



**RICE TOWNSHIP  
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022-2021**



**RICE TOWNSHIP  
SANDUSKY COUNTY  
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2022**

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## 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, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements.

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

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

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

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, 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 the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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

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

- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 6, 2024, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

March 6, 2024

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**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, 2022*

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$95,355	\$124,027	\$219,382
Licenses, Permits and Fees	2,648	8,034	10,682
Intergovernmental	36,182	227,003	263,185
Earnings on Investments	340		340
Miscellaneous	5,236	3,750	8,986
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>139,761</u>	<u>362,814</u>	<u>502,575</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
General Government	93,851		93,851
Public Safety		80,403	80,403
Public Works		46,836	46,836
Health		7,851	7,851
Capital Outlay		170,925	170,925
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>93,851</u>	<u>306,015</u>	<u>399,866</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	45,910	56,799	102,709
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>248,974</u>	<u>331,260</u>	<u>580,234</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$294,884</u></u>	<u><u>\$388,059</u></u>	<u><u>\$682,943</u></u>

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements.*

**Rice Township**  
*Sandusky County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**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 provides additional information on this entity.

The Township’s management believes this financial statement presents 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*** The gas tax 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, 2022*

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***Basis of Accounting***

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The 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 (D) 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 2022 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, 2022*

***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, 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$137,420	\$139,761	\$2,341
Special Revenue	349,568	362,814	13,246
Total	\$486,988	\$502,575	\$15,587

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$265,336	\$93,851	\$171,485
Special Revenue	482,794	306,015	176,779
Total	\$748,130	\$399,866	\$348,264

**Rice Township**  
*Sandusky County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**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:

	<u>2022</u>
Demand deposits	<u>\$682,943</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, 2022, the Township is holding \$2,351 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:

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

**Rice Township**  
*Sandusky County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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

	<u>2022</u>
Cash and investments	\$32,288,098
Actuarial liabilities	\$9,146,434

**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, 2022.

**Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS offer 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 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

**Note 9 – Fund Balances**

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

**Note 10 – Miscellaneous Receipts**

Miscellaneous receipts within the General fund mainly consist of rental receipts, Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation refunds, electricity refund, and Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority refunds.

**Rice Township**  
*Sandusky County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 11 – American Rescue Plan Act**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law and established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which together make up the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. This program is Intended to provide support to State, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain impacts on their communities, residents, and businesses.

During 2022, the Township received \$68,949 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. This amount is recorded in the applicable ARPA Special Revenue fund. The Township spent \$57,000 of these proceeds in 2022.

**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, 2021*

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Combined Total
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$92,696	\$122,252		\$214,948
Licenses, Permits and Fees	2,601	1,900		4,501
Intergovernmental	32,285	229,218	\$34,157	295,660
Earnings on Investments	301			301
Miscellaneous	14,005	1,350		15,355
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>141,888</u>	<u>354,720</u>	<u>34,157</u>	<u>530,765</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	119,436	10,575		130,011
Public Safety	19,511	60,837		80,348
Public Works		37,432		37,432
Health		5,445		5,445
Capital Outlay	10,713	118,269	34,157	163,139
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>149,660</u>	<u>232,558</u>	<u>\$34,157</u>	<u>416,375</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(7,772)	122,162		114,390
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>256,746</u>	<u>209,098</u>		<u>465,844</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$248,974</u></u>	<u><u>\$331,260</u></u>		<u><u>\$580,234</u></u>

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements.*



**Rice Township**  
*Sandusky County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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**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 7 to the financial statements provides additional information on this entity.

The Township’s management believes this financial statement presents 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*** The gas tax 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, 2021*

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**Issue II Fund** The Township received a grant from the state for a road resurfacing project.

***Basis of Accounting***

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The 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 (D) 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 4.

***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, 2021*

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***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 10.

**Note 3 – Compliance**

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriations exceeded estimated resources for the Issue II fund for the year ended December 31, 2021.

**Note 4 – 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	\$135,000	\$141,888	\$6,888
Special Revenue	394,270	354,720	(39,550)
Capital Projects	34,157	34,157	
Total	\$563,427	\$530,765	(\$32,662)

**Rice Township**  
*Sandusky County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$258,711	\$149,660	\$109,051
Special Revenue	305,724	232,558	73,166
Capital Projects	40,660	34,157	6,503
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$605,095</b>	<b>\$416,375</b>	<b>\$188,720</b>

**Note 5 – 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:

	2021
Demand deposits	\$580,234

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 \$3,021 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 6 – 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 7 – Risk Management**

***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:

**Rice Township**  
*Sandusky County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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- 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 actuarially-measured liabilities and the assets available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

	2021
Cash and investments	\$34,880,599
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,601,444

**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

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

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

**Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS offer 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 10 – Fund Balances**

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

**Note 11 – Miscellaneous Receipts**

Miscellaneous receipts within the General fund mainly consist of rental receipts, Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation refunds, electricity refund, and Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority refunds.

**Rice Township**  
*Sandusky County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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**Note 12 – American Rescue Plan Act**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law and established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which together make up the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. This program is Intended to provide support to State, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain impacts on their communities, residents, and businesses.

During 2021, the Township received \$68,402 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. This amount is recorded in the applicable ARPA Special Revenue fund. The Township spent \$5,950 of these proceeds in 2021.

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

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

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

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance the 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 (*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, 2022 and 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements of Rice Township, Sandusky County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated March 6, 2024, 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 2022-001 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2022-002.

***Purpose of this Report***

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



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

March 6, 2024



**RICE TOWNSHIP  
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</b>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2022-001**

**Material Weakness**

**Budgetary Amounts**

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.

Sound accounting practices require accurately posting estimated receipts and appropriations to the ledgers to provide information for budget versus actual comparison and to allow the Board of Trustees to make informed decisions regarding budgetary matters.

The Appropriation resolution and subsequent amendments establish the legal spending authority of the Township and the appropriation ledger provides the process by which the Township controls spending, it is therefore necessary the amounts appropriated by the Board of Trustees are precisely stated and accurately posted to the appropriation ledger.

The original certificate and amendments establish the amounts available for expenditures for the Township and the receipts ledger provides the process by which the Township controls what is available, it is therefore necessary the amounts estimated by the County Budget Commission are posted accurately to the receipts ledger.

The following errors were noted in the Township's accounting system, causing errors in the Township's budget vs actual footnotes:

Estimated receipts posted in the accounting system and used in the Budgetary Activity notes to the financial statements did not agree to amounts certified by the County Budget Commission in the following amounts:

- 2021 Special Revenue - \$34,157

Final appropriations posted in the accounting system and used in the Budgetary Activity notes to the financial statements did not agree to what was approved by the Board of Trustees in the following amounts:

- 2021 Special Revenue - \$67,452
- 2021 Capital Project - \$6,503

The Budgetary Activity notes to the financial statements have been adjusted to correct these and other errors. In addition to the adjustments noted above, we also identified additional misstatements ranging from \$300 to \$350 that we have brought to the Township's attention.

The Township did not have procedures in place to accurately post authorized budgetary measures to the accounting system. The appropriations (and/or amendments thereof) approved by the Board of Trustees were not accurately posted to the accounting system. Additionally, the approved Certificates of Estimated Resources (and/or amendments thereof) were not accurately posted to the accounting system.

Failure to accurately post the appropriations and estimated resources to the ledgers could result in overspending and negative cash balances. In addition, this could lead to inaccurate reporting of the budgetary information in the financial statements.

To effectively control the budgetary cycle and to maintain accountability over receipts and expenditures, the Township should post to the ledgers, on a timely basis, estimated resources as certified by the budget commission and appropriations approved by the Board of Trustees. The Township should then monitor budget versus actual reports to help ensure amended certificates of resources and appropriations have been properly posted to the ledgers.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2022-002**

##### **Noncompliance**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39** provides that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total of the estimated revenue available for expenditure there-from, as certified by the county budget commission, or in case of appeal, by the board of tax appeals. No appropriation measure shall become effective until the county auditor files with the appropriating authority a certificate that the total appropriations from each fund, taken together with all other outstanding appropriations, do not exceed such official estimate or amended official estimate. For purposes of this section of the Ohio Revised Code, estimated revenue is commonly referred to as “estimated resources” because it includes unencumbered fund balances.

At December 31, 2021, the Township's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Issue II Capital Project fund by \$6,503.

Failure to limit appropriations to the amount certified by the budget commission due to deficiencies in the Township's compliance monitoring policies and procedures could result in overspending and negative cash fund balances.

The Township should draft, approve, and implement procedures to compare appropriations to estimated resources and, if adequate resources are available for additional appropriations, the Township should submit an amended certificate of estimated resources to the budget commission for certification. If the resources are not available to cover the appropriations, an amendment to the appropriation resolution should be passed by the Board of Trustees to reduce the appropriations.

##### **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, 2022 AND 2021**

<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
2020-001	Material weakness due to significant errors in budgetary amounts reported.	Not corrected. Repeated in this report as Finding 2022-001.	Finding reoccurred as a result of inadequate policies and procedures in reviewing the financial statements and accompanying notes prior to filing the Township's annual reports. The Fiscal Officer will ensure these are accounted for correctly in the future.
2020-002	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 due to appropriations exceeding estimated resources.	Not corrected. Repeated in this report as Finding 2022-002.	Finding reoccurred as a result of inadequate policies and procedures when certifying appropriations. The Fiscal Officer will ensure these are accounted for correctly in the future.
2020-003	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) due to expenditures exceeding appropriations.	Partially corrected. Repeated in Management Letter.	Errors noted during the audit were not material. Finding partially reoccurred as a result of inadequate policies and procedures when certifying and approving expenditures. The Fiscal Officer will ensure these are accounted for correctly in the future.

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# 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 3/28/2024**

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

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)