



**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024-2023

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY
DECEMEBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Prepared by Management:	
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2024	5
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2024	6
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	12
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	13
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	19
Schedule of Findings	21
Prepared by Management:	
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	23

This page intentionally left blank.



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Rice Township
Sandusky County
142 County Road 119
Fremont, Ohio 43420-9384

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Rice Township, Sandusky County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 17, 2025, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

November 17, 2025

This page intentionally left blank.

Rice Township
Sandusky County
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Combined Total
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$69,063	\$121,293		\$190,356
Licenses, Permits and Fees	3,461	3,593		7,054
Intergovernmental	36,227	163,517		199,744
Earnings on Investments	18,723	9,024		27,747
Miscellaneous	2,461	7,946		10,407
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>129,935</u>	<u>305,373</u>		<u>435,308</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	233,393			233,393
Public Safety		80,455		80,455
Public Works		56,682		56,682
Health	858	13,400		14,258
Capital Outlay		199,006		199,006
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>234,251</u>	<u>349,543</u>		<u>583,794</u>
<i>Excess of Disbursements over Receipts</i>	<u>(104,316)</u>	<u>(44,170)</u>		<u>(148,486)</u>
Other Financing Receipts				
Sale of Capital Assets			\$47,751	47,751
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>(104,316)</u>	<u>(44,170)</u>	<u>47,751</u>	<u>(100,735)</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>331,535</u>	<u>334,925</u>		<u>666,460</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$227,219</u></u>	<u><u>\$290,755</u></u>	<u><u>\$47,751</u></u>	<u><u>\$565,725</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

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

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

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

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types, which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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

Gasoline Tax Fund This fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Fire Fund This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection services.

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

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

Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund This fund accounts for and reports miscellaneous receipts restricted for capital improvements.

Basis of Accounting

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

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

Budgetary Process

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

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

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

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

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

Capital Assets

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

Fund Balance

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

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

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

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

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

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

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

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

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2024 follows:

Fund Type	2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$158,690	\$129,935	(\$28,755)
Special Revenue	298,500	305,373	6,873
Capital Projects		47,751	47,751
Total	<u>\$457,190</u>	<u>\$483,059</u>	<u>\$25,869</u>

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

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$490,225	\$237,247	\$252,978
Special Revenue	633,425	354,742	278,683
Total	<u>\$1,123,650</u>	<u>\$591,989</u>	<u>\$531,661</u>

Note 4 – Deposits

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

	2024
Demand deposits	<u>\$565,725</u>

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2024, the Township is holding \$2,571 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

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

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

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

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

- General liability
- Automobile Liability
- Automobile Physical Damage
- Public Officials Liability
- Property and Inland Marine
- Law enforcement liability
- Fidelity and Crime
- Employment Practices Liability
- Cyber Breach and Liability

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

	<u>2024</u>
Cash and investments	\$32,822,076
Actuarial liabilities	\$12,568,762

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. 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. For calendar year 2024, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2024, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

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

Note 9 – Fund Balances

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

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$2,996	\$5,199	\$8,195

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

Rice Township
Sandusky County
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$75,884	\$121,682	\$197,566
Licenses, Permits and Fees	1,746	4,530	6,276
Intergovernmental	32,540	198,204	230,744
Earnings on Investments	27,420		27,420
Miscellaneous	4,646	7,172	11,818
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>142,236</u>	<u>331,588</u>	<u>473,824</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	98,585	74,401	172,986
Public Safety		80,424	80,424
Public Works		94,842	94,842
Health		11,925	11,925
Capital Outlay		130,130	130,130
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>98,585</u>	<u>391,722</u>	<u>490,307</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>43,651</u>	<u>(60,134)</u>	<u>(16,483)</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfers In		7,000	7,000
Transfers Out	(7,000)		(7,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(7,000)</u>	<u>7,000</u>	
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	36,651	(53,134)	(16,483)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>294,884</u>	<u>388,059</u>	<u>682,943</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$331,535</u></u>	<u><u>\$334,925</u></u>	<u><u>\$666,460</u></u>
<i>See accompanying notes to the financial statements</i>			

Rice Township
Sandusky County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

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

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types, which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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

Gasoline Tax Fund This fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Fire Fund This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection services.

Rice Township
Sandusky County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Basis of Accounting

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

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

Budgetary Process

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

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

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

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

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

Capital Assets

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

Fund Balance

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

Rice Township
Sandusky County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

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

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

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

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

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

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2023 follows:

Fund Type	2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$138,185	\$142,236	\$4,051
Special Revenue	319,709	338,588	18,879
Capital Projects	35,000		(35,000)
Total	<u>\$492,894</u>	<u>\$480,824</u>	<u>(\$12,070)</u>

Rice Township
Sandusky County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$433,069	\$105,585	\$327,484
Special Revenue	672,768	391,722	281,046
Capital Projects	35,000		35,000
Total	<u>\$1,140,837</u>	<u>\$497,307</u>	<u>\$643,530</u>

Note 4 – Deposits

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

	2023
Demand deposits	<u>\$666,460</u>

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2023, the Township is holding \$3,171 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

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

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

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

Rice Township
Sandusky County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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

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

	2023
Cash and investments	\$33,494,457
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,885,549

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. 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. For calendar year 2023, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

Note 9 – Fund Balances

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed.

This page intentionally left blank.



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

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

Rice Township
Sandusky County
142 County Road 119
Fremont, Ohio 43420-9384

To the Board of Trustees:

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements of Rice Township, Sandusky County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated November 17, 2025, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified 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 Township's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.


Township's Response to Finding

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

Purpose of This Report

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

November 17, 2025

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

Financial Reporting

Material Weakness

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, *Terms of Engagement*, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

Errors were identified in the accompanying financial statements and notes to the financial statements, resulting in the following audit adjustments:

- Intergovernmental receipts and public works disbursements were understated in the amount of \$37,041, respectively, related to on-behalf payments in the Road and Bridge fund in 2023.
- General fund appropriation authority amounts were increased in the amount of \$126,496 in 2023, in order to bring the notes to the financial statements in line with the authorized budget amounts.
- Special Revenue fund type budgeted receipt amounts and actual receipt (budgetary basis) amounts were decreased in the amounts of \$353,059 and \$24,226 in 2023, respectively, in order to bring the notes to the financial statements in line with the authorized budget amounts and actual receipt amounts.
- Special Revenue fund type appropriation authority amounts and budgetary expenditure amounts were increased in the amounts of \$179,877 and \$106,859 in 2023, respectively, in order to bring the notes to the financial statements in line with the authorized budget amounts and actual budgetary expenditure amounts.
- Capital Projects fund type appropriation authority amounts and budgetary expenditure amounts were decreased in the amounts of \$34,817 and \$69,817 in 2023, respectively, in order to bring the notes to the financial statements in line with the authorized budget amounts and actual budgetary expenditure amounts.
- General fund appropriation authority amounts were increased in the amount of \$166,837 in 2024, in order to bring the notes to the financial statements in line with the authorized budget amounts.
- Special Revenue fund type appropriation authority amounts were increased in the amount of \$224,075 in 2024, in order to bring the notes to the financial statements in line with the authorized budget amounts.
- The fund balances note to the financial statement was not included in 2023.

These errors were the result of inadequate policies and procedures in reviewing the financial statements and notes to the financial statements. The failure to prepare complete and accurate financial statements and notes to the financial statements could lead to users of the financial statements making misinformed decisions about the Township's financial position. The accompanying financial statements and notes to the financial statements have been adjusted to correct these errors. In addition to the adjustments noted above, we also identified additional misstatements ranging from \$1 to \$4,049 that we have brought to the Township's attention.

The Township should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the financial statements and notes to the financial statements by the Fiscal Officer and Board of Trustees to help identify and correct errors and omissions.

Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from Officials to the findings reported above.

RICE TOWNSHIP
1450 County Road 129
Fremont, OH 43420

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Finding was first reported in the audit of the 2021-2022 financial statements. Material weakness due to errors in budgetary amounts reported.	Partially corrected and repeated in the management letter.	Finding reoccurred as a result of inadequate policies and procedures over posting authorized budgetary measures to the accounting system. The Fiscal Officer will ensure authorized budgetary measures are posted correctly in the future.
2022-002	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 due to appropriations exceeding estimated resources.	Fully corrected.	

This page intentionally left blank.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



RICE TOWNSHIP

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 12/2/2025

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