# VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT SUMMIT COUNTY

Regular Audit

For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020





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Board of Trustees Valley Fire District P.O. Box 212 Peninsula, Ohio 44264

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Valley Fire District, Summit County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

June 30, 2022



#### Valley Fire District Summit County

For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

#### **Table of Contents**

Title	Page
Independent Auditors' Report - For the Year Ended December 31, 2021	1
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2021	4
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2021	5
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by Government Auditing Standards - For Year Ending December 31, 2021	12
Independent Auditors' Report - For the Year Ended December 31, 2020	14
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2020.	17
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2020	18
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by Government Auditing Standards - For Year Ending December 31, 2020	25
Schedule of Findings	27
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings (Prepared by Management)	28
Corrective Action Plan (Prepared by Management)	29



#### Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

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

Valley Fire District Summit County P.O. Box 212 Peninsula, OH 44264

To the Board of Trustees:

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

#### Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Valley Fire District, Summit County, Ohio (the District), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

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

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

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

#### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, 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.

Valley Fire District Summit County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the District 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 12 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. We did not modify our opinions regarding this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District'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.

Valley Fire District Summit County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

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 District'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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 16, 2022, on our consideration of the District'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 District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Charles Having Association

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. June 16, 2022

Valley Fire District
Summit County
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types							
		General		pecial evenue		Capital Projects	(Me	Totals morandum Only)
Cash Receipts Property and Other Local Taxes Charges for Services Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments	\$	250,254 377,479 26,973 291	\$	- - -	\$	109,690 - 1,528	\$	359,944 377,479 28,501 291
Miscellaneous  Total Cash Receipts		35,313 690,310		<u>-</u>		32,381 143,599		67,694 833,909
Cash Disbursements Current: General Government Public Safety Capital Outlay Debt Service:		46,603 594,748		- - -		2,218 104,894		46,603 596,966 104,894
Principal Retirement Interest & Fiscal Charges		<u>-</u>		-		78,638 14,032		78,638 14,032
Total Cash Disbursements		641,351				199,782		841,133
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements		48,959				(56,183)		(7,224)
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements) Other Financing Sources		<u>-</u>				61,355		61,355
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)						61,355		61,355
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		48,959		-		5,172		54,131
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		477,749		2,257		274,841		754,847
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	526,708	\$	2,257	\$	280,013	\$	808,978

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

Summit 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 Valley Fire District, Summit County, Ohio (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member and an at-large member is appointed by those Board members from one of the subdivisions. Those subdivisions are the Village of Peninsula and Boston Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District. The District also contracts with the Village of Boston Heights to provide fire and rescue services.

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

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

#### Basis of Presentation

The District'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 is organized on a fund type basis.

#### Fund Accounting

The District 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 District 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 District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

**Special Revenue Fund** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The District had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

**FEMA Grant Fund** The FEMA grant fund accounts for and reports receipts of grant money for the purpose of purchasing fire equipment and providing training.

Capital Project Fund These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The District had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

*Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund* The miscellaneous capital projects fund accounts for and reports receipts of levy money for the purpose of improving fire stations and acquiring new vehicles.

Summit County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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

#### 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 District recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D) permit.

#### **Budgetary Process**

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

Appropriations Budgetary disbursements (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the 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 District 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 District'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.

Investment in STAR Ohio is measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

#### Capital Assets

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

Summit County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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

#### Fund Balance

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

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

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

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

The District 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 11.

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts Budgeted Actual Fund Type Receipts Receipts Variance General 678,315 \$ 690,310 \$11,995 Capital Projects 204,954 157,133 47,821

Summit County

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (continued)

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements

	Appropriation		В	udgetary	
Fund Type	Authority		Dist	oursements	_Variance_
General	\$	735,000	\$	641,351	\$93,649
Capital Projects		207,772		199,782	7,990

#### **Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

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

	2021
Demand deposits	\$452,364
Total deposits	452,364
STAR Ohio	356,614
Total investments	356,614
Total deposits and investments	\$808,978

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

#### **Deposits**

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

#### Investments

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

#### Note 5 – Taxes

#### **Property Taxes**

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

Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

#### Note 5 – Taxes (continued)

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

#### Note 6 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The District 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.

#### Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

There has been no significant reduction in coverage limits from the prior year. Settled claims did not exceed coverage for any of the past three years.

#### Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

#### Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The District's Chief and Clerk 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 healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

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

#### Social Security

The District's firefighters contribute to social security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2% of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2% of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 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% during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% during calendar year 2021.

#### Note 9 - Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2021, was as follows:

	_ Principal	Interest Rate
2020 Pierce Saber Loan	\$397,530	2.48%
Squad Loan	57,251	3.28%
	\$454,781	

#### Loans

In January 2017, the Fire District entered into a loan for the purchase of a new squad. The loan was issued in the amount of \$186,094 from Huntington Capital Corporation. Payments of \$30,041 are due on December 1 of each year with a maturity date of December 1, 2023. The District intends to pay the loan from the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund.

In September 2020, the Fire District entered into a loan for the purchase of a new saber pumper. The loan was issued in the amount of \$510,965 from Huntington Capital Corporation. Payments of \$62,629 are due on October 1 of each year with a maturity date of October 1, 2028. The District intends to pay the loan from the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund.

#### Amortization

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

Year Ending	2020 Pierce	
December 31:	Saber Loan	Squad Loan
2022	\$ 62,629	\$ 30,041
2023	62,629	30,041
2024	62,629	-
2025	62,629	-
2026	62,629	-
2027-2028	125,259	
	\$ 438,404	\$ 60,082

Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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

Management believes there are no pending claims or lawsuits against the District.

#### Note 11 - 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 facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end, the District had no encumbrances.

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

#### **Note 12 – COVID-19**

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

#### Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

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

Valley Fire District Summit County P.O. Box 212 Peninsula, OH 44264

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Valley Fire District, Summit County, (the District) and have issued our report thereon dated June 16, 2022, wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District.

#### Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinions the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District'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. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings that we consider a material weakness. We consider finding 2021-001 to be a material weakness.

Valley Fire District
Summit County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

#### Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 16, 2022.

#### District's Response to Finding

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

Charles Having Assaichter

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. June 16, 2022

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

Valley Fire District **Summit County** P.O. Box 212 Peninsula, OH 44264

To the Board of Trustees:

#### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type and related notes of the Valley Fire District, Summit County, (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these 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; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of 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 District'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 District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

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

Valley Fire District Summit County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the District 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(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

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

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

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

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year 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 for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and related notes of the District in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

#### **Emphasis of Matters**

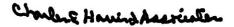
As discussed in Note 13 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. We did not modify our opinions regarding this matter.

As discussed in Note 12 to the financial statements, the District made several changes to its reporting model. We did not modify our opinions regarding this matter.

Valley Fire District Summit County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 16, 2022, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. June 16, 2022

Valley Fire District
Summit 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

	Governmental Fund Types							
		General		Special Levenue		Capital Projects	(Me	Totals emorandum Only)
Cash Receipts Property and Other Local Taxes Charges for Services Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous	\$	231,077 334,766 51,813 1,153 9,989	\$	26,032	\$	101,866 - 1,892 -	\$	332,943 334,766 79,737 1,153 9,989
Total Cash Receipts		628,798		26,032		103,758		758,588
Cash Disbursements Current:								
General Government Public Safety Capital Outlay Debt Service:		40,676 589,900		26,032		1,562 641,261		40,676 617,494 641,261
Principal Retirement Interest & Fiscal Charges		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		88,469 4,202		88,469 4,202
Total Cash Disbursements		630,576		26,032		735,494		1,392,102
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements		(1,778)		-		(631,736)		(633,514)
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements) Other Financing Sources Other Debt Proceeds		- -		- -		62,315 510,965		62,315 510,965
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)						573,280		573,280
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		(1,778)		-		(58,456)		(60,234)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		479,527		2,257		333,297		815,081
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	477,749	\$	2,257	\$	274,841	\$	754,847

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

Summit 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 Valley Fire District, Summit County, Ohio (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member and an at-large member is appointed by those Board members from one of the subdivisions. Those subdivisions are the Village of Peninsula and Boston Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District. The District also contracts with the Village of Boston Heights to provide fire and rescue services.

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

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

#### Basis of Presentation

The District'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 is organized on a fund type basis.

#### Fund Accounting

The District 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 District 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 District 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 financial resources that are restricted to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The District had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

*Coronavirus Relief Fund* The Coronavirus Relief fund accounts for and reports receipts of relief money for the purpose of purchasing emergency equipment.

*Capital Project Fund* These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The District had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

*Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund* The miscellaneous capital projects fund accounts for and reports receipts of levy money for the purpose of improving fire stations and acquiring new vehicles.

Summit County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

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

#### Basis of Accounting

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

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

#### **Budgetary Process**

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

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

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

*Encumbrances* The Ohio Revised Code requires the District 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 District'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.

Investment in STAR Ohio is measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

#### Capital Assets

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

Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

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

#### Fund Balance

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

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

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

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

The District 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 11.

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts							
	В	udgeted		Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts		Receipts		Variance		
General	\$	619,662	\$	628,798	\$	9,136	
Special Reveune		26,032		26,032		-	
Capital Projects		153,661		677,038	5	23,377	

Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (continued)

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements

	Appropriation		B	udgetary	
Fund Type	A	uthority	Dist	oursements	Variance
General	\$	688,827	\$	630,576	\$ 58,251
Special Revenue		63,374		26,032	37,342
Capital Projects		262,100		735,494	(473,394)

Due to an audit adjustment, this caused disbursements plus encumbrances to exceed appropriations in the Miscellaneous Capital Projects fund by \$473,394, contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B).

#### Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2020
Demand deposits	\$398,525
Total deposits	398,525
STAR Ohio	356,322
Total investments	356,322
Total deposits and investments	\$754,847

The District does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2020, the District does not have any unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

#### **Deposits**

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

#### Investments

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

Summit County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 5 – Taxes

#### **Property Taxes**

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

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

#### Note 6 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The District 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.

#### Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

There has been no significant reduction in coverage limits from the prior year. Settled claims did not exceed coverage for any of the past three years.

#### Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

#### Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The District's Chief, Assistant Chief and Clerk 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 healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10%, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

#### Social Security

The District's firefighters contribute to social security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2% of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2% of participants' gross salaries. The District 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 - Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2020, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
2020 Pierce Saber Loan	\$448,899	2.48%
Squad Loan	84,520	3.28%
	\$533,419	

#### Loans

In January 2017, the Fire District entered into a loan for the purchase of a new squad. The loan was issued in the amount of \$186,094 from Huntington Capital Corporation. Payments of \$30,041 are due on December 1 of each year with a maturity date of December 1, 2023. The District intends to pay the loan from the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund.

In September 2020, the Fire District entered into a loan for the purchase of a new saber pumper. The loan was issued in the amount of \$510,965 from Huntington Capital Corporation. Payments of \$62,629 are due on October 1 of each year with a maturity date of October 1, 2028. The District intends to pay the loan from the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund.

Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 9 – Debt (continued)

#### Amortization

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

Year Ending	2020 Pierce			
December 31:	Saber Loan		Squad Loan	
2021	\$	62,629	\$	30,041
2022		62,629		30,041
2023		62,629		30,041
2024		62,629		-
2025		62,629		-
2026-2028		187,887		
	\$	501,032	\$	90,123

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

Management believes there are no pending claims or lawsuits against the District.

#### Note 11 – 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 facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end, the District had no encumbrances.

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

#### Note 12 – Change in Accounting Principle

For 2020, the District has made changes to their cash basis reporting model. These changes include modifications to the definition of fiduciary funds, and removing the fund balance classifications from the combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all governmental fund types. There was no effect on the beginning fund balance.

#### **Note 13 – 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 will impact subsequent periods of the District. In addition, the impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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

Valley Fire District Summit County P.O. Box 212 Peninsula, OH 44264

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and 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 year ended December 31, 2020 of the Valley Fire District, Summit County (the District) and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 16, 2022, wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District and several changes to its reporting model.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District'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. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings that we consider a material weakness. We consider finding 2021-001 to be a material weakness.

Valley Fire District
Summit County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

#### Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free of 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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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 is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as finding 2021-001.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 16, 2022.

#### District's Response to Finding

The District's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. We did not audit the District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

#### 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 District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Charles Having Association

Charles E. Harris and Associates, Inc.

June 16, 2022

#### VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT SUMMIT COUNTY

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS December 31, 2021 and 2020

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

#### Finding Number: 2021-001 – Material Weakness / Noncompliance

#### **Recording of Transactions:**

The District improperly classified several transactions during 2020 and 2021. The adjustments are as follows:

- During 2020. the payment of principal and interest of loans was classified as capital outlay instead of principal and interest.
- During 2020, the direct vendor payment for the purchase of the new Saber pumper was not recorded in the financial statements. The payment should have been recorded as a receipt for other debt proceeds and an expenditure for capital outlay.
- During 2021, the payment of principal of loans was classified as capital outlay instead of principal.

Adjustments were made in the financial statements to reflect the proper presentation.

Failure to classify transactions correctly results in the financial statements not being accurately presented. The UAN manual provides suggested account classifications. These accounts classify receipts and disbursements by fund and account.

The unrecorded proceeds of loans and capital outlay above caused expenditures to exceed appropriation in the Miscellaneous Capital Projects fund by \$473,394 in 2020, contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B).

We recommend that the fiscal officer follow the UAN manual and other Auditor of State guidance to properly classify its transactions. In addition, we recommend the Clerk and Board of Trustees review all reports compiled by UAN to ensure their accuracy.

#### **Management's Response:**

See Corrective Action Plan.

#### VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT SUMMIT COUNTY

#### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 Prepared by Management

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2019-001	Recording of Transactions	Not Corrected.	See Corrective Action Plan.
2019-002	Certification of the Expenditures	Partially Corrected	

### VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT SUMMIT COUNTY

# CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 Prepared by Management

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2021-001	The job manual will be updated to indicate the correct account codes for the loan payments. The UAN account manual will be reviewed for new types of transactions.	Immediately	Catherine Anson, Fiscal Officer





#### **VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT**

#### **SUMMIT 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 7/12/2022

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