# HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP

## ASHTABULA COUNTY

Regular Audit

For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021





88 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 IPAReport@ohioauditor.gov (800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees Hartsgrove Township 5321 State Route 534 Rome, OH 44085

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, 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.

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 Hartsgrove Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

August 03, 2023

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## Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2022

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Certified Public Accountants

#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County 5321 State Route 534 Rome, OH 44085

To the Board of Trustees:

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

#### **Unmodified and Adverse Opinions**

We have audited the financial statements of Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio (the Township), which comprise the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type and the fiduciary fund type 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 and the fiduciary fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, 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 do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended.

#### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) 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 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.

Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

#### 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 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 an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

## **Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 14 to the 2021 and 2022 financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. We did not modify our opinions regarding this matter.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. 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 misstatement, 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 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 GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *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 GAAS 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.

Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

- 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 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.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the 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 June 28, 2023, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and 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 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 Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Charles Having Association

*Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.* June 28, 2023

## Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County 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				·		
	G	General	Special Revenue		(Me	Totals morandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:							
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$	95,804	\$	348,505	\$	444,309	
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		5,192		6,710		11,902	
Intergovernmental		25,202		275,358		300,560	
Earnings on Investments		1,661		6		1,667	
Miscellaneous		8,682		9,312		17,994	
Total Cash Receipts		136,541		639,891		776,432	
Cash Disbursements:							
Current:							
General Government		57,022		94,319		151,341	
Public Safety		1,655		636,299		637,954	
Public Works		60,894		242,970		303,864	
Health		17,824		8,273		26,097	
Conservation-Recreation		3,625		-		3,625	
Capital Outlay		-		33,204		33,204	
Debt Service:				100 101		120 101	
Principal Retirement		-		129,191		129,191	
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges		-		17,811		17,811	
Total Cash Disbursements		141,020		1,162,067		1,303,087	
Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements		(4,479)		(522,176)		(526,655)	
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):							
Loan Issued		-		570,000		570,000	
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)				570,000		570,000	
Special Item		91				91	
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		(4,388)		47,824		43,436	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		185,133		388,367		573,500	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	180,745	\$	436,191	\$	616,936	

## Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County Statement of Additions, Deductions and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) Fiduciary Fund Type For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Fiduciary Fund Type		
		rivate ose Trust	
Total Additions		-	
Total Deductions		-	
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		-	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		1,324	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	1,324	

#### **Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula 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, and fire protection.

#### Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk sharing pool available to Ohio Townships. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

#### Joint Ventures and Jointly Governed Organization

The Township is associated with Trumbull Township and South Central Ambulance District, a joint venture and jointly governed organization. Notes 11 and 12 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

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

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types, and a statement of additions, deductions and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all fiduciary fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

#### 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 Fund:

*Special Levy Fire Fund* The special levy fire fund accounts for and reports receipts of property tax money restricted for the purpose of providing fire and protective services to citizens of the Township.

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

*Fiduciary Funds* Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement meeting certain criteria. The Township's private purpose trust fund is for the upkeep and maintenance of a family burial plot within the Township cemetery.

## **Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements follow 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 Township 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 disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include 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 disbursements (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function, or object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered 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 carried over 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. Money market mutual funds (including STAR Ohio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

#### Capital Assets

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

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

#### 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* The 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 13.

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts						
Budgeted						
Fund Type	]	Receipts	Act	ual Receipts	V	<i>ariance</i>
General	\$	124,011	\$	136,541	\$	12,530
Special Revenue		1,159,200		1,209,891		50,691
Private Purpose Trust		-		-		-

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements						
Appropriation Budgetary						
Fund Type	Authority	Authority Disbursements				
General	\$ 293,466	\$ 148,372	\$145,094			
Special Revenue	1,489,205	1,162,067	327,138			
Private Purpose Trust	50	-	50			

#### Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2022
Demand deposits	\$ 604,219
Total deposits	604,219
STAR Ohio	14,041
Total investments	14,041
Total deposits and investments	\$ 618,260

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2022, the Township does not have any unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

## Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, 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 4 – Deposits and Investments (continued)

#### Investments

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

#### 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 homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback 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.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

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

#### Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policy. The Pool covers the following risks

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31 (latest information available):

	2021
Cash and investments	\$34,880,599
Actuarial liabilities	10,601,444

#### Note 6 - Risk Management (continued)

#### Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Township pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

#### Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

Some Township employees, belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a costsharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

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

#### Social Security

Some Township employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2% 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% during calendar year 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and reemployed 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 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2022 was as follows:

	Principal		Interest Rate
OPWC #CG41P	\$	2,760	0.00%
Middlefield Bank #568036 Ford F550 Loan		35,817	2.70%
Middlefield Bank #565049 Fire Truck Loan		16,083	2.79%
Middlefield Bank #567286 Road Equipment Loan		72,140	4.15%
Middlefield Bank #571385 Fire Pumper Truck Lease		532,720	2.89%
Total	\$	659,520	

The Township has notes for the purchase of a Fire Truck issued in 2014, for purchase of a plow truck and mini excavator issued in 2018, for a 550- dump truck purchased in 2020 and a lease for a pumper fire truck in 2022. All notes are from Middlefield Banking Co. The Township has an OPWC loan for a road project issued in 2013. These are all general obligations.

#### Amortization

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

OPWC	Middlefield Bank #571385			
#CG41P	Fire Pumper Truck Lease			
\$2,760	\$ 65,826			
-	65,826			
-	65,826			
-	65,826			
-	65,826			
-	274,274			
\$2,760	\$ 603,404			
	#CG41P \$2,760 - - -			

There are no amortization schedules available at this time due to extra payments on the three Middlefield Bank Loans.

#### **Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities**

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matters will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

#### Note 11 – Joint Ventures

Hartsgrove Township is participating in a Joint Venture with Trumbull Township involving improvement to Hoffman Road. Financed by OPWC, Hartsgrove Township had pledged to provide up to \$10,000.00 in kind contributions. Hoffman Rd. which runs west off Route 534 and Callahan Rd. which runs east of Route 534 house Trumbull Township residents on the north side of the roads and Hartsgrove Township residents on the south side of the roads. A long- standing agreement has been that Hartsgrove Township will maintain Callahan Rd. and Trumbull Township will maintain Hoffman Rd.

#### Note 12 – Jointly Governed Organizations

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the South Central Ambulance District, Ashtabula County (the District), as a body complete and politic. Eleven Foard members govern the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are: The Townships of Colebrook, Dorset, Hartsgrove, Lenox, Morgan, New Lyme, Orwell, Rome and the Villages of Orwell, Rock Creek, and Roaming shores – all in Ashtabula County. The District provides ambulance services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District. Financial information can be obtained by contacting Shaun Buehner, Director, 3100 US Highway 6, Rome, Oh 44085.

#### Note 13 – Fund Balances

Fund balances may include money that 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:

Fund Balances	G	eneral
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$	7,352

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

#### Note 14 – 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. During 2022, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

## Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County 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				_		
	General		Special ral Revenue		Totals (Memorandum Only)		
Cash Receipts:							
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$	96,594	\$	242,623	\$	339,217	
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		3,602		5,773		9,375	
Intergovernmental		24,089		266,215		290,304	
Earnings on Investments		985		7		992	
Miscellaneous		8,473		6,338		14,811	
Total Cash Receipts		133,743		520,956		654,699	
Cash Disbursements:							
Current:							
General Government		100,062		38,211		138,273	
Public Safety		2,050		50,921		52,971	
Public Works		2,004		348,191		350,195	
Health		18,142		1,160		19,302	
Conservation-Recreation		3,348		-		3,348	
Capital Outlay		8,467		2,787		11,254	
Debt Service:							
Principal Retirement		-		84,949		84,949	
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges		-		6,760		6,760	
Total Cash Disbursements		134,073		532,979		667,052	
Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements		(330)		(12,023)		(12,353)	
Special Item		7,266				7,266	
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		6,936		(12,023)		(5,087)	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		178,197		400,390		578,587	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	185,133	\$	388,367	\$	573,500	

## Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County Statement of Additions, Deductions and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) Fiduciary Fund Type For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Fiduciar	y Fund Type
	-	rivate ose Trust
Total Additions		-
Total Deductions		-
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		-
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		1,324
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	1,324

#### **Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula 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, and fire protection.

#### Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk sharing pool available to Ohio Townships. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

#### Joint Ventures and Jointly Governed Organization

The Township is associated with Trumbull Township and South-Central Ambulance District, a joint venture and jointly governed organization. Notes 11 and 12 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

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

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types, and a statement of additions, deductions and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for the fiduciary fund type, which are organized on a fund type basis.

#### 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:

*Road and Bridge Fund* The road and bridge fund accounts for and reports receipts of property tax money restricted for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

*Gasoline 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.

*Fiduciary Funds* Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement meeting certain criteria. The Township's private purpose trust fund is for the upkeep and maintenance of a family burial plot within the Township cemetery.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements follow 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 Township 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 disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include 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 disbursements (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function, or object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered 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 carried over 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. Money market mutual funds (including STAR Ohio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

#### Capital Assets

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

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

#### 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* The 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 13.

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2021 follows:

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts					
Budgeted					
Fund Type	]	Receipts	Actual Receipts		Variance
General	\$	119,935	\$	141,009	\$ 21,074
Special Revenue		491,503		520,956	29,453
Private Purpose Trust		-		-	-

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements					
	Appropriation Budgetary				
Fund Type	Authority		Disbursements		Variance
General	\$	249,929	\$	134,927	\$115,002
Special Revenue		810,475		532,979	277,496
Private Purpose Trust		500		-	500

#### Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2021
Demand deposits	\$ 561,020
Total deposits	561,020
STAR Ohio	13,804
Total investments	13,804
Total deposits and investments	\$ 574,824

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2021, the Township does not have any unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

#### Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, 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 4 – Deposits and Investments (continued)

#### Investments

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

#### 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 homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback 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.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

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

#### Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31 (latest information available):

	2021
Cash and investments	\$34,880,599
Actuarial liabilities	10,601,444

#### Note 6 - Risk Management (continued)

#### Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Township pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

#### **Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

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

Some Township employees, belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a costsharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

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

#### Social Security

Some Township employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2% 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 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% during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% during calendar year 2021.

#### Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2021 was as follows:

	Principal		Interest Rate
OPWC #CG41P	\$	8,280	0.00%
Middlefield Bank #568036 Ford F550 Loan		58,535	2.70%
Middlefield Bank #565049 Fire Truck Loan		60,965	2.79%
Middlefield Bank #567286 Road Equipment Loan		90,931	4.15%
Total	\$	218,711	

#### Note 9 – Debt (continued)

The Township has notes for the purchase of a Fire Truck issued in 2014, for purchase of a plow truck and mini excavator issued in 2018 and for a 550- dump truck purchased in 2020. All notes are from Middlefield Banking Co. The Township has an OPWC loan for a road project issued in 2013. These are all general obligations.

#### Amortization

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year Ending	OPWC		
December 31:	#CG41P		
2022	\$ 5,520		
2023	2,760		
Total	\$ 8,280		

There are no amortization schedules available at this time due to extra payments on the three Middlefield Bank Loans.

#### Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matters will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

#### Note 11 – Joint Ventures

Hartsgrove Township is participating in a Joint Venture with Trumbull Township involving improvement to Hoffman Road. Financed by OPWC, Hartsgrove Township had pledged to provide up to \$10,000.00 in kind contributions. Hoffman Rd. which runs west off Route 534 and Callahan Rd. which runs east of Route 534 house Trumbull Township residents on the north side of the roads and Hartsgrove Township residents on the south side of the roads. A long- standing agreement has been that Hartsgrove Township will maintain Callahan Rd.

#### Note 12 – Jointly Governed Organizations

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the South Central Ambulance District, Ashtabula County (the District), as a body complete and politic. Eleven Foard members govern the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are: The Townships of Colebrook, Dorset, Hartsgrove, Lenox, Morgan, New Lyme, Orwell, Rome and the Villages of Orwell, Rock Creek, and Roaming shores – all in Ashtabula County. The District provides ambulance services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District. Financial information can be obtained by contacting Shaun Buehner, Director, 3100 US Highway 6, Rome, Oh 44085.

#### Note 13 – Fund Balances

Fund balances may include money that 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:

Fund BalancesGeneralOutstanding Encumbrances\$ 854

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

#### Note 14 – 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. During 2021, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

The 2021 activity includes, \$2,400 which was sub-granted to other governments and organizations.

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County 5321 State Route 534 Rome, OH 44085

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, 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 the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type and the fiduciary fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements of Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated June 28, 2023, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township.

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

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinions the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by Government Auditing Standards Page 2

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the 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 an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2022-001.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated June 28, 2023.

#### Township's Response to Finding

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Township's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying corrective action plan. The 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 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 Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Charles Having Association

*Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.* June 28, 2023

## Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County Schedule of Findings December 31, 2022 and 2021

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

#### Finding Number: 2022-001 – Noncompliance

#### **Certification of Expenditures**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 3709.28 and 5705.41 (D) (1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making a contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by a fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41 (D)(1) and 5705.41 (D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

 "Then and Now Certificates" – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that contract or order was made ("then") and at the time that the fiscal officer was completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.

- 2. Blanket Certificates Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution adopted by a majority of members of the legislative authority against any specific line item amount over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
- 3. Super Blanket Certificates The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount for a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most profession services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

In 2021 and 2022, 18% and 24%, respectively, of purchase orders tested were not certified by the Township prior to incurring the obligation. The transactions had no evidence of the above-mentioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

## Hartsgrove Township

Ashtabula County

Schedule of Findings – (continued) December 31, 2022 and 2021

#### FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS – (continued)

## Finding Number: 2022-001 – Noncompliance – (continued)

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's expenditures exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Township certify expenditures prior to incurring the liability. The Township may also use "then and now" certificates and blanket purchase orders to assist in complying with this requirement.

#### Management's Response:

See Corrective Action Plan.

## Hartsgrove Township Ashtabula County

#### Ashtabula County Corrective Action Plan For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 Prepared by Management

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2022-001	The Township will implement procedures to ensure all transactions are properly certified and approved by the Fiscal Officer prior to purchases being made.	Immediately	Lisa Kovach, Fiscal Officer



#### HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP

#### ASHTABULA 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 8/15/2023

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