



PERRY

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PASSION *Beyond the Numbers*

**BIRCHARD PUBLIC LIBRARY
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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Board of Trustees
Birchard Public Library
423 Croghan Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Birchard Public Library, Sandusky County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. 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 Birchard Public Library is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

August 15, 2025

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SANDUSKY COUNTY
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
423 Croghan Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420

To the Board:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Birchard Public Library, Sandusky County, Ohio (the Library), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Library's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Library, as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

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 Library, 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.

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. 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 Library'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 *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 Library'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 Library'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 Information

We applied no procedures to the management's discussion & analysis, as listed in the table of contents. Accordingly, we express no opinion or any other assurance on them.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 18, 2025, on our consideration of the Library'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 Library'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 Library's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



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

April 18, 2025

Birchard Public Library of Sandusky County
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

This discussion and analysis of the Birchard Public Library's (the Library) financial performance provides an overall review of the Library's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2024, within the limitations of the Library's cash basis of accounting. Readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to enhance their understanding of the Library's financial performance.

Highlights

Key highlights for 2024 are as follows:

Net position of governmental activities decreased \$463,371, or 8.81 percent, from the prior year. The fund most affected by the decrease in cash was the Building & Repair Fund.

The Library's general receipts are primarily from the Public Library Fund from State general tax revenue and proceeds from a local 1 mill tax levy that was approved in May 2011 and renewed in November 2020. The revenue from PLF was \$102,200 (5.25 percent) lower in 2024 than in 2023. The receipts represent \$1,842,838 and 40 percent of the total cash received for governmental activities during the year. The revenue from the local portion of the real estate tax levy was \$1,009,130 which was 21.91 percent of the total cash received for governmental activities.

On November 17, 2021 the Library signed a long term liability with the USDA for the loan amount of \$3,545,000. The balance as of December 31, 2024, is \$1,290,097.

Using the Basic Financial Statements

This annual report is presented in a format consistent with the presentation requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, as applicable to the Library's cash basis of accounting.

Report Components

The statement of net position and the statement of activities provide information about the cash activities of the Library as a whole.

Fund financial statements provide a greater level of detail. Funds are created and maintained on the financial records of the Library as a way to segregate money whose use is restricted to a particular specified purpose. These statements present financial information by fund, presenting funds with the largest balances or most activity in separate columns.

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the Library-wide and fund financial statements and provide expanded explanation and detail regarding the information reported in the statements.

Birchard Public Library of Sandusky County
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting is a set of guidelines that determine when financial events are recorded. The Library has elected to present its financial statements on a cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the Library's cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

As a result of using the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable) are not recorded in the financial statements. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this report, the reader must keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of cash basis of accounting

Reporting the Birchard Public Library as a Whole

The statement of net position and the statement of activities reflect how the Library did financially during 2024, with the limitations of cash basis accounting. The statement of net position presents the cash balances of the governmental-type activities of the Library at year-end. The statement of activities compares the cash disbursements with program receipts for each governmental activity. Program receipts include grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts. The comparison of cash disbursements with program receipts identifies how each governmental function draws from the Library's general receipts.

These statements report the Library's cash position and the changes in cash position. Keeping in mind the limitations of the cash basis of accounting, you can think of these changes as one way to measure the Library's financial health. Over time, increases or decreases in the Library's cash position is one indicator of whether the Library's financial health is improving or deteriorating. When evaluating the Library's financial condition, you should also consider other nonfinancial factors such as the Library's allocation of PLF from the Sandusky County Budget Commission and Seneca County Budget Commission, the reliance on non-local financial resources for operations, and the need for continued growth in the major local revenue sources such as property and income taxes.

In the statement of net position and the statement of activities, the Library has only one type of activity:

Governmental activities. All the Library's services and capital outlay are reported here. Public Library Funds from the State and proceeds from a local 1 mill levy finance most of these activities. Benefits provided through governmental activities are not necessarily paid for by people receiving them.

Birchard Public Library of Sandusky County
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Reporting the Birchard Public Library's Most Significant Funds

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Library's major funds – not the Library as a whole. The Library establishes separate funds to better manage its activities and to help demonstrate that money restricted as to how it may be used is being spent for the intended purpose.

Governmental Funds – All of the Library's activities are reported in governmental funds. The governmental fund financial statements provide a detailed view of the Library's governmental operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent to finance the Library's programs. The Library's significant governmental funds are presented on the financial statements in separate columns. The information for nonmajor funds (funds whose activity or balances are not large enough to warrant separate reporting) is combined and presented in total in a single column. The library has three major governmental funds; the General Fund, the Building and Repair Fund, and the Debt Service Fund. The programs reported in governmental funds are closely related to those reported in the governmental activities section of the entity-wide statements.

The Birchard Public Library as a Whole

Table 1 provides a summary of the Library's net position for 2024 compared to 2023 on a cash basis:

Net Position		
	Net Position	
	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash	\$4,796,356	\$ 5,259,727
Net Position		
Restricted for :		
Debt Service	\$ 386,563	\$ 575,443
Unclaimed		
Monies	263	1,229
Unrestricted	4,409,530	4,683,055
Total Net Position	\$ 4,796,356	\$ 5,259,727

As mentioned previously, the net position of governmental activities decreased \$463,371 or 8.81 percent during 2024. Overall receipts decreased by 20.57 percent and expenses decreased by 7.69 percent.

Birchard Public Library of Sandusky County
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Table 2 reflects the changes in net position on a cash basis in 2024 and 2023 for governmental activities:

(Table 2)

Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Receipts:		
Program Receipts:		
Charges for Services and Sales	\$ 17,732	\$ 7,112
Capital Grants and Contributions	-	108,800
Total Program Receipts	17,732	115,912
General Receipts:		
Intergovernmental	694,361	102,416
Public Library	1,842,838	1,945,038
Property Taxes	1,009,130	974,384
Unrestricted Gifts & Contributions	20,200	124,673
Interest	270,395	253,879
Other Debt Proceeds	714,618	2,228,008
Sale of Assets	-	713
Miscellaneous	36,901	53,680
Total General Receipts	4,588,443	5,682,791
Total Receipts	4,606,175	5,798,703
Disbursements:		
Public Services and Programs	1,311,126	1,266,601
Collection & Develop. & Maintenance	300,381	291,194
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	193,064	210,395
Information Services	173,486	167,258
Business Administrations	416,654	391,818
Capital Outlay	529,857	2,873,106
Debt Service	2,144,498	188,880
Total Disbursements	5,069,546	5,491,854
 Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	 (463,371)	 306,849
 Net Position, January 1	 5,259,727	 4,952,878
Net Position, December 31	\$ 4,796,356	\$ 5,259,727

Birchard Public Library of Sandusky County
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Program receipts represent only 0.38 percent of total receipts and are primarily comprised of fees, and fines toward specific programs or expenses.

General receipts represent 99.62 percent of the library's total receipts, and of this amount, 40.01 percent is Public Library Fund revenue, 21.91 percent is the local portion of the library levy, other receipts are insignificant and are unpredictable revenue sources.

Governmental Activities

If you look at the Statement of Activities on page 11, you will see that the first column lists Library services and capital outlay. The next column identifies the costs of providing these services. The next three columns of the Statement entitled "Program Cash Receipts", identify gifts, donations and grants received by the Library that must be used to provide a specific service. The Net Receipt (Disbursements) column compares the program receipts to the cost of the service. The Net Receipt (Disbursements) column compares the program receipts to the cost of the service. The "net cost" amount represents the cost of the service which ends up being paid from money provided by taxpayers. These net costs are paid from the general receipts which are presented at the bottom of the statement. A comparison between the cost of services and the net cost is presented in Table 3.

(Table 3)

	Governmental Activities			
	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services
	2024	2024	2023	2023
Library Services	\$1,311,126	\$1,293,394	\$1,266,601	\$1,259,489
Collection Dev & Processing	300,861	300,861	280,846	280,846
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	193,064	193,064	227,474	227,474
Information Services	173,486	173,486	167,258	167,258
Business Administration	416,654	416,654	487,689	487,689
Capital Outlay	529,857	529,857	2,873,106	2,764,306
Debt Service	2,144,498	2,144,498	188,880	188,880
Total Expenses	<u>\$5,069,546</u>	<u>\$5,051,814</u>	<u>\$5,491,854</u>	<u>\$ 5,375,942</u>

The dependence upon Public Library Funds and the Local levy is apparent, as 56.25 percent of governmental activities are supported through general receipts.

The Birchard Public Library 's Funds

Total governmental funds had receipts of \$4,606,175 and disbursements of \$5,069,546. The greatest change within governmental funds occurred within the Building & Repair Fund. The fund balance of the Building & Repair Fund decreased by \$497,557.

Birchard Public Library of Sandusky County
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The Library's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund.

During 2024, actual General Fund receipts totaled \$3,888,099 and were higher than final budgeted receipts by \$580,390. Final disbursements were budgeted at \$2,863,950, while actual disbursements were \$2,341,705.

Salaries were raised by 5 percent in 2024.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

The Library does not currently keep track of its capital assets and infrastructure.

Debt

On November 17, 2021 the Library signed a long-term liability with the USDA for the loan amount of \$3,545,000. Additionally, the library received the anticipated funds from Ohio's Capital Budget in partnership with Terra Community College in the amount of \$591,000 in calendar year 2024 and applied to the principal of the USDA loan.

Contacting the Library's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Library's finances and to reflect the Library's accountability for the monies it receives. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or requests for additional information should be directed to Robin Ross, Fiscal Officer, Birchard Public Library of Sandusky County, 423 Croghan Street, Fremont, OH 43420.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
December 31, 2024

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,796,356
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 4,796,356</u>
 Net Position	
Restricted for:	
Debt Service	\$ 386,563
Unclaimed Monies	263
Unrestricted	<u>4,409,530</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ 4,796,356</u>

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

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Program Cash Receipts				Net (Disbursements)
	Cash	Charges	Operating	Capital Grants	Receipts and Changes in
	Disbursements	for Services	Grants and	and Contributions	Net Position
		and Sales	Contributions		Governmental
					Activities
Governmental Activities					
Current:					
Library Services:					
Public Services and Programs	\$ 1,311,126	\$ 17,732	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,293,394)
Collection Development and Processing	300,861	-	-	-	(300,861)
Support Services:					
Facilities Operation and Maintenance	193,064	-	-	-	(193,064)
Information Services	173,486	-	-	-	(173,486)
Business Administration	416,654	-	-	-	(416,654)
Capital Outlay	529,857	-	-	-	(529,857)
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	2,096,212	-	-	-	(2,096,212)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	48,286	-	-	-	(48,286)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 5,069,546	\$ 17,732	\$ -	\$ -	(5,051,814)
General Receipts:					
Property Taxes Levied for General Purposes					1,009,130
Public Library					1,842,838
Intergovernmental					1,408,979
Unrestricted Gifts and Contributions					20,200
Other Debt Proceeds					-
Sale of Capital Assets					-
Earnings on Investments					270,395
Miscellaneous					36,901
Total General Receipts					4,588,443
Change in Net Position					(463,371)
Net Position Beginning of Year					5,259,727
Net Position End of Year					\$ 4,796,356

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

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2024

	General	Building & Repair Fund	Debt Service Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets					
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,049,578	\$ 137,094	\$ 386,563	\$ 223,121	\$ 4,796,356
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 4,049,578</u>	<u>\$ 137,094</u>	<u>\$ 386,563</u>	<u>\$ 223,121</u>	<u>\$ 4,796,356</u>
Fund Balances					
Nonspendable	\$ 262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 262
Assigned	939,792	137,094	386,563	223,121	1,686,570
Unassigned	<u>3,109,524</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,109,524</u>
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 4,049,578</u>	<u>\$ 137,094</u>	<u>\$ 386,563</u>	<u>\$ 223,121</u>	<u>\$ 4,796,356</u>

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

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	General	Building & Repair Fund	Debt Service Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 1,009,130	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,009,130
Public Library	1,842,838	-	-	-	1,842,838
Intergovernmental	694,361	-	-	-	694,361
Patron Fines and Fees	17,732	-	-	-	17,732
Contributions, Gifts and Donations	20,200	-	-	-	20,200
Earnings on Investments	270,395	-	-	-	270,395
Miscellaneous	36,901	-	-	-	36,901
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>3,891,557</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,891,557</u>
Disbursements					
Current:					
Library Services:					
Public Services and Programs	1,311,127	-	-	-	1,311,127
Collection Development and Processing	300,861	-	-	-	300,861
Support Services:					
Facilities Operation and Maintenance	193,064	-	-	-	193,064
Information Services	173,486	-	-	-	173,486
Business Administration	394,304	22,350	-	-	416,654
Capital Outlay	54,649	475,207	-	-	529,856
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	-	-	2,091,428	-	2,091,428
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	53,070	-	53,070
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>2,427,491</u>	<u>497,557</u>	<u>2,144,498</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,069,546</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>1,464,066</u>	<u>(497,557)</u>	<u>(2,144,498)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,177,989)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Transfers In	-	-	1,241,000	100,000	1,341,000
Transfers Out	(1,341,000)	-	-	-	(1,341,000)
Other Debt Proceeds	-	-	714,618	-	714,618
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(1,341,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,955,618</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>714,618</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	<u>123,066</u>	<u>(497,557)</u>	<u>(188,880)</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>(463,371)</u>
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year</i>	<u>3,926,512</u>	<u>634,651</u>	<u>575,443</u>	<u>123,121</u>	<u>5,259,727</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 4,049,578</u>	<u>\$ 137,094</u>	<u>\$ 386,563</u>	<u>\$ 223,121</u>	<u>\$ 4,796,356</u>

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

Birchard Public Library
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual - Budget Basis
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			(Optional) Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final	Actual	
Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$1,070,567	\$1,037,567	\$1,009,130	(\$28,437)
Public Library	1,800,000	1,855,661	1,842,838	(12,823)
Intergovernmental	140,482	102,000	694,361	592,361
Patron Fines and Fees	16,500	16,500	17,732	1,232
Contributions, Gifts and Donations	7,000	7,000	16,950	9,950
Earnings on Investments	175,000	246,481	270,395	23,914
Miscellaneous	42,500	42,500	36,693	(5,807)
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>3,252,048</u>	<u>3,307,709</u>	<u>3,888,099</u>	<u>580,390</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
Library Services:				
Public Services and Programs	1,555,067	1,555,667	1,308,742	246,925
Collection Development and Processing	276,913	276,913	217,930	58,983
Support Services:				
Facilities Operation and Maintenance	299,850	298,750	203,114	95,637
Information Services	195,599	195,599	173,486	22,113
Business Administration	481,520	482,020	390,157	91,863
Intergovernmental				
Capital Outlay	55,000	55,000	48,276	6,724
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>2,863,950</u>	<u>2,863,950</u>	<u>2,341,705</u>	<u>522,245</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>388,099</u>	<u>443,759</u>	<u>1,546,394</u>	<u>58,145</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers In	-	-	207	207
Transfers Out	(189,000)	(189,000)	(1,341,000)	(1,152,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(189,000)</u>	<u>(189,000)</u>	<u>(1,340,793)</u>	<u>(1,151,793)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	<u>199,099</u>	<u>254,759</u>	<u>205,602</u>	<u>(1,093,647)</u>
<i>Unencumbered Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	<u>2,847,199</u>	<u>2,847,199</u>	<u>2,847,199</u>	<u>-</u>
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	43,258	43,258	43,258	-
<i>Unencumbered Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$3,089,556</u>	<u>\$3,145,216</u>	<u>\$3,096,059</u>	<u>(\$1,093,647)</u>

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

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 1 – Description of the Library and Reporting Entity

The Birchard Public Library of Sandusky County Library (the Library) first opened its doors to the public in 1874, established through a bequest of Sardis Birchard and the leadership of Rutherford B. Hayes. The Library changed its status from an association library to a county district library in 1968 under the laws of the State of Ohio. The Library has its own seven-member Board of Trustees, 4 trustees are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and 3 trustees are appointed by the Common Pleas judges. Appointments are for seven-year terms and members serve without compensation. Under Ohio statutes, the Library is a body politic and corporate capable of suing and being sued, contracting, acquiring, holding, possessing, and disposing of real property, and of exercising such other powers and privileges conferred upon it by law. The Library also determines and operates under its own budget. Control and management of the Library is governed by sections 3375.33 to 3375.39 of the Ohio Revised Code with the administration of the day-to-day operations of the Library being the responsibility of the Director and financial accountability being solely that of the Fiscal Officer.

Component Units

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Library is financially accountable. The Library is financially accountable for an organization if the Library appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board; and (1) the Library is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Library is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the Library is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the Library is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations for which the Library authorizes the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes or determines the budget if there is also the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the Library. The Library has no component units.

Related Organizations

The Friends of the Birchard Public Library is a not-for-profit organization with a self-appointing board. The Library is not financially accountable for the organization, nor does the Library approve the budget or the issuance of debt of the organization. The revenues/net assets of the Friends of Birchard Public Library per its Form 990-N (e-postcard) as filed with the Internal Revenue Service do not exceed 5% of the Library's total fund revenues or net assets. Therefore, this organization has been excluded from the reporting entity of the Library.

The Birchard Library Association Foundation is a not-for-profit organization with a self-appointing board. The Library is not financially accountable for the organization, nor does the Library approve the budget or the issuance of debt of the organization. The Library does not have the ability to access a majority of the economic resources received or held by the separate organization, therefore, this organization has been excluded from the reporting entity of the Library.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

As discussed further in the "Basis of Accounting" section of this note, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the Library's accounting policies.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Basis of Presentation

The Library's basic financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-wide Financial Statements The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the Library as a whole. The statements distinguish between those activities of the Library that are governmental and those that are considered business-type. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts and other nonexchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. The Library did not have any business-type activities.

The statement of net position presents the cash and investment balances of the governmental-type activities of the Library at year end. The statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each of the Library's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the Library is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services, grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the Library's general receipts.

Fund Financial Statements During the year, the Library segregates transactions related to certain Library functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the Library at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental and enterprise fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

Fund Accounting

The Library 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 Library's funds are all classified as governmental.

Governmental Funds Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the Library are financed. The following are the Library's major governmental funds:

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

Building and Repair Fund The building and repair fund accounts for and reports resources committed by the Board of Library Trustees specifically for the building and repair of the buildings and grounds owned by the Library.

Debt Service Fund The debt service fund accounts for and reports financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Basis of Accounting

The Library's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the Library's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Any such modifications made by the Library are described in the appropriate section in this note.

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued liabilities and the related expenses) are not recorded in these financial statements.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

Budgetary Process

All funds are legally required to be appropriated. The appropriations resolution is the Trustee's authorization to spend resources and sets limits on cash disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Trustees. The legal level of control has been established at the fund and character or major category of the object code level for all funds. Budgetary modifications at the legal level of control may only be made by resolution of the Board of Library Trustees.

For control purposes, the Library estimates cash receipts for the year. These estimated receipts, together with the unencumbered carry-over balances from the prior year, set a limit on the amount the Trustees may appropriate. The estimated receipts may be revised during the year if projected increases or decreases in receipts are identified by the Fiscal Officer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts of estimated resources at the time final appropriations were enacted by the Trustees.

The appropriations resolution is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations should not exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation ordinance for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Trustees during the year.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, cash received by the Library is pooled and invested. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the Library's records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents."

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts, respectively.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Cash and Cash Equivalents (Continued)

During 2024, investments were limited to interest-bearing checking and savings accounts, STAR Ohio, and STAR Plus. Investments are recorded at current value.

STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*. The Library measures their investment in STAR Ohio 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.

STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit participant transactions to \$250 million per day. Transactions in all of a participant's accounts will be combined for this purpose. Twenty-four hours advance notice to STAR Ohio is appreciated for purchases or redemptions of \$100 million or more. For fiscal year 2024, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates.

Interest earnings are allocated to Library funds according to State statutes, grant requirements, or debt related restrictions. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during 2024 amounted to \$270,395.

Restricted Assets

Assets are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change the nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either externally imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Library are reported as restricted.

Inventory and Prepaid Items

The Library reports disbursements for inventories and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

Accumulated Leave

For 2024, GASB Statement No. 101, Compensated Absences, was effective. GASB 101 defines a compensated absence as leave for which employees may receive cash payments when the leave is used for time off or receive cash payments for unused leave upon termination of employment. These payments could occur during employment or upon termination of employment. Compensated absences generally do not have a set payment schedule. The Library does not offer noncash settlements.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Accumulated Leave (Continued)

Library employees earn sick and vacation time that can be used for time off. In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave.

This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance as unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Library's modified cash basis of accounting.

Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The Library recognizes the disbursement for their employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 8 and 9, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

Long-Term Obligations

The Library's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when the cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset when entering into a lease, SBITA, or financed purchase transaction is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Lease payments, SBITA Payments, and financed purchases are reported when paid.

Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for the Whitmore Trust in the Birchard Library Trust Fund.

The Library's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an obligation is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Library is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted Fund balance is reported as 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

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

Committed The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (resolution) of Library Trustees. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Library Trustees remove or change the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the Library for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Library Trustees or a Library official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute. State Statute authorizes the Library Fiscal Officer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

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

The Library 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.

New Accounting Pronouncements

For 2024, GASB Statement No. 100, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections was effective. This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance as the Library had no accounting changes or error corrections related to 2024. See the Accumulated Leave section of Note 2 for discussion of the implementation of GASB Statement No. 101, Compensated Absences.

Note 3 – Budgetary Basis of Accounting

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budgetary Basis presented for the General Fund is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The differences between the budgetary basis and the cash basis are as follows:

1. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as cash disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as restricted, committed or assigned fund balance (cash basis).
2. Some funds are included in the general fund (cash basis) but have separate legally adopted budgets (budgetary basis).

Adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations at the end of the year on the budget basis to the cash basis are as follows:

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 3 – Budgetary Basis of Accounting (Continued)

	General
Cash Basis	\$ 123,066
Encumbrances	(34,454)
Funds Budgeted Elsewhere	116,990
Budget Basis	<u>\$ 205,602</u>

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

State statutes classify monies held by the Library into three categories.

Active monies are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the Library treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the Library treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Board has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Interim monies held by the Library can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including, but not limited to, Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
4. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
5. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and, with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio);

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments (Continued)

7. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met; and
8. Written repurchase agreements in the securities described in (1) or (2) provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Library, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Fiscal Officer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

At year end, the Library had \$400 in undeposited cash on hand which is included as part of "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the financial statements.

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Library will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At year end, \$0 of the Library's cash and investments of \$4,811,669 was exposed to custodial credit risk because those deposits were uninsured and collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent, but not in the Library's name. The library's financial institution was approved for a reduced collateral rate of 102 percent through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System.

The Library has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by eligible securities pledged to and deposited either with the Library or a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution whose market value at all times shall be at least one hundred five percent of the deposits being secured.

Investments

As of December 31, 2024, the Library had the following investments:

	Fair Value
STAR Ohio	\$ 4,724,869

Credit Risk STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAAM by Standard and Poor's. The Library has no investment policy dealing with investment credit risk beyond the requirements in state statutes. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments (Continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk The Library places no limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer. The following investments represent five percent or more of total investments as of December 31, 2024:

Investment Issuer	Percentage of Total Investments
STAR Ohio	100%

Note 5 – Grants in Aid, Property Taxes, and Tax Abatements

Grants in Aid

The primary source of revenue for Ohio public libraries is the Public Library Fund (PLF). The State allocates PLF to each county based on the total tax revenue credited to the State's general revenue fund during the preceding month using the statutory allocation method. Estimated entitlement figures were issued to County Auditors. The actual current year entitlements were computed in December of the current year. The difference between the estimate and actual will be adjusted evenly in the PLF distributions made from January-June of the subsequent year.

Property Taxes

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the Library. Property tax revenue received during 2024 for real and public utility property taxes represents collections of 2023 taxes.

2024 real property taxes are levied after October 1, 2024, on the assessed value as of January 1, 2024, the lien date. Assessed values are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. 2024 real property taxes are collected in and intended to finance 2025.

Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits later payment dates to be established.

Public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value; public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value. 2024 public utility property taxes which became a lien December 31, 2023, are levied after October 1, 2024, and are collected in 2025 with real property taxes.

The full tax rate for all Library operations for the year ended December 31, 2024, was \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The assessed values of real property and public utility tangible property upon which 2023 property tax receipts were based are as follows:

Real Property	\$ 846,714,270
Public Utility Personal Property	385,288,540
Total	<u>\$1,232,002,810</u>

The County Treasurer collects property taxes on behalf of all taxing districts in the county, including the Library. The County Auditor periodically remits to the Library its portion of the taxes collected.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Tax Abatements

For purposes of GASB No. 77, the definition of a tax abatement is: A reduction in tax revenues that results from an agreement between one or more governments and an individual or entity in which (a) one or more governments promise to forego tax revenues to which they are otherwise entitled and (b) the individual or entity promises to take a specific action after the agreement has been entered into that contributes to economic development or otherwise benefits the governments or the citizens of those governments.

Following is the information provided by the Sandusky County auditor regarding tax abatements for the tax year 2023, pay 2024:

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Taxset	District	Parcel	Deeded	Description	Assessed Abated Value	2023 pay 2024 Tax Foregone
10	Ballville-Fremont	10-05-16-0002-01	RL NATIONAL PROPERTIES LLC	Enterprise Zone	694,498.00	662.79
13	Sandusky-Fremont	13-29-00-0017-10	INOAC CORPORATION	Enterprise Zone	105,448.00	100.63
13	Sandusky-Fremont	13-29-37-0014-00	LKW PROPERTIES LLC	Enterprise Zone	105,035.00	100.24
27	Madison Twp-Gib Vill-Gib EVSD	27-24-00-0011-04	FLOOD PROPERTIES 2 LLC	Enterprise Zone	239,872.50	228.92
27	Madison Twp-Gib Vill-Gib EVSD	27-50-00-0315-00	FLOOD PROPERTIES 3 LLC	Enterprise Zone	192,402.00	183.62
27	Madison Twp-Gib Vill-Gib EVSD	27-60-00-0028-03	STANDARD WELLNESS COMPANY LLC	Enterprise Zone	622,835.50	594.4
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0215-00	DISCOVER FREMONT LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	157,220.00	150.04
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0245-00	GRAND INVESTMENTS LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	31,220.00	29.79
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0245-01	GRAND INVESTMENTS LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	46,795.00	44.66
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0278-00	WSOS COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION INC	Abate - Community reinvestment	156,660.00	149.51
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0279-00	WSOS COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION INC	Abate - Community reinvestment	191,030.00	182.31
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0303-00	LOTZ RENTALS LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	19,670.00	16.43
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0315-00	GRAND INVESTMENTS LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	70,455.00	67.24
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0349-00	WHISLER, SHANE A & SOUDERS, ASHLEIGH R /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	22,225.00	18.57
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0359-01	MJ BUSINESS PROPERTIES LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	12,565.00	11.99
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0372-00	316 S ARCH LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	43,435.00	41.45
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0481-00	DUKESHIRE HOLDINGS 1 LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	38,850.00	37.08
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0692-00	SOCHKO, DAWN M	Abate - Community reinvestment	6,335.00	5.29
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0887-00	MCCLELLAN, ANNETTE	Abate - Community reinvestment	18,375.00	15.35
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0942-00	TILSON, CLAYTON	Abate - Community reinvestment	45,430.00	43.36
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-0948-00	SMITH, ANDREW H & TAMARA S /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	14,595.00	12.19
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-1319-02	WILLIAMS, TODD E & DAWN M /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	7,525.00	6.29
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-1376-00	SMITH, HUNTER MD	Abate - Community reinvestment	18,935.00	15.82
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-1643-00	WAGGONER, KELSEE	Abate - Community reinvestment	16,817.50	14.05
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-1681-00	WILLIAMS, TODD & DAWN & TATE /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	16,905.00	14.12
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-2154-00	POLTER, STEVEN J & JAIME L /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	9,450.00	9.02
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-2159-00	DISCOVER FREMONT LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	81,620.00	77.89
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-3367-00	BRINEY, SUSAN SPENCER	Abate - Community reinvestment	27,615.00	23.07
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-3762-00	FIRSDON, JODI MARIE & SHAWN /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	10,010.00	8.36
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-3864-00	LEWIS, THOMAS EVERETT & KATHLEEN LOUISE /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	53,140.50	44.4
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-4294-00	WRIGHT, CASEY R	Abate - Community reinvestment	19,705.00	16.46
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-4352-00	BLOOM, HANNAH	Abate - Community reinvestment	14,945.00	12.49
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-4403-00	FELLERS, BRADLEY L	Abate - Community reinvestment	16,520.00	13.8
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-4453-00	BENAVIDEZ, LETICIA	Abate - Community reinvestment	24,500.00	20.47
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-5065-00	MATNEY, LUM & ANNA M /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	2,310.00	1.93
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-5295-00	WILLIAMS, SCOTT A & MARSHA S /SURV	Enterprise Zone	82,582.50	78.81
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-5812-00	BURMEISTER, EMILY A	Abate - Community reinvestment	6,790.00	5.67
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6275-00	ALKON CORPORATION	Enterprise Zone	189,052.50	180.42
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6381-00	ROOT, DAVID L & STACY M /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	79,135.00	66.11
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6482-00	SCHULTZ, ASHLEY	Abate - Community reinvestment	80,640.00	67.37
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6493-00	HERSHEY, PAUL & MCKENZIE /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	90,230.00	75.38
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6496-00	GLICK, JASON E & CHRISTINE M /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	86,135.00	71.96
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6497-00	BROSSIA, KEVIN J & REBECCA S /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	70,560.00	58.95
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6500-00	SINGER, DUDLEY F III & MICHELLE R /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	110,530.00	92.34
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6514-00	KISER, EDWARD W & ELIZABETH H /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	10,640.00	8.89
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6522-00	MICHAEL, MEGHAN A	Abate - Community reinvestment	80,535.00	67.28
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6620-00	SIERRA PRIME LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	117,145.00	111.8

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Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6622-00	ROUTE 20 STORAGE LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	228,060.00	217.65
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6626-00	DAHME, CHRISTOPHER & GAIL /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	80,640.00	67.37
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6636-00	RITZMAN, ROBERT & JAIME /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	64,155.00	53.6
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6637-00	TAROLLI, DOMINIC JAMES & LEWIS, JEWEL D /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	23,625.00	19.74
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6638-00	KF VENTURES LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	19,985.00	16.7
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6647-00	MCQUISTION, JACOB ANDREW	Abate - Community reinvestment	42,665.00	35.64
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6648-00	KAVERMAN, ADAM E	Abate - Community reinvestment	48,545.00	40.56
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6649-00	BORUM, DEVONTE	Abate - Community reinvestment	48,125.00	40.21
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6650-00	MCGLASTON, SEDRICK T	Abate - Community reinvestment	57,050.00	47.66
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6651-00	ESCOBEDO, BENJAMIN	Abate - Community reinvestment	54,530.00	45.56
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6652-00	REED, STEVE A & CYNTHIA /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	43,330.00	36.2
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6653-00	KIRSCH, LYNETTE	Abate - Community reinvestment	41,265.00	34.47
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6654-00	BENSON, CHRISTOPHER J	Abate - Community reinvestment	49,070.00	41
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6656-00	COOK, PAMELA	Abate - Community reinvestment	42,700.00	35.67
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6657-00	KF VENTURES LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	57,050.00	47.66
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6665-00	SPLITLER, JAKOB NC	Abate - Community reinvestment	50,505.00	42.19
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6666-00	KF VENTURES LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	42,315.00	35.35
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6667-00	WAGNER, PAUL ANTHONY & JANICE MARIE /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	42,840.00	35.79
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-50-00-6668-00	KF VENTURES LTD	Abate - Community reinvestment	47,040.00	39.3
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0110-01	HALBEISEN, TIMOTHY	Abate - Community reinvestment	15,190.00	12.69
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0151-03	S & T ENGLAND PROPERTIES LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	32,970.00	31.46
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0156-03	BROOKS, JENNELLE & WALK, DANT'E P /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	26,215.00	21.9
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0166-02	BE THE CHANGE HOLDINGS LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	13,265.00	11.08
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0166-05	BE THE CHANGE HOLDINGS LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	6,475.00	5.41
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0283-04	FRANK, RICHARD C & CYNTHIA L /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	39,340.00	32.87
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0321-12	FREMONT OH LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	85,890.00	81.97
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0362-02	GMR FREMONT LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	958,545.00	914.78
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0365-06	OAK STREET INVESTMENT GRADE NET FUND SERIES 2020	Abate - Community reinvestment	200,200.00	191.06
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0382-04	CURWOOD INC A DELAWARE CO	Enterprise Zone	1,609,499.50	1,536.01
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0382-16	JEM FREMONT HOLDINGS LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	410,655.00	391.91
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0382-20	TOLSON INVESTMENTS LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	290,780.00	277.5
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0413-08	CDSF LTD	Enterprise Zone	1,493,905.00	1,425.70
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-24	SNYDER, VICKIE L	Abate - Community reinvestment	48,475.00	40.5
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-25	BILGER, KIMBERLY A	Abate - Community reinvestment	46,270.00	38.66
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-26	FULWIDER, MARY BETH	Abate - Community reinvestment	43,365.00	36.23
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-27	MARINIS, JAMES P & CAROL S /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	52,080.00	43.51
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-28	DARR, CARROLL N & JEAN M /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	45,990.00	38.42
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-29	STEIN, PATTY K	Abate - Community reinvestment	42,315.00	35.35
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-30	KIMBERLAIN, JAN	Abate - Community reinvestment	48,755.00	40.73
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-31	KOSANKA, JACOB T & Nanci M /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	33,635.00	28.1
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-32	BORYS, DIANE J	Abate - Community reinvestment	46,165.00	38.57
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-33	WILEY, SHIRLEY K	Abate - Community reinvestment	47,530.00	39.71
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-34	BECKLEY, LESLIE	Abate - Community reinvestment	31,325.00	26.17
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0430-36	STRABLEY, CAROL L	Abate - Community reinvestment	21,000.00	17.54
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0431-02	TRILOGY REAL ESTATE FREMONT LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	1,417,906.00	1,353.17
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0431-04	ROUTE 20 STORAGE LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	92,015.00	87.81
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0433-02	BLUE HERON VILLAS LLC	Abate - Community reinvestment	708,960.00	676.59
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0436-01	LEHR, KEVIN R & CHRISTINE /SURV	Abate - Community reinvestment	14,724.50	12.3
34	Fremont Cty - Fremont CSD	34-60-00-0436-02	ROGERS, JERAME C	Abate - Community reinvestment	62,471.50	52.19

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 6 – Interfund Balances and Transfers

Transfers

During 2024, the following transfers were made:

Transfer from Major Funds				
Transfer to	General	Vehicle Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total
Debt Service Fund	\$ (1,241,000)	\$ -	\$ 1,241,000	\$ -
Building & Repair Fund	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Fund	(100,000)	100,000	-	-
Total all Funds	<u>\$ (1,341,000)</u>	<u>\$ 100,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,241,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The above-mentioned Transfers From/To were used to move receipts from the fund that statute or budget requires to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them; and to use unrestricted receipts collected in the General Fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

Note 7 – Risk Management

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

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

Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and has remain unchanged. OPRM had 801 members as of December 31, 2023.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2023 (Latest available).

Assets	\$ 23,113,696
Liabilities	(16,078,587)
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 7,035,109</u>

You can read the completed audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's Website, www.ohioplan.org.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Plan Description – Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)

Plan Description – Library employees participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan, and the combined plan is a combination cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit /defined contribution pension plan. Effective January 1, 2022, new members may no longer select the Combined Plan, and current members may no longer make a plan change to this plan. Participating employers are divided into state, local, law enforcement and public safety divisions. While members in the state and local divisions may participate in all three plans, law enforcement and public safety divisions exist only within the traditional plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 800-222-7377.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members in the traditional and combined plans were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional and combined plans as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for reduced and unreduced benefits):

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Plan Description – Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)

Group A Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013, or five years after January 7, 2013	Group B 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013, or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	Group C Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
State and Local	State and Local	State and Local
Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35
Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 35
Public Safety	Public Safety	Public Safety
Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 52 with 25 years of service credit or Age 56 with 15 years of service credit
Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement
Age and Service Requirements: Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 56 with 15 years of service credit
Public Safety and Law Enforcement	Public Safety and Law Enforcement	Public Safety and Law Enforcement
Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25

Traditional plan state and local members who retire before meeting the age-and-years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount. The amount of a member's pension benefit vests at retirement.

Law enforcement and public safety members who retire before meeting the age-and-years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount.

Combined plan members retiring before age 65 with less than 30 years of service credit receive a percentage reduction in benefit.

Final average Salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

Plan Description – Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) (Continued)

When a traditional plan benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, current law provides for an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). This COLA is calculated on the member's original base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. Members retiring under the combined plan receive a cost-of-living adjustment on the defined benefit portion of their pension benefit. For those who retired prior to January 7, 2013, the cost of living adjustment is 3 percent. For those retiring on or after January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the adjustment is based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent.

Defined contribution plan benefits are established in the plan documents, which may be amended by the Board. Member-directed plan and combined plan members who have met the retirement eligibility requirements may apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the combined plan consists of the member's contributions plus or minus the investment gains or losses resulting from the member's investment selections. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the combined plan consists of the member's contributions plus or minus the investment gains or losses resulting from the member's investment selections. Combined plan members wishing to receive benefits must meet the requirements for both the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Member-directed participants must have attained the age of 55, have money on deposit in the defined contribution plan and have terminated public service to apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the member-directed plan consists of the members' contributions, vested employer contributions and investment gains or losses resulting from the members' investment selections. Employer contributions and associated investment earnings vest over a five-year period, at a rate of 20 percent each year. At retirement, members may select one of several distribution options for payment of the vested balance in their individual OPERS accounts. Options include the annuitization of their benefit (which includes joint and survivor options), partial lump-sum payments (subject to limitations), a rollover of the vested account balance to another financial institution, receipt of entire account balance, net of taxes withheld, or a combination of these options. When members choose to annuitize their defined contribution benefit, the annuitized portion of the benefit is reclassified to a defined benefit.

Effective January 1, 2022, the Combined Plan is no longer available for member selection.

Funding Policy – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

Plan Description – Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) (Continued)

	State and Local
2024 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates	
Employer	14.0 %
Employee *	10.0 %
2024 Actual Contribution Rates	
Employer:	
Pension ***	14.0 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits ****	0.0 %
Total Employer	14.0 %
Employee	10.0 %

* Member contributions within the combined plan are not used to fund the defined benefit retirement allowance.

*** This rate is determined by OPERS' Board and has no maximum rate established by ORC.

**** These pension and employer health care rates are for the traditional and combined plans.

The employer contributions rate for the member-directed plan is allocated 4 percent for health care with the remainder going to pension; however, effective July 1, 2022, a portion of the health care rate is funded with reserves.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll.

For 2024, the Library's contractually required contribution was \$207,224 for the traditional plan.

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Plan Description – The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: the traditional pension plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the member-directed plan, a defined contribution plan; and the combined plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment health care trust. The 115 Health Care Trust (115 Trust or Health Care Trust) was established in 2014, under Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The purpose of the 115 Trust is to fund health care for the Traditional Pension, Combined and Member-Directed plans. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the Board in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. Retirees in the Traditional Pension and Combined plans may have an allowance deposited into a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) account to be used toward the health care program of their choice and other eligible expenses. An OPERS vendor is available to assist with the selection of a health care program

With one exception, OPERS-provided health care coverage is neither guaranteed nor statutorily required. Ohio law currently requires Medicare Part A equivalent coverage or Medicare Part A premium reimbursement for eligible retirees and their eligible dependents.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits (Continued)

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (Continued)

OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents.

OPERS members enrolled in the Traditional Pension Plan or Combined Plan retiring with an effective date of January 1, 2022, or after must meet the following health care eligibility requirements to receive an HRA allowance:

Age 65 or older Retirees Minimum of 20 years of qualifying service credit

Age 60 to 64 Retirees Based on the following age-and-service criteria:

Group A 30 years of total service with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit;

Group B 31 years of total service credit with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit;

Group C 32 years of total service cred with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit.

Age 59 or younger Based on the following age-and-service criteria:

Group A 30 years of qualified health care service credit;

Group B 32 years of qualified health care service credit at any age or 31 years of qualified heath care service credit and at least age 52;

Group C 32 years of qualified health care service credit and at least page 55.

Retirees who do not meet the requirement for coverage as a non-Medicare participant can become eligible for coverage at age 65 if they have at least 20 years of qualifying service.

Members with a retirement date prior to January 1, 2022, who were eligible to participate in the OPERS health care program will continue to be eligible after January 1, 2022, as summarized in the following table:

Group A	Group B	Group C
Age and Service Requirements <i>December 1, 2014 or Prior</i> Any Age with 10 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements <i>December 1, 2014 or Prior</i> Any Age with 10 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements <i>December 1, 2014 or Prior</i> Any Age with 10 years of service credit
<i>January 1, 2015 through</i> <i>December 31, 2021</i> Age 60 with 20 years of service credit or Any Age with 30 years of service credit	<i>January 1, 2015 through</i> <i>December 31, 2021</i> Age 52 with 31 years of service credit or Age 60 with 20 years of service credit or Any Age with 32 years of service credit	<i>January 1, 2015 through</i> <i>December 31, 2021</i> Age 55 with 32 years of service credit or Age 60 with 20 years of service credit

See the Age and Service Retirement section of the OPERS ACFR for a description of Groups A, B and C.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits (Continued)

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (Continued)

Eligible retirees may receive a monthly HRA allowance for reimbursement of health care coverage premiums and other qualified medical expenses. Monthly allowances, based on years of service and the age at which the retiree first enrolled in OPERS coverage, are provided to eligible retirees, and are deposited into their HRA account.

The base allowance is determined by OPERS and is currently \$1,200 per month for non-Medicare retirees and \$350 per month for Medicare retirees. The retiree receives a percentage of the base allowance, calculated based on years of qualifying service credit and age when the retiree first enrolled in OPERS health care. Monthly allowances range between 51 percent and 90 percent of the base allowance for both non-Medicare and Medicare retirees.

Retirees will have access to the OPERS Connector, which is a relationship with a vendor selected by OPERS to assist retirees participating in the health care program. The OPERS Connector may assist retirees in selecting and enrolling in the appropriate health care plan.

When members become Medicare-eligible, recipients enrolled in OPERS health care programs must enroll in Medicare Part A (hospitalization) and Medicare Part B (medical).

OPERS reimburses retirees who are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A (hospitalization) for their Part A premiums as well as any applicable surcharges (late-enrollment fees). Retirees within this group must enroll in Medicare Part A and select medical coverage, and may select prescription coverage, through the OPERS Connector. OPERS also will reimburse 50 percent of the Medicare Part A premium and any applicable surcharges for eligible spouses. Proof of enrollment in Medicare Part A and confirmation that the retiree is not receiving reimbursement or payment from another source must be submitted. The premium reimbursement is added to the monthly pension benefit.

Participants in the Member-Directed Plan have access to the Connector and have a separate health care funding mechanism. A portion of employer contributions for these participants is allocated to a retiree medical account (RMA). Members who elect the Member-Directed Plan after July 1, 2015, will vest in the RMA over 15 years at a rate of 10 percent each year starting with the sixth year of participation. Members who elected the Member-Directed Plan prior to July 1, 2015, vest in the RMA over a five-year period at a rate of 20 percent per year. Upon separation or retirement, participants may use vested RMA funds for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority allowing public employers to fund postemployment health care through their contributions to OPERS. When funding is approved by OPERS Board of Trustees, a portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans. Beginning in 2018, OPERS no longer allocated a portion of its employer contributions to health care for the traditional plan.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. For fiscal year 2024, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.0 percent of earnable salary. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active member contributions do not fund health care.

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Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits (Continued)

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (Continued)

Each year, the OPERS Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. For 2024, OPERS did not allocate any employer contribution to health care for members in the Traditional Pension Plan. Beginning July 1, 2022, there was a two percent allocation to health care for the Combined Plan which has continued through 2024. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the member-directed plan for 2024 was 4.0 percent. Effective July 1, 2022, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves which has continued through 2024.

Note 10 – Debt

Notes Payable

In November of 2021, the Library signed a long-term liability (Library Facilities Note) with the USDA for the loan amount of \$3,545,000.

A summary of the note transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024, follows:

	Outstanding 12/31/2023	Additions	Deletions	Outstanding 12/31/2024
Governmental Activities				
2021 2.38%				
Library Facilities Note	\$2,666,907	\$714,618	\$2,091,428	\$1,290,097

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

Year Ending December 31:	USDA Note
2025	\$ 189,000
2026	189,000
2027	189,000
2028	189,000
2029	189,000
2030-2034	450,060
Total	\$ 1,395,060

Note 11 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Library are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. Grantors may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 12 – Fund Balances

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the Library is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the government funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Fund Balances	General	Building & Repair	Debt Service	Other Governmental Funds	Total
Nonspendable					
Unclaimed Monies	\$ 262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 262
<i>Total Nonspendable</i>	<u>262</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>262</u>
Assigned to					
Library Projects per fund definitions	905,314	137,094	386,563	223,121	1,652,092
Encumbrances	<u>34,478</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,478</u>
<i>Total Assigned</i>	<u>939,792</u>	<u>137,094</u>	<u>386,563</u>	<u>223,121</u>	<u>1,686,570</u>
Unassigned (Deficit)	<u>3,109,524</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,109,524</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 4,049,578</u>	<u>\$ 137,094</u>	<u>\$ 386,563</u>	<u>\$ 223,121</u>	<u>\$ 4,796,356</u>

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

Birchard Public Library
Sandusky County
423 Croghan Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420

To the Board:

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Birchard Public Library, Sandusky County (the Library) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Library's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated April 18, 2025, wherein we noted the Library uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Library'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 Library's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Library'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 Library'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 a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Library'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*.

Library's Response to Findings

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



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

April 18, 2025

**BIRCHARD PUBLIC LIBRARY
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

<p>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</p>

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

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

During 2024, receipts, disbursements, and fund balances were not always posted or classified correctly. The following posting errors were noted:

- USDA Loan proceeds totaling \$714,618 were recorded as Intergovernmental rather than Other Debt Proceeds; and
- Current year outstanding encumbrances totaling \$34,478 were recorded as unassigned rather than assigned in the General Fund per GASB 54.

Additionally, the Governmental Funds Statement of Assets and Fund Balances was not included in the financial statements filed in Hinkle system.

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

The reclassifications and adjustments identified above should be reviewed by the Fiscal Officer and the Board of Trustees to ensure that similar errors are not reported on financial statements in subsequent years. In addition, the Board of Trustees should develop procedures for the periodic review of the activity posted to the accounting records, as well as for the review of the financial statement information to ensure it accurately reflects the Library's activity.

Management Response: *We did not receive a response from officials for this finding.*

**BIRCHARD PUBLIC LIBRARY
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2023-001	Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	Repeated as Finding 2024-001

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BIRCHARD PUBLIC LIBRARY

SANDUSKY COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 8/28/2025

65 East State 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