





HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Hicksville Township  
Defiance County  
11873 Casebeer Miller Road  
Hicksville, Ohio 43526

To the Board of Trustees:

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

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

We have audited the financial statements of Hicksville Township, Defiance County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### ***Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting***

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

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

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

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

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

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

***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 11 to the 2021 and 2020 financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Township. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

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

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

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

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

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

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

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

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 30, 2022, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

November 30, 2022

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**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$28,226	\$106,414	\$134,640
Charges for Services		12,000	12,000
Licenses, Permits and Fees	2,093		2,093
Intergovernmental	39,722	238,990	278,712
Earnings on Investments	368	543	911
Miscellaneous		500	500
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>70,409</u>	<u>358,447</u>	<u>428,856</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
General Government	44,017	24,060	68,077
Public Safety		75,000	75,000
Public Works	1,071	394,523	395,594
Health	14,924		14,924
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>60,012</u>	<u>493,583</u>	<u>553,595</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>10,397</u>	<u>(135,136)</u>	<u>(124,739)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts</b>			
Other Financing Sources	550		550
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	10,947	(135,136)	(124,189)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>32,362</u>	<u>813,848</u>	<u>846,210</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$43,309</u></u>	<u><u>\$678,712</u></u>	<u><u>\$722,021</u></u>

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

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Hicksville Township, Defiance County, Ohio (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. The Township contracts with the Village of Hicksville to provide ambulance and fire protection services.

***Public Entity Risk Pool***

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool, the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). 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.

**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 which are all 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*** This fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

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

***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.

HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021  
(CONTINUED)

***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 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 2021 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

***Deposits and Investments***

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

***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.

***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*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the General Fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021  
(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

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

**Note 3 – Budgetary Activity**

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

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$55,539	\$70,959	\$15,420
Special Revenue	217,650	358,447	140,797
Capital Projects	18,000		(18,000)
Total	\$291,189	\$429,406	\$138,217

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$81,970	\$60,835	\$21,135
Special Revenue	671,208	494,590	176,618
Capital Projects	18,000		18,000
Total	\$771,178	\$555,425	\$215,753

**Note 4 – Deposits**

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

	2021
Demand deposits	\$243,894
Other demand deposits	478,127
Total deposits	\$722,021

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings.

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021  
(CONTINUED)**

***Deposits***

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

**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.

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

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

**Note 6 – Risk Management**

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

***Workers' Compensation***

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

***Risk Pool Membership***

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

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

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

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021  
(CONTINUED)**

2021

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

**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

Township 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, 2021.

**Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Member Directed Plan was 4 percent during calendar year 2021.

**Note 9 – Fund Balances**

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$823	\$1,007	\$1,830

The fund balance of Special Revenue Funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted and committed amounts in the Special Revenue Funds would include outstanding encumbrances. In the General Fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

**Note 10 – Compliance**

Contrary to Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(D), the Township inappropriately recorded homestead and rollback receipts in the wrong fund.

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021  
(CONTINUED)**

**Note 11 – COVID-19**

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

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$28,997	\$122,901	\$151,898
Charges for Services		5,795	5,795
Licenses, Permits and Fees	982		982
Intergovernmental	39,188	160,786	199,974
Earnings on Investments	1,772	1,506	3,278
Miscellaneous	5,131		5,131
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>76,070</u>	<u>290,988</u>	<u>367,058</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
General Government	60,365	16,084	76,449
Public Safety		139,532	139,532
Public Works	12,830	221,500	234,330
Health	17,937		17,937
Capital Outlay	5,000		5,000
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>96,132</u>	<u>377,116</u>	<u>473,248</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(20,062)	(86,128)	(106,190)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>52,424</u>	<u>899,976</u>	<u>952,400</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$32,362</u></u>	<u><u>\$813,848</u></u>	<u><u>\$846,210</u></u>

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



**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Hicksville Township, Defiance County, Ohio (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. The Township contracts with the Village of Hicksville to provide ambulance and fire protection services.

***Public Entity Risk Pool***

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool, the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). 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.

**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 which are all organized on a fund type basis.

***Fund Accounting***

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

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

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

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

***Ambulance EMS Services Fund*** This fund accounts for and reports property tax money for providing emergency medical services.

***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.

HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020  
(CONTINUED)

***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 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 2020 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

***Deposits and Investments***

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

***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.

***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*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the General Fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020  
(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.

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

**Note 3 – Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2020 follows:

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$81,520	\$76,070	(\$5,450)
Special Revenue	190,890	290,988	100,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$272,410</b>	<b>\$367,058</b>	<b>\$94,648</b>

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$123,864	\$96,432	\$27,432
Special Revenue	650,164	377,242	272,922
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$774,028</b>	<b>\$473,674</b>	<b>\$300,354</b>

**Note 4 – Deposits**

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

	2020
Demand deposits	\$249,747
Other demand deposits	596,463
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>\$846,210</b>

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings.

HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020  
(CONTINUED)

**Deposits**

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

**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.

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

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

**Note 6 – Risk Management**

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

**Workers' Compensation**

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

**Risk Pool Membership**

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

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

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

	<u>2020</u>
Cash and investments	\$36,348,066
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,894,146

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020  
(CONTINUED)**

**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

Township 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, 2020.

**Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes 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 2020. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Member Directed Plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2020.

**Note 9 – Fund Balances**

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$126</u>	<u>\$426</u>

The fund balance of Special Revenue Funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted and committed amounts in the Special Revenue Funds would include outstanding encumbrances. In the General Fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

**Note 10 – Miscellaneous Revenue**

Miscellaneous receipts in the General Fund primarily consisted of reimbursement.

**Note 11 – COVID-19**

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

**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020  
(CONTINUED)**

**Note 12 – Change in Accounting Principle**

For 2020, the Township has made a change to their cash basis reporting model. This change includes removing the fund balance classifications from the Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) – All Governmental Fund Types.

**Note 13 – Compliance**

Contrary to Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(D), the Township inappropriately recorded homestead and rollback receipts in the wrong fund.

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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(800) 282-0370

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

Hicksville Township  
Defiance County  
11873 Casebeer Road  
Hicksville, Ohio 43526

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements of Hicksville Township, Defiance County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated November 30, 2022, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(D) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the Township.

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

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

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2021-001 and 2021-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2021-002.

***Township's Response to Findings***

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

***Purpose of This Report***

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



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

November 30, 2022



**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</b>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2021-001**

**Material Weakness – Financial Reporting**

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, *Terms of Engagement*, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; 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 as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

The following errors were identified in the accompanying financial statements and notes to the financial statements:

- In 2021, intergovernmental revenue and public works were overstated in the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$18,000.
- In 2020, miscellaneous receipts were incorrectly classified as licenses, permits and fees in the General Fund in the amount of \$5,131.
- In 2020, appropriation authority in the budgetary activity note to the financial statements did not agree to amounts approved by the Board. Appropriation authority was overstated in the Special Revenue Fund in the amount of \$286,756.
- In 2020, actual receipts in the budgetary activity note to the financial statements were understated in the General and Special Revenue Funds in the amounts of \$73,047 and \$199,363, respectively.
- In 2020, budgetary expenditures in the budgetary activity note to the financial statements were understated in the General Fund in the amount of \$71,251 and overstated in the Special Revenue Fund in the amount of \$180,939.

These errors were the result of inadequate policies and procedures in reviewing the financial statements and notes to the financial statements. Failure to complete accurate financial statements and notes to the financial statements could lead to the Board of Trustees making misinformed decisions. The accompanying financial statements and notes to the financial statements have been adjusted to correct these and other immaterial errors ranging from \$126 to \$1,872. In addition to the adjustments noted above, we also identified additional insignificant misstatements ranging from \$591 to \$3,444 that we have brought to the Township's attention.

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, including a final review of the financial statements and notes to the financial statements by the Fiscal Officer and the Board, to help identify and correct errors and omissions.

**FINDING NUMBER 2021-002**

**Noncompliance and Material Weakness**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(D)** provides in part that all revenue derived from a source other than the general property tax and which the law prescribes shall be used for a particular purpose, shall be paid into a special fund for such purpose.

- In 2021, the Township inappropriately recorded \$10,919 of homestead and rollback revenue in the General Fund. Given the source of the revenue, \$6,376, \$3,503, and \$1,040 should have been recorded in the Road and Bridge, Fire District, and Ambulance EMS Services Funds, respectively.

- In 2020, the Township inappropriately recorded \$8,473 of homestead and rollback revenue in the General Fund. Given the source of the revenue, \$5,613, \$316, and \$2,544 should have been recorded in the Road and Bridge, Fire District, and Ambulance EMS Services Funds, respectively.

Audit adjustments are reflected in the financial statements and in the accounting records correcting these misstatements.

The lack of controls over the posting of financial transactions decreases the reliability of financial data at year-end and can result in undetected errors and irregularities. The Township should implement controls to help ensure all transactions are reviewed to help ensure posting to the proper funds.

**Officials' Response:**

The Fiscal Officer will review future postings of financial activity to make sure they are properly reported in the accounting ledgers and financial statements.

**Hicksville Township**  
**DEFIANCE COUNTY**  
**11873 Casebeer Miller Road**  
**Hicksville, Ohio 43526**

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**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
2019-001	This finding was first reported in 2016. Material weakness for lack of monitoring of financial transactions resulting in errors in the financial statements.	Not corrected and reissued as Finding 2021-001 in this report.	Additional errors occurred and were not detected. The Fiscal Officer will make an effort to fully correct this finding.
2019-002	This finding was first reported in 2018. Material weakness and noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(C) for posting receipts to the incorrect fund.	Not corrected and reissued as Finding 2021-002 in this report.	Additional errors occurred and were not detected. The Fiscal Officer will make an effort to fully correct this finding.

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP**

**DEFIANCE 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 12/13/2022**

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)