



**VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
REGULAR AUDIT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 - 2020**

313 Second St.
Marietta, OH 45750
740 373 0056

1907 Grand Central Ave.
Vienna, WV 26105
304 422 2203

150 W. Main St., #A
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
740 695 1569

1310 Market St., #300
Wheeling, WV 26003
304 232 1358

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Cambridge, OH 43725
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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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(800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees
Vernon Township
6915 B St Rt 88
Kinsman, OH 44428

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Vernon Township, Trumbull County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 12, 2022

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**VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

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Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

Vernon Township
Trumbull County
6951B State Route 88
Kinsman, Ohio 44428

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

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

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

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

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

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

Basis for Opinions

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

Tax - Accounting – Audit – Review – Compilation – Agreed Upon Procedure – Consultation – Bookkeeping – Payroll – Litigation Support – Financial Investigations
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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 Township on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 12 to the financial statements, in 2020 the Township adopted a change in accounting principle and removed the fund balance classification from the Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) – All Governmental Fund Types. We did not modify our opinions regarding these matters.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Continued)

- 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 August 1, 2022, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



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

August 1, 2022

**VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 53,467	\$ 149,899	\$ -	\$ 203,366
Charges for Services	-	3,957	-	3,957
Licenses, Permits and Fees	7,377	3,650	-	11,027
Intergovernmental	38,453	249,060	-	287,513
Earnings on Investments	227	106	-	333
Miscellaneous	3,277	1,900	-	5,177
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>102,801</u>	<u>408,572</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>511,373</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	63,234	36,150	-	99,384
Public Safety	-	122,398	-	122,398
Public Works	2,277	49,566	-	51,843
Health	4,604	1,300	-	5,904
Human Services	895	58,008	-	58,903
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>71,010</u>	<u>267,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>338,432</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	31,791	141,150	-	172,941
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>259,231</u>	<u>638,908</u>	<u>820</u>	<u>898,959</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 291,022</u>	<u>\$ 780,058</u>	<u>\$ 820</u>	<u>\$ 1,071,900</u>

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

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY

COMBINED STATEMENT OF ADDITIONS, DEDUCTIONS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	Private Purpose Trust
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>\$ 1,044</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,044</u></u>

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

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Vernon Township, Trumbull County, (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, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with Burghill-Vernon Volunteer Fire Department for fire and Johnston Township to provide ambulance and EMS services.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund This fund accounts for and reports that portion of motor vehicle license registration fees restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Road and Bridge Fund This fund accounts for real estate tax receipts received for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Special Levy Fire Fund This fund received property tax money to provide fire protection to Township residents.

Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and EMS Service Special Levy Fund - This fund receives property tax money to provide fire and rescue, ambulance and EMS services to Township residents.

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting (Continued)

Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Corona Virus Relief Fund This fund receives money to provide items and or services related to qualifying coronavirus expenditures.

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had no significant Debt Service Funds.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds, investment trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement meeting certain criteria.

The Township's private purpose trust funds are for the benefit of certain individuals for cemetery grave upkeep and maintenance.

The Township had the following Private Purpose Trust Funds: The Milliken Cemetery Bequest Fund and the Brennaman Cemetery Bequest Fund.

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

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (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 2021 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. 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*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute. 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 10.

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 97,535	\$ 102,800	\$ 5,265
Special Revenue	378,952	408,572	29,620
Total	\$ 476,487	\$ 511,372	\$ 34,885

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 129,455	\$ 71,010	\$ 58,445
Special Revenue	415,573	267,422	148,151
Total	\$ 545,028	\$ 338,432	\$ 206,596

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:

Cash Management Pool:	2021
Demand deposits	\$ 737,288
Total deposits	737,288
STAR Ohio	335,656
Total investments	335,656
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in Pool (ties to FS)</i>	\$ 1,072,944

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, 2021, the Township is holding \$2,233 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.

At December 31, 2021, \$110,428 of deposits were not insured or collateralized due to the financial institution obtaining a reduced collateral rate through OPCS.

Investments

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

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

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

Workers' Compensation

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

Risk Pool Membership

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

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

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

	<u>2021</u>
Cash and investments	\$34,880,599
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,601,444

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

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

Social Security

Some of the Township's employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

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

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2021.

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor 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.

Note 10 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpended corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end, the Township did not have any encumbrances outstanding.

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

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

Note 11 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated. The Township's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined.

During 2021, the Township received \$76,678 as an on-behalf of grant from another government. These amounts are recorded in the applicable Special Revenue Fund.

**VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 48,964	\$ 131,900	\$ 13,398	\$ 194,262
Charges for Services	-	1,989	-	1,989
Licenses, Permits and Fees	9,172	2,700	-	11,872
Intergovernmental	36,283	243,268	-	279,551
Earnings on Investments	927	348	-	1,275
Miscellaneous	2,087	1,500	-	3,587
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>97,433</u>	<u>381,705</u>	<u>13,398</u>	<u>492,536</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	66,982	35,633	-	102,615
Public Safety	-	233,906	-	233,906
Public Works	2,000	63,753	-	65,753
Health	3,454	2,255	-	5,709
Human Services	60	24,910	-	24,970
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	12,971	12,971
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	427	427
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>72,496</u>	<u>360,457</u>	<u>13,398</u>	<u>446,351</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	24,937	21,248	-	46,185
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>234,294</u>	<u>617,660</u>	<u>820</u>	<u>852,774</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 259,231</u>	<u>\$ 638,908</u>	<u>\$ 820</u>	<u>\$ 898,959</u>

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

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY

COMBINED STATEMENT OF ADDITIONS, DEDUCTIONS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Private Purpose Trust
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>\$ 1,044</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,044</u></u>

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

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Vernon Township, Trumbull County, (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, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with Burghill-Vernon Volunteer Fire Department for fire and Johnston Township for emergency ambulance services.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund This fund accounts for and reports that portion of motor vehicle license registration fees restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Road and Bridge Fund This fund accounts for real estate tax receipts received for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Special Levy Fire Fund This fund received property tax money to provide fire protection to Township residents.

Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and EMS Service Special Levy Fund This fund receives property tax money to provide fire and rescue, ambulance and EMS services to Township residents.

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting (Continued)

Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Corona Virus Relief Fund This fund receives money to provide items and or services related to qualifying coronavirus expenditures.

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Loan Retirement Fund 2 - This fund was established to pay the debt payments on the Township's loan for a 2017 Ford F550 Dump Truck.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds, investment trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement meeting certain criteria.

The Township's private purpose trust funds are for the benefit of certain individuals for cemetery grave upkeep and maintenance.

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

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (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 2020 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. 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*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute. 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 11.

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 87,366	\$ 97,433	\$ 10,067
Special Revenue	373,642	381,705	8,063
Debt Service	13,398	13,398	-
Total	\$ 474,406	\$ 492,536	\$ 18,130

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 105,465	\$ 72,496	\$ 32,969
Special Revenue	557,171	360,457	196,714
Debt Service	13,398	13,398	-
Total	\$ 676,034	\$ 446,351	\$ 229,683

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:

Cash Management Pool:	2020
Demand deposits	\$ 564,621
Total deposits	564,621
STAR Ohio	335,382
Total investments	335,382
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in Pool (ties to FS)</i>	\$ 900,003

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, 2020, the Township is holding \$554 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.

At December 31, 2020, \$77,187 of deposits were not insured or collateralized due to the financial institution obtaining a reduced collateral rate through OPCS.

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 4 – Deposits (Continued)

Investments

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

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

Workers' Compensation

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

Risk Pool Membership

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

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

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

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

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

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

Social Security

Some of the Township's employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2020. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2020.

Note 9 – Debt

In February of 2017, The Township entered into a loan agreement with Huntington National Bank to finance the purchase of a new Ford F550 Series Dump Truck. The Township financed \$50,000 at 3.15% for 48 months. Repayment of this note consisted of four equal annual payments of \$13,397.98. The final payment was made in December of 2020.

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor 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.

VERNON TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end, the Township did not have any encumbrances outstanding.

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

Note 12 – Change in Accounting Principle

For 2020, the Township has made changes to their cash basis reporting model. These changes include modifications to the definition of fiduciary funds, adding a separate combined statement of additions, deductions, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all fiduciary fund types, and removing the fund balance classifications from the combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all governmental fund types.

Note 13 – COVID-19

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

During 2020, the Township received \$86,902. As of December 31,2020 the remaining balance was \$0. These amounts were recorded in the Coronavirus Relief Special Revenue Fund.

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

Vernon Township
Trumbull County
6951B State Route 88
Kinsman, Ohio 44428

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type and the fiduciary fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 and the related notes to the financial statements of Vernon Township, Trumbull County, (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated August 1, 2022, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the Township has made changes to its reporting model.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

Tax - Accounting - Audit - Review - Compilation - Agreed Upon Procedure - Consultation - Bookkeeping - Payroll - Litigation Support - Financial Investigations
Members: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

• Ohio Society of CPAs • West Virginia Society of CPAs • Association of Certified Fraud Examiners • Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists •

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)

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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

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*.

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.



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

August 1, 2022

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VERNON TOWNSHIP

TRUMBULL 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 9/22/2022

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov