



**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY
Regular Audit
For the Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018**

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Marietta, OH 45750
740 373 0056

1907 Grand Central Ave.
Vienna, WV 26105
304 422 2203

150 W. Main St., #A
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
740 695 1569

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Wheeling, WV 26003
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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Board of Trustees
Berlin Township
15823 Akron-Canfield Road
P.O. Box 95
Berlin Center, OH 44401

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Berlin Township, Mahoning County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. 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. Berlin Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

October 8, 2020

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**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

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Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

July 31, 2020

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
15823 Akron-Canfield Road
P.O. Box 95
Berlin Center, Ohio 44401

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of **Berlin Township**, Mahoning County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the Township's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinions.

Tax - Accounting - Audit - Review - Compilation - Agreed Upon Procedure - Consultation - Bookkeeping - Payroll - Litigation Support - Financial Investigations
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Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the Township prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the 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(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

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* paragraph, the 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 Township as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of Berlin Township, Mahoning County as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 2.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 10 in 2019 and 11 in 2018 to the financial statements, during 2019 and 2018, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 31, 2020, 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. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on 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.



Perry & Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 109,658	\$ 129,543	\$ 131,387	\$ -	\$ 370,588
Licenses, Permits and Fees	23,808	22,443	-	-	46,251
Intergovernmental	28,760	150,485	4,749	-	183,994
Earnings on Investments	272	66	-	6	344
Miscellaneous	220	3,103	-	-	3,323
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>162,718</u>	<u>305,640</u>	<u>136,136</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>604,500</u>
Cash Disbursements					
Current:					
General Government	108,392	-	-	-	108,392
Public Safety	8,388	113,402	-	-	121,790
Public Works	1,734	100,988	-	-	102,722
Health	11,100	8,189	-	925	20,214
Human Services	-	8,560	-	-	8,560
Capital Outlay	-	737,027	-	-	737,027
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	-	65,689	121,182	-	186,871
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	8,455	20,791	-	29,246
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>129,614</u>	<u>1,042,310</u>	<u>141,973</u>	<u>925</u>	<u>1,314,822</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>33,104</u>	<u>(736,670)</u>	<u>(5,837)</u>	<u>(919)</u>	<u>(710,322)</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)					
Other Debt Proceeds	-	737,027	-	-	737,027
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>737,027</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>737,027</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	33,104	357	(5,837)	(919)	26,705
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>200,127</u>	<u>279,732</u>	<u>156,154</u>	<u>14,318</u>	<u>650,331</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31					
Restricted	-	246,890	150,317	13,399	410,606
Committed	-	33,199	-	-	33,199
Assigned	73,856	-	-	-	73,856
Unassigned	159,375	-	-	-	159,375
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 233,231</u>	<u>\$ 280,089</u>	<u>\$ 150,317</u>	<u>\$ 13,399</u>	<u>\$ 677,036</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY

COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

	<u>Unclaimed Monies</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>\$ 306</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 306</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Berlin Township, Mahoning 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 protection and emergency medical services.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 5 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. 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 combined statement of receipts, disbursements 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 Funds:

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.

Fire District Fund This fund receives property tax money for fire protection services and equipment.

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Funds:

Note Retirement Fund This fund is used to repay an interest free loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission for an Issue II Project. This money was given to the Township by the Mahoning County Engineer in 2001 when a joint road improvement project was completed and the road was then turned over to Berlin Township. The Township passed a special levy to purchase fire apparatus which was first collected in FY2018. Net receipts from real estate taxes collected were deposited to this Fund to make the Lease Purchase payment on a new fire apparatus. Lease purchase payments for this apparatus are made from this Fund.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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 Funds These funds receive interest earned on the corpus from a trust agreement. These earnings and the principal amount received are used for general maintenance and upkeep of the gravesites assigned to each bequest fund.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments which are not available to support the Township's own programs.

Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to report fiduciary activity that is not required to be reported in a trust fund. The Township's custodial fund accounts for unclaimed monies.

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 (D). 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).

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 (D) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency/custodial funds) be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (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 unencumbered 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, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2019 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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.

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.

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.

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*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

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.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2019 follows:

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 162,692	\$ 162,718	\$ 26
Special Revenue	1,025,725	1,042,667	16,942
Debt Service	136,136	136,136	-
Permanent	6	6	-
Total	<u>\$ 1,324,559</u>	<u>\$ 1,341,527</u>	<u>\$ 16,968</u>

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 225,055	\$ 131,466	\$ 93,589
Special Revenue	1,234,809	1,042,440	192,369
Debt Service	141,972	141,973	(1)
Permanent	1,882	925	957
Total	<u>\$ 1,603,718</u>	<u>\$ 1,316,804</u>	<u>\$ 286,914</u>

The Township maintains a deposits and investments pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at December 31 was as follows:

	2019
Demand deposits	\$ 677,342
Total deposits	\$ 677,342

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 4 – 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 statements include 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.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 5 – Risk Management

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 (local entity'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:

	<u>2019</u>
Cash and investments	\$35,207,320
Actuarial liabilities	\$ 10,519,942

Note 6 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Employees belong 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, 2019.

Note 7 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers 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 2019. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2019.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 8 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2019, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
OPWC Loan #CF03C	\$ 16,837	0.00%
Ambulance Lease	71,524	3.30%
Dump Truck Lease	114,088	4.31%
Fire Truck Lease	486,933	4.31%
Total	\$ 689,382	

The Township entered into a loan agreement with Ohio Public Works Commission in 2001 for the Weaver Road Safety Upgrade in the amount of \$336,737. The loan is paid back in semi-annual installments of \$8,418.

The Township entered into a lease purchase agreement in 2017 to finance the purchase of an ambulance in the amount of \$175,000. The lease is paid back in yearly installments of \$37,344.

The Township entered into a lease purchase agreement in 2019 to finance the purchase of a new dump truck and plowing equipment for Township road maintenance in the amount of \$140,025. The lease is paid back in yearly installments of \$30,576.

The Township entered into a lease purchase agreement in 2019 to finance the purchase of a new Fire Truck in the amount of \$597,002. The lease is paid back in yearly installments of \$130,360.

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	OPWC Loan #CF03C	Ambulance Lease	Dump Truck Lease	Fire Truck Lease
2020	\$ 16,837	\$ 37,344	\$ 30,575	\$ 130,360
2021	-	37,344	30,575	130,360
2022	-	-	30,575	130,360
2023	-	-	30,575	130,360
Total	\$ 16,837	\$ 74,688	\$ 122,300	\$ 521,440

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. 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 10 – Subsequent Events

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, any recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 108,772	\$ 128,578	\$ 129,092	\$ -	\$ 366,442
Licenses, Permits and Fees	24,121	28,501	-	-	52,622
Intergovernmental	38,168	129,978	4,837	-	172,983
Earnings on Investments	285	55	-	7	347
Miscellaneous	1,340	3,818	-	-	5,158
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>172,686</u>	<u>290,930</u>	<u>133,929</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>597,552</u>
Cash Disbursements					
Current:					
General Government	181,135	-	-	-	181,135
Public Safety	7,625	157,909	-	-	165,534
Public Works	1,500	63,214	-	-	64,714
Health	-	20,975	-	909	21,884
Human Services	-	9,400	-	-	9,400
Capital Outlay	328	1,430	-	-	1,758
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	-	57,830	11,112	-	68,942
Interest and Fiscal Charges	3,300	4,840	-	-	8,140
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>193,888</u>	<u>315,598</u>	<u>11,112</u>	<u>909</u>	<u>521,507</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(21,202)	(24,668)	122,817	(902)	76,045
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>221,329</u>	<u>304,400</u>	<u>33,337</u>	<u>15,220</u>	<u>574,286</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31					
Restricted	-	242,575	156,154	14,318	413,047
Committed	-	37,157	-	-	37,157
Assigned	62,363	-	-	-	62,363
Unassigned	137,764	-	-	-	137,764
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 200,127</u>	<u>\$ 279,732</u>	<u>\$ 156,154</u>	<u>\$ 14,318</u>	<u>\$ 650,331</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY

COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	<u>Unclaimed Monies</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>\$ 306</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 306</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Berlin Township, Mahoning 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 protection and emergency medical services.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 5 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. 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 combined statement of receipts, disbursements 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 Funds:

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.

Fire District Fund This fund receives property tax money for fire protection services and equipment.

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Funds:

Note Retirement Fund This fund is used to repay an interest free loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission for an Issue II Project. This money was given to the Township by the Mahoning County Engineer in 2001 when a joint road improvement project was completed and the road was then turned over to Berlin Township. The Township passed a special levy to purchase fire apparatus which was first collected in FY2018. Net receipts from real estate taxes collected were deposited to this Fund to make the Lease Purchase payment on a new fire apparatus. Lease purchase payments for this apparatus are made from this Fund.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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 Funds These funds receive interest earned on the corpus from a trust agreement. These earnings and the principal amount received are used for general maintenance and upkeep of the gravesites assigned to each bequest fund.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments which are not available to support the Township's own programs.

Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to report fiduciary activity that is not required to be reported in a trust fund. The Township's custodial fund accounts for unclaimed monies.

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 (D). 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).

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 (D) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency/custodial funds) be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (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 unencumbered 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, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2018 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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.

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.

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.

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*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

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.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 3 – Compliance

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the Fire Apparatus fund by \$1,293 for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2018 follows:

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 172,661	\$ 172,686	\$ 25
Special Revenue	289,562	290,930	1,368
Debt Service	133,929	133,929	-
Permanent	7	7	-
Total	\$ 596,159	\$ 597,552	\$ 1,393

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 254,868	\$ 193,836	\$ 61,032
Special Revenue	498,714	334,271	164,443
Debt Service	11,112	11,112	-
Permanent	1,875	909	966
Total	\$ 766,569	\$ 540,128	\$ 226,441

The Township maintains a deposits and investments pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at December 31 was as follows:

	2018
Demand deposits	\$ 650,637
Total deposits	\$ 650,637

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.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

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 statements include 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

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 (local entity'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:

	<u>2018</u>
Cash and investments	\$33,097,416
Actuarial liabilities	\$ 7,874,610

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Employees belong 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, 2018.

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers 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 2018. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2018.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2018, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
OPWC Loan #CF03C	\$ 33,674	0.00%
Ambulance Lease	105,552	3.30%
Total	\$ 139,226	

The Township entered into a loan agreement with Ohio Public Works Commission in 2001 for the Weaver Road Safety Upgrade in the amount of \$336,737. The loan is paid back in semi-annual installments of \$8,418.

The Township entered into a lease purchase agreement in 2017 to finance the purchase of an ambulance in the amount of \$175,000. The lease is paid back in yearly installments of \$37,344.

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	OPWC Loan #CF03C	Ambulance Lease
2019	\$ 16,836	\$ 37,344
2020	16,838	37,344
2021	-	37,344
Total	\$ 33,674	\$ 112,032

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. 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 – Subsequent Events

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, any recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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

July 31, 2020

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
15823 Akron-Canfield Road
P.O. Box 95
Berlin Center, Ohio 44401

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type of **Berlin Township**, Mahoning County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 31, 2020, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit and we noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinions on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements. 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 internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings that we consider material weaknesses. We consider findings 2019-001 and 2019-002 to be material weaknesses.

Tax - Accounting – Audit – Review – Compilation – Agreed Upon Procedure – Consultation – Bookkeeping – Payroll – Litigation Support – Financial Investigations
Members: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
• Ohio Society of CPAs • West Virginia Society of CPAs • Association of Certified Fraud Examiners • Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists •

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2019-002.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

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

FINDING NUMBER 2019-001

Material Weakness

Posting Receipts, Disbursements and Fund Balances

The Township is responsible for establishing procedures and controls to help prevent and detect errors in financial reporting. Fund balances should be classified based on Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 – *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*.

During 2019 and 2018, receipts, disbursements and fund balances were not always posted or classified correctly. The following posting errors were noted:

- Debt proceeds were not recorded as Other Debt Proceeds and Capital Outlay in the Gasoline Tax Fund in 2019;
- Debt proceeds were not recorded as Other Debt Proceeds and Capital Outlay in the Fire District Fund in 2019;
- A portion of debt payments were incorrectly classified as Public Safety and were not always classified to Principal and Interest correctly in the Fire District Fund in 2019 and 2018;
- A portion of debt payments were incorrectly classified as Public Works and were not always classified to Principal and Interest correctly in the Gasoline Tax Fund in 2019 and 2018;
- A portion of debt payments were incorrectly classified between Principal and Interest in the Note Retirement Fund in 2019;
- A portion of debt payments were incorrectly classified between Principal and Interest in the Permissive Motor Vehicle Fund in 2018; and
- The Road and Bridge Fund balance was classified as Restricted when it should have been Committed in 2019 and 2018.

Not posting receipts and disbursements or classifying fund balances accurately resulted in the financial statements requiring several reclassification and adjusting entries. The Financial Statements reflect all reclassifications and adjustments. The Township has made these adjustments to their accounting system.

To help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all sources of revenues are properly identified and classified on the financial statements.

We also recommend the Fiscal Officer refer to the Ohio Township Handbook for guidance to determine the proper establishment of receipt and disbursement accounts and posting of receipts and disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should refer to Auditor of State Technical Bulletin 2011-004 for assistance in properly classifying fund balances.

Management's Response – We did not receive a response from officials to this finding.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

FINDING NUMBER 2019-002

Material Weakness/Noncompliance

Budgetary Controls

The budget is an instrument of public policy: A governing board expresses its desires for using a government's limited resources through its appropriations. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705 deals with a variety of budgetary requirements that all subdivisions must comply with in order to ensure fiscal responsibility.

In performing the audit we noted a violation of budgetary law which, although they do not in and of themselves, result in errors in financial reporting, may lead to the Township making financial decisions based on incorrect or incomplete information. We noted the following:

- Violations of 5705.41(B) stating no subdivision is to expend money unless it has been appropriated (expenditures exceeded appropriations)

In addition, The Township did not have a control procedure in place to ensure that appropriations and estimated receipts, as authorized by the Board and approved by the County Budget Commission, were reconciled to the appropriations and estimated receipts posted to the accounting system.

This resulted in incorrect amounts posted to the accounting system and information available to the Board to monitor year-to-date total comparison of budgeted amounts versus actual amounts was not accurate. We recommend the Township implement procedures to ensure appropriations and estimated receipts are accurately posted to the accounting system and reconciled to the amounts approved by the budget commission after each amendment.

The Board should review the requirements of ORC section 5705 to be familiar with these laws and to make sure the Township is complying with applicable sections. We recommend the Township establish a procedure that ensures budgetary forms are submitted to the County accurately and timely. This could include a checklist of forms and due dates.

Management's Response – We did not receive a response from officials to this finding.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BERLIN TOWNSHIP

MAHONING 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 10/20/2020

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

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov