** Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

*Assigned* Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balances in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

*Unassigned* Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classification. In other governmental finds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 9.

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2021 follows:

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts							
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Varia	nce			
General	\$127,900	\$163,746	\$35,	846			
Special Reven	ue <u>390,110</u>	<u>492,994</u>	102,	884			
Total	<u>\$518,010</u>	<u>\$656,740</u>	<u>\$138,</u>	<u>730</u>			
<u>2021 B</u>	Budgeted vs. Actual Budget	tary Basis Expenditu	ures				
<u>Fund Type</u> <u>A</u>	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expende	itures	Variance			
General	\$147,649	\$11	2,606	\$35,043			
Special Revenue	<u>601,500</u>	<u>41</u>	2,873	188,627			
Total	<u>\$749,149</u>	<u>\$52</u>	<u>5,479</u>	\$223,670			

#### Note 4 – Deposits

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Monies for all fund are maintained in this pool. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. A summary of the Townships deposit accounts are as follows:

Cash Management Pool:	2021
Demand deposits Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	\$871,494 <u>805</u>
Total Deposits	\$872,299

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statement reflects net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2021, the Township has no unremitted employee payroll withholding

#### Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasure of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

#### **Note 5 – Property Taxes**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable non-business, owner occupancy, and homestead exemption credits and/or homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statement includes these credits and/or deduction amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

The County is responsible for assessing property and for billing, collecting and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

#### Note 6 – Risk Management

#### Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc

The Township belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Effective November 1, 2010 (through October 31, 2017), the corridor is for losses paid is between 60% and 70% of casualty premiums earned in the first \$250,000. Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and remain unchanged effective November 1, 2021 and November 1, 2020. OPRM had 769 members as of December 31, 2021.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2021.

Assets	\$ 21,777,439
Liabilities	<u>(15,037,383)</u>
Members' Equity	\$ 6,740,056

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

### **Burlington Township**

Licking County Notes to the Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

### Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

#### **Ohio Public Employees Retirement System**

The Township has four full time employees (three Trustees and one Fiscal Officer), and four part time employees (one zoning inspector and three road/cemetery) belonging to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS' members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

#### Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post employee plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2021. The portion of the employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2021. The portion of the employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4 percent during calendar year 2021.

#### Note 9 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

		Special		
Fund Balances	General	Revenue	Permanent	Total
Nonspendable:				
Corpus	0	0	500	500
Total	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue and permanent funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned. The Township had no outstanding encumbrances at year end.

### **Burlington Township**

Licking County Notes to the Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

#### Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

#### Note 11 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 and the national state of emergency is set to expire in May, 2023. During 2021, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

The 2021 activity includes the receipt of \$67,826 and \$0 of expenditures. The receipt amount is reflected as intergovernmental receipts in the applicable Special Revenue Fund on the accompanying financial statement. Timeline under the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026.



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#### Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Burlington Township Licking County P.O. Box 55 Homer, Ohio 43027

To the Members of the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type of the Burlington Township, Licking County, Ohio, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022, and 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 19, 2023, wherein we noted as described in Note 2 to the financial statements, the Burlington Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

#### **Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Burlington Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Burlington Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Burlington Township's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements, on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Burlington Township's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 2022-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

#### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Burlington Township's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Burlington Township Licking County Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards* 

#### **Burlington Township's Response to Finding**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Burlington Township's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. The Burlington Township's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

#### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Burlington Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Burlington Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Julian & Grube, the.

Julian & Grube, Inc. May 19, 2023

#### **BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP LICKING COUNTY, OHIO**

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

#### FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

Finding Number

2022-001

#### Material Weakness - Financial Reporting

Accurate financial reporting is required in order to provide management and other stakeholders with objective and timely information to enable well-informed decisions. Presentation of materially correct financial statements and the related footnotes is the responsibility of management. This responsibility remains intact even if management decides to outsource this function for efficiency purposes or any other reason. In either case, it is important that control procedures are developed related to the financial statements that enable management to identify, prevent, detect and correct potential misstatements in the financial statements and footnotes. In general, an accounting and information system should be designed to provide management with accurate and timely information.

The following adjustments were made to the financial statements and notes for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively:

2022:

- In the General Fund, property and other local taxes receipts were decreased and intergovernmental receipts were increased by \$13,435. These adjustments were due to homestead and rollback receipts being recorded improperly.
- In the Special Revenue Fund-Type, property and other local taxes receipts were decreased and intergovernmental receipts were increased by \$19,949. These adjustments were due to permissive motor vehicle license taxes and homestead & rollback receipts being recorded improperly.
- In the Special Revenue Fund-Type, miscellaneous receipts were decreased and intergovernmental receipts were increased by \$2,500. These adjustments were due to grant receipts being recorded improperly.

2021:

• In the Special Revenue Fund-Type, property and other local taxes receipts were decreased and intergovernmental receipts were increased by \$19,514. These adjustments were due to the local portion of permissive motor vehicle license taxes and homestead & rollback receipts being recorded improperly.

Control procedures not properly developed related to the financial statements to limit management's ability to identify, prevent, detect, and correct potential misstatements in the financial statements and footnotes. Additionally, management will not have the necessary information to make timely and well-informed business decisions.

We recommend the Burlington Township implement additional control procedures that enable management to more timely prevent or detect and correct potential misstatements in the financial statements and related notes prior to filing them with the HINKLE system. A second review of the monthly cash activity and financial statements by someone other than the individual preparing them would be beneficial.

<u>Client Response</u>: The Township Fiscal Officer will more closely examine the annual financial statements and related notes prior to filing with HINKLE and will work toward more accurately presenting those in the future.



### **BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP**

LICKING COUNTY

#### AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 10/24/2023

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370