

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**AUDIT REPORT**

**JANUARY 1, 2018 - DECEMBER 31, 2019**



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
KEITH FABER



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(800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees  
Marion Township  
26655 St, Rt, 78  
Summerfield, Ohio 43788

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Marion Township, Noble County, prepared by Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc., 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. Marion 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

July 22, 2020

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**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY  
JANUARY 1, 2018 - DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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**WILSON, PHILLIPS & AGIN, CPA'S, INC.  
1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD. BUILDING G  
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

Marion Township  
Noble County  
2655 State Route 78  
Summerfield, Ohio 43788

To the Township 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 the Marion Township, Noble County, 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 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 opinion.

**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, 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 permitted 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 Marion Township, Noble County as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, or 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 Marion Township, Noble County as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, 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 9 to the 2019 financial statements, during 2020, the 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 a report dated May 18, 2020, on our consideration of Marion 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.

***Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc.***  
Zanesville, Ohio  
May 18, 2020



**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Permanent</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 70,994	\$ 173,021	\$ -	\$ 244,015
Intergovernmental	13,845	215,558	-	229,403
Earnings on Investments	152	17	-	169
Miscellaneous	6,619	-	31,755	38,374
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<u>91,610</u>	<u>388,596</u>	<u>31,755</u>	<u>511,961</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>				
Current:				
General Government	57,553	-	-	57,553
Public Safety	-	65,865	-	65,865
Public Works	-	239,782	-	239,782
Health	893	-	-	893
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>58,446</u>	<u>305,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>364,093</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund cash Balance</b>	33,164	82,949	31,755	147,868
<b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>	<u>100,744</u>	<u>97,581</u>	<u>5,461</u>	<u>203,786</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>				
Nonspendable	-	-	4,520	4,520
Committed	-	101,595	-	101,595
Restricted	-	78,935	32,696	111,631
Unassigned (Deficit)	133,908	-	-	133,908
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u>\$ 133,908</u>	<u>\$ 180,530</u>	<u>\$ 37,216</u>	<u>\$ 351,654</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**1. REPORTING ENTITY**

**Description of the Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Marion Township, Noble County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publically-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance and fire protection services. The Township contracts with the Summerfield Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire protection.

The Township participates in the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) public entity risk pool. Note 6 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.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. 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 proprietary and fiduciary fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

**B. 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:

**Gasoline Tax Fund** – This fund receives gasoline tax monies to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

**Road and Bridge Fund** – This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**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 of its citizenry). The Township had the following significant permanent fund:

**Private Purpose Trust Cemetery Fund** – This fund receives interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from trust agreements. These earnings are used for general maintenance and upkeep of the township cemeteries.

**C. 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 117-2-03(D). 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 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 117-2-03(D) permit.

**D. Budgetary Process**

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

**Appropriations**

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function and object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The 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.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**E. Deposits and Investments**

The Township's accounting basis includes investment 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.

**F. 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.

**G. 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.

**H. 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.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**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.

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2019 is as follows:

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 76,800	\$ 91,610	\$ 14,810
Special Revenue	255,030	388,596	133,566
Permanent	-	31,755	31,755
Total	\$ 331,830	\$ 511,961	\$ 180,131

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 177,534	\$ 58,446	\$ 119,088
Special Revenue	347,609	305,647	41,962
Total	\$ 525,143	\$ 364,093	\$ 161,050

Contrary to ORC 5705.41(D), the Township made expenditures without prior certification.

**4. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH**

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

	2019
Demand Deposits	\$ 347,134
Other Time Deposits	4,520
Total Deposits	\$ 351,654

**Deposits:** Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**5. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Township Trustees. 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.

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.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

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

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member’s risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member’s exposure to loss. Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM retained 50% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Effective November 1, 2017, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Effective November 1, 2018, the OPRM the property retention remained unchanged, however, the Plan assumed 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 774 members as of December 31, 2018.

The Pool’s audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2018 (latest information available).

	<u>2018</u>
Assets	\$15,065,412
Liabilities	<u>(10,734,623)</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 4,330,789</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan’s website, [www.ohioplan.org](http://www.ohioplan.org) .

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**7. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System*

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2019, OPERS members contributed 10.0% of their gross wages and the Township contributed an amount equal to 14.0% of participant's gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2019.

**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. OPERS contributes 2 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits. 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.

**9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

The United State 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, and any recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Permanent</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 56,056	\$ 134,699	\$ -	\$ 190,755
Intergovernmental	13,831	101,489	-	115,320
Earnings on Investments	39	12	-	51
Miscellaneous	571	-	-	571
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<u>70,497</u>	<u>236,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>306,697</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>				
Current:				
General Government	41,082	-	-	41,082
Public Safety	-	59,564	-	59,564
Public Works	-	169,529	-	169,529
Health	842	-	-	842
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>41,924</u>	<u>229,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>271,017</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund cash Balance</b>	28,573	7,107	-	35,680
<b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>	<u>72,171</u>	<u>90,474</u>	<u>5,461</u>	<u>168,106</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>				
Nonspendable	-	-	4,520	4,520
Committed	-	6,333	-	6,333
Restricted	-	91,248	941	92,189
Unassigned (Deficit)	100,744	-	-	100,744
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u>\$ 100,744</u>	<u>\$ 97,581</u>	<u>\$ 5,461</u>	<u>\$ 203,786</u>

See notes to financial statements.



**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**1. REPORTING ENTITY**

**Description of the Entity**

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The Township participates in the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) public entity risk pool. Note 6 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.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. 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 proprietary and fiduciary fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

**B. 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:

**Gasoline Tax Fund** – This fund receives gasoline tax monies to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

**Road and Bridge Fund** – This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**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 of its citizenry). The Township had the following significant permanent fund:

**Private Purpose Trust Cemetery Fund** – This fund receives interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from trust agreements. These earnings are used for general maintenance and upkeep of the township cemeteries.

**C. 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 117-2-03(D). 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 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 117-2-03(D) permit.

**D. Budgetary Process**

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

**Appropriations**

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function and object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The 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 3.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**E. Deposits and Investments**

The Township's accounting basis includes investment 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.

**F. 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.

**G. 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.

**H. 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.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**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.

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2018 is as follows:

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 67,000	\$ 70,497	\$ 3,497
Special Revenue	230,685	236,200	5,515
Total	\$ 297,685	\$ 306,697	\$ 9,012

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 133,263	\$ 41,924	\$ 91,339
Special Revenue	296,977	229,093	67,884
Total	\$ 430,240	\$ 271,017	\$ 159,223

Contrary to ORC 5705.41(D), the Township made expenditures without prior certification.

**4. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH**

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

	2018
Demand Deposits	\$ 199,266
Other Time Deposits	4,520
Total Deposits	\$ 203,786

**Deposits:** Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**5. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Township Trustees. 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.

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.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

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

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member’s risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member’s exposure to loss. Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM retained 50% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Effective November 1, 2017, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Effective November 1, 2018, the OPRM the property retention remained unchanged, however, the Plan assumed 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 774 members as of December 31, 2018.

The Pool’s audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2018.

	<u>2018</u>
Assets	\$15,065,412
Liabilities	<u>(10,734,623)</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 4,330,789</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan’s website, [www.ohioplan.org](http://www.ohioplan.org).

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**7. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System*

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2018, OPERS members contributed 10.0% of their gross wages and the Township contributed an amount equal to 14.0% of participant's gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2018.

**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. OPERS contributes 1 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits.

**WILSON, PHILLIPS & AGIN, CPA'S, INC.  
1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD. BUILDING G  
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701**

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

Marion Township  
Noble County  
26655 State Route 78  
Summerfield, Ohio 43788

To the Township Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards general accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of Marion Township, Noble County 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 May 18, 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.

***Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered Marion 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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings we identified a certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, that we consider a material weakness and a significant deficiency.

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 a 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. We consider finding 2019-003 to be a material weakness.

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. We consider Finding 2019-002 described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a significant deficiency.

***Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Marion 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 was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed three instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2019-001, 2019-002 and 2019-004.

***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.

***Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc.***  
Zanesville, Ohio  
May 18, 2020



**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018**

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2019-001**

**Noncompliance – Certification of Funds**

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the 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 the 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.

- If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then") and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has 30 days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution. Amounts less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance 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 the expenditures by the Township.
- Blanket Certificates. Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates if the Township has approved their use and established maximum amounts.
- Super Blanket Certificates. The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonable predictable operation expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one so-called "super blanket" certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

The Township did not certify the availability of funds prior to the purchase commitment for 33% of expenditures tested. For these item the Township also did not prepare blanket certificates, super blankets certificates or then and now certificates in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

We recommend the Township certify purchases to which Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs a commitment and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper code, to reduce available appropriations.

Client Response: We have not yet received a response from the client.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018**

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2019-002**

**Noncompliance/Significant Deficiency**

Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-02 (A) states that all local public offices shall maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transaction, maintain accountability for the related assets (and liabilities, if generally accepted accounting principles apply), document compliance with finance-related legal and contractual requirements and prepare financial statements required by Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-03.

As a result of audit procedures, errors were noted that required reclassification to the financial statement as follows:

The following is related to 2019 relating to Rollback monies received:

- Reclassification of \$733 from Property and Other Local Taxes to Intergovernmental Revenue in the General Fund.
- Reclassification of \$826 from Property and Other Local Taxes to Intergovernmental Revenue in the Road & Bridge Fund.
- Reclassification of \$355 from Property and Other Local Taxes to Intergovernmental Revenue in the Fire Fund.

The following is related to 2018 relating to Rollback monies received:

- Reclassification of \$725 from Property and Other Local Taxes to Intergovernmental Revenue in the General Fund.
- Reclassification of \$804 from Property and Other Local Taxes to Intergovernmental Revenue in the Road & Bridge Fund.
- Reclassification of \$346 from Property and Other Local Taxes to Intergovernmental Revenue in the Fire Fund.

Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Township and is essential to help ensure the information provided to the readers of financial statements is complete and accurate. To help ensure the Township's financial statements and notes to the financial statements are complete and accurate, the Township should adopt policies and procedures to identify and correct errors and omissions.

Client Response: We have not yet received a response from the client.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018**

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2019-003**

**Material Weakness – Financial Reporting**

All local public offices shall maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets, document compliance with finance-related legal and contractual requirements and prepare financial statements.

The Ohio Township Handbook (revised March 2015) provides suggested fund balance classifications and clarifies the existing governmental fund type definitions. The fund balance classifications relate to constraints placed upon the use of resources reported in governmental funds. The five classifications are non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned.

The Township did not properly reflect its December 31, 2019 and 2018 cash balances in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Number 54 – *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2010.

Financial statement errors identified for the year ended December 31, 2019 were as follows:

- The Township recorded in cemetery endowment fund internally as a Private-Purpose Trust Fund when it should be a Permanent Fund. This requires a re-mapping of the fund and accounts. Then the fund balance should be allocated between Nonspendable (Corpus of the trust) and Restricted for the Earnings not spent.

Financial statement errors identified for the year ended December 31, 2018 were as follows:

- The Township recorded in cemetery endowment fund internally as a Private-Purpose Trust Fund when it should be a Permanent Fund. This requires a re-mapping of the fund and accounts. Then the fund balance should be allocated between Nonspendable (Corpus of the trust) and Restricted for the Earnings not spent.

Material adjustments, with which the Township officials' agree, are reflected within the accompanying financial statements.

The Township should develop internal control procedures to ensure the financial statements of the Township accurately reflect the fund cash balance in accordance with GASB Statement No. 54 reporting requirements. The Township Fiscal Officer may refer to Auditor of State Bulletin 2011-004 for additional guidance.

Client Response: We have not yet received a response from the client.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018**

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2019-004**

**Noncompliance**

Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 requires townships to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. For financial information to be considered complete, financial statements must include footnotes. We noted the footnotes did not include certain information as described below:

For December 31, 2019 were as follows:

- 2019 statements were filed with 2018 information so we had to adjust all information to 2019 information.

For December 31, 2018 were as follows:

- There were immaterial variances with the budget footnote.
- Updated the 2018 Risk Management Footnote.
- Removed Financial Difficulties footnote.

We recommend the Township complete accurate and complete financial information in a timely manner.

Client Response: We have not yet received a response from the client.

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <b>Explain:</b>
2017-001	ORC 505.24( C ) Trustees paid out of funds other than General Fund	Yes	Finding No Longer Valid
2017-002	ORC 5705.41(D) Not properly certifying expenditures	No	Not Corrected; Repeated as Finding 2019-001
2017-003	ORC 5705.10(D) Incorrect postings of revenue	Yes	Finding No Longer Valid
2017-004	Material Weakness/OAC 117-2-02(A) Improperly posting transactions	No	Not Corrected; Repeated as Finding 2019-002
2017-005	Material Weakness Fund Balances	No	Not Corrected; Repeated as Finding 2019-003

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**MARION TOWNSHIP**

**NOBLE 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 8/4/2020**

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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)