

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PERE MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Township Board Charter Township of Pere Marquette Mason County, Michigan

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Charter Township of Pere Marquette, Michigan (the "Township") as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Township, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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 generally accepted 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 generally accepted 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.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison schedules, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Gabridge a Company

Gabridge & Company, PLC Grand Rapids, Michigan June 27, 2024

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Management's Discussion and Analysis December 31, 2023

Our discussion and analysis of the Charter Township of Pere Marquette (the "Township" or "government"), Michigan's financial performance provides an overview of the Township's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Financial Highlights

- The assets of the Township exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$23,562,742 (net position). Of this amount, an unrestricted surplus exists in the government activities \$6,905,666 and an unrestricted surplus of \$3,677,347 exists in the business-type activities.
- At the close of the current fiscal year, the Township's governmental funds reported combined fund balances of \$11,246,866. Approximately 64.37%, or \$7,239,750, of this amount is available for spending at the Township's discretion (*unassigned fund balance*).
- The general fund had \$3,668,898 of revenues, \$2,315,145 of expenditures, and net other financing uses of (\$1,104,811) leading to an *increase* in general fund balance of \$248,942 during the year.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the general fund was \$3,7967,921, or approximately 114.5% of total general fund expenditures and transfers out.

Overview of the Financial Statements

The discussion and analysis provided here is intended to serve as an introduction to the Township's basic financial statements. The Township's basic financial statements consist of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) the notes to financial statements. This report also includes supplementary information intended to furnish additional detail to support the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-wide Financial Statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Township's finances, in a manner similar to private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents financial information on all of the Township's assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows and inflows of resources, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Township is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the Township's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus,

revenues and expenses are reported for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., changes in long-term debt and capital assets).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Township that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (*business-type activities*). The government activities of the Township include public safety, public works, recreation and culture, community and economic development, and general services and administration. These activities are funded primarily by property taxes, charges for services, and State of Michigan revenue sharing. The business-type activities of the Township include the water and sewer systems, and are funded primarily with charges for services.

Fund Financial Statements. A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Township, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Township can be divided into three categories: government funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds. *Governmental funds* are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus *on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources*, as well as on *balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in assessing a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental* activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The Township maintains several individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the general fund, the transportation system special fund, and the capital improvement fund which are considered to be major funds. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single aggregated presentation. Individual fund data for each of these nonmajor governmental funds is provided in the form of combining statements in the combining and individual fund statements and schedules section of this report.

The Township adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund and all of its special revenue funds. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Proprietary Funds. The Township maintains one type of proprietary fund, known as an enterprise fund. *Enterprise funds* are used to report the same functions presented as *business-type activities* in the government-wide financial statements. The Township uses enterprise funds to account for its water and sewer funds.

Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. The proprietary fund financial statements provide separate information for the water and sewer funds, both of which are considered to be major funds of the Township.

Fiduciary Funds. Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside of the government. Fiduciary funds are *not* reported in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are *not* available to support the Township's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

The Township maintains one type of fiduciary fund, known as custodial funds. The *custodial funds* report resources held by the Township in a custodial capacity for individuals, private organizations, and other governments.

Notes to the Financial Statements. The notes provide additional information that is necessary to acquire a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents *required supplementary information* concerning the Township's budgetary comparison schedules for the Township's general fund and its major special revenue funds.

The combining statements in connection with the Township's nonmajor funds are presented immediately following the required supplementary information.

Government-wide Overall Financial Analysis

The following table provides a summary of the Township's net position as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022:

Charter Township of Pere Marquette's Net Position

		nmental		ss-type	Total			
		vities		vities	-	mment		
ASSETS	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022		
Current Assets								
Cash and Investments	\$ 5,109,155	\$ 5,414,683	\$ 3,384,045	\$ 3,133,464	\$ 8,493,200	\$ 8,548,147		
Receivables, net	2,705,216	2,455,877	507,173	507,405	3,212,389	2,963,282		
Prepaids	53,256		4,835		58,091			
Total Current Assets	7,867,627	7,870,560	3,896,053	3,640,869	11,763,680	11,511,429		
Noncurrent Assets								
Capital Assets not being Depreciated	3,533,969	2,048,299	8,969	8,969	3,542,938	2,057,268		
Capital Assets being Depreciated, net	1,352,081	1,316,285	8,629,560	8,694,720	9,981,641	10,011,005		
Total Assets	12,753,677	11,235,144	12,534,582	12,344,558	25,288,259	23,579,702		
LIABILIITES								
Current Liabilities								
Accounts Payable	304,941	77,635	218,706	172,001	523,647	249,636		
Accrued Liabilities	33,862	35,532	-	-	33,862	35,532		
Accrued Interest	4,000	4,063	-	-	4,000	4,063		
Due to Other Governmental Units	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Unearned Revenue	256,416	256,416	-	-	256,416	256,416		
Current Portion of Long-term Debt	320,000	325,000	-	-	320,000	325,000		
Total Current Liabilities	919,219	698,646	218,706	172,001	1,137,925	870,647		
Noncurrent Liabilities								
Long-term Debt	520,000	840,000	-	-	520,000	840,000		
Compensated Absences	22,172	23,674	-	-	22,172	23,674		
Total Liabilities	1,461,391	1,562,320	218,706	172,001	1,680,097	1,734,321		
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES								
Deferred Premium on Refunding	45,420	54,504	-	-	45,420	54,504		
NET POSITION								
Net Investment in Capital Assets	4,000,630	2,145,080	8,638,529	8,703,689	12,639,159	10,848,769		
Restricted	340,570	336,816	-	-	340,570	336,816		
Unrestricted (Deficit)	6,905,666	7,136,424	3,677,347	3,468,868	10,583,013	10,605,292		
Total Net Position	\$ 11,246,866	\$ 9,618,320	\$ 12,315,876	\$ 12,172,557	\$ 23,562,742	\$ 21,790,877		

Governmental Activities. Total net position of the Township's governmental activities was \$11,246,866 as of December 31, 2023.

Business-type Activities. The net position of the business-type activities stood at \$12,315,876 as of December 31, 2023. The Township can generally only use this portion of net position to finance continuing operations of the sewer and water systems.

The majority of net position is the net investment in capital assets, \$12,69,159 or 53.64% of net position. The net investment in capital assets is the total amount of capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, machinery, equipment, vehicles, and infrastructure), less any related outstanding debt that was used to acquire those assets. The Township uses these capital assets to provide a variety of services to its citizens. Accordingly, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Township's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources used to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities. \$340,570 or 1.45% is the portion of net position that is restricted, and \$10,583,013 or 44.91% is unrestricted.

Receivables for the Township increased \$249,107 from an increase in taxable value. Capital assets increased by \$1,456,306 from the additions exceeding the depreciation expense. Accounts payable increased by \$275,011 from the timing of payments related to river access project.

The results of this year's operations for the Township as a whole are reported in the statement of activities. The following table shows the changes in net position for the fiscal years 2023 and 2022:

		Governmental Activities		ss-type vities	Total Government		
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	
Revenue							
Program Revenues							
Charges for Services	\$ 483,952	\$ 1,006,340	\$ 2,201,927	\$ 2,012,032	\$ 2,685,879	\$ 3,018,372	
Operating Grants and Contributions	338,886	26,927	-	-	338,886	26,927	
Capital Grants and Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Program Revenues	822,838	1,033,267	2,201,927	2,012,032	3,024,765	3,045,299	
General Revenues							
Property Taxes	2,734,401	2,516,839	-	-	2,734,401	2,516,839	
Unrestricted State Sources	284,204	265,970	-	-	284,204	265,970	
Interest Income	246,495	15,860	26,646	-	273,141	15,860	
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets	16,066	-	-	-	16,066	-	
Total General Revenues	3,281,166	2,798,669	26,646	-	3,307,812	2,798,669	
Total Revenues	4,104,004	3,831,936	2,228,573	2,012,032	6,332,577	5,843,968	
Expenses							
General Government	1,197,884	1,140,923	-	-	1,197,884	1,140,923	
Public Safety	268,127	292,041	-	-	268,127	292,041	
Public Works	730,373	861,982	-	-	730,373	861,982	
Community and Economic Development	98,666	127,622	-	-	98,666	127,622	
Recreation and Culture	302,707	251,384	-	-	302,707	251,384	
Interest on Long-term Debt	18,766	21,085	-	-	18,766	21,085	
Sewer	-	-	538,187	368,939	538,187	368,939	
Water	-	-	1,406,002	1,396,799	1,406,002	1,396,799	
Total Expenses	2,616,523	2,695,037	1,944,189	1,765,738	4,560,712	4,460,775	
Transfers In (Out)	141,065	146,340	(141,065)	(146,340)	-	-	
Change in Net Position	1,628,546	1,283,239	143,319	99,954	1,771,865	1,383,193	
Net Position at the Beginning of Period	9,618,320	8,335,081	12,172,557	12,072,603	21,790,877	20,407,684	
Net Position at the End of Period	\$ 11,246,866	\$ 9,618,320	\$ 12,315,876	\$ 12,172,557	\$ 23,562,742	\$ 21,790,877	

Charter Township of Pere Marquette's Changes in Net Position

The Township's total revenues were \$6,332,577 during the year. The cost of all programs and services was \$4,560,712, leaving an increase in net position of \$1,771,865. Our analysis below separately considers the operations of governmental and business-type activities:

- Total charges for services decreased \$332,493 while total operating grants and contributions increased \$311,959. This is mainly from a change in classification for grant revenues.
- The decrease in charges for services related to the classification change was offset by an increase in water and sewer rates.
- The increase in operating grants and contributions related to the classification change was offset by not as much funding being received in the current year for the project.
- Governmental activities' revenues increased largely due to an increase in taxable value and significant increases in interest rates and returns on investments.

• Business-type activities' net position increased due to increase in charges for services from increased water and sewer rates.

Financial Analysis of Governmental Funds

As noted before the Township uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds. The fund financial statements provide detail information about the most significant funds, not the Township as a whole. The Board creates funds to help manage money for specific purposes, as well as to show accountability for certain activities, such as special property tax millages. The Township's major governmental funds include the general, capital improvement, and transportation system special funds.

The general fund is the chief operating fund of the Township. At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance of the general fund was \$3,914,665. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total general fund expenditures. Unassigned and total fund balance represents approximately 114.5% and \$116.0% respectively, of total general fund expenditures and transfers out. The increase is largely due to an increase in taxes and unrestricted state sources.

The CARES Act Fund accounts for federal revenue received through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. As of the end of the fiscal year, the Township had \$256,416 reported as unearned revenue. It will be recognized as revenue as it is spent.

The Transportation System Special Fund accounts for tax revenue collected through the public transportation tax levy and contractual expense related to the service provided by Ludington Mass Transportation Authority. At the end of the current fiscal year, fund balance was \$228,637, a decrease of \$3,287 from the prior year.

The Capital Improvement Fund is utilized to set aside and purchase and/or replace equipment or make major improvements or additions to Township assets. The Township strives to budget and appropriate a yearly transfer of non-tax revenue from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund to provide for the purchase and replacement of capital assets. In 2023 the Township was able to transfer \$892,963 in non-tax revenue to the Capital Improvement Fund. At the end of the current fiscal year, fund balance was \$2,963,917, a decrease of \$481,265 from the prior year.

The METRO Act Fund is used to account for maintenance fees received through the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Oversight (METRO) Authority under the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Oversight Act, 2002 PA 48, as amended, MCL 484.3101 to 484.3120 (the "METRO Act"). At the end of the current fiscal year, fund balance was \$81,476, an increase of \$7,041 from the prior year.

The 2013 General Obligation Fund was created to refinance the two outstanding bond issues from prior years and to finance two expansions to the water system, upgrade sewer lift stations, and upgrade the meter reading system. At the end of the current fiscal year, fund balance was \$1.

The General Obligation Fund was created in 2004 to account for the payment of debt incurred on the sale of bonds to be used to match a U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration Grant for the development of the First Street Business Park, construction of an elevated water tower, and installation of municipal water wells. This debt was refinanced in 2013, resulting in a savings of \$281,365. At the end of the current fiscal year, fund balance was \$30,456, no change from the prior year.

Proprietary Funds. The Township's proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail.

Unrestricted net position of the Sewer and Water Funds at the end of the year amounted to \$1,907,446 and \$1,769,901 respectively. The Sewer Fund had an increase in net position for the year of \$7,195. The Water Fund had an increase in net position for the year of \$136,124.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Original budget compared to final budget. During the year there were a few amendments to increase the general fund revenues (property taxes, state revenue sharing).

Final budget compared to actual results. The Township had no expenditures in excess of the amounts appropriated during the year ended December 31, 2023.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At the end of fiscal year 2023 and 2022, the Township had \$13,524,579 and \$12,068,593 invested in a variety of capital assets including land and improvements, buildings and improvements, infrastructure, and other equipment.

The following were significant purchases in the current fiscal year:

- PMEC Access Project \$1,538,025
- Electrical Utility Installation \$70,001
- Kohler K125R Generator \$52,000
- Drain Field Buttersville Park \$32,400

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More information on capital assets can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

Long-term Debt

The Township has one long-term debt outstanding, the 2013 General Obligation Capital Improvement and Refunding Bonds. The Township made a principal payment of \$325,000 during the year, the balance at year-end is \$840,000.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

The Township's property tax revenues are up approximately 2% due to new construction that has taken place in the township in all classes including Residential, Commercial, and Industrial. The township is experiencing a period of growth with several new businesses coming into the township and the continued \$800 million upgrade to the Consumers Energy Pumped Storage Facility. These tax revenue increases have allowed the township the opportunity to increase the level of services it provides to its residents. The township has increased expenditures for local road improvement as funding from the State and Counties has proved insufficient. The township has also increased expenditures for the three parks and park facilities for improvements of those properties.

Overall Financial Condition

The Township has been able to maintain a strong financial position as a result of careful planning, and cost saving measures implemented by all departments in the Township. A second factor that provides financial stability is the reduction in appropriation needed for debt as bond issue is retired.

In June, 2009, the Township was notified by Standard & Poor's bond rating agency that the Township's rating has been upgraded from A- to AA, a four-point increase in overall rating as a result of strong financial performance. Reasons stated in the review indicate that the Township maintains a strong fund balance, that the budget is structured to provide break-even operations, that the levy is 2.1 mills below the allowed Headlee limit providing revenue flexibility, and that overall debt is low.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors with a general overview of the Township's finances and to show the accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact:

Charter Township of Pere Marquette 1699 S. Pere Marquette Highway Ludington, MI 49431

phone: (231) 845-1277

email: rachelle@pmtwp.org fax: (231) 843-3330

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Net Position December 31, 2023

	Primary Government							
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total					
ASSETS								
Current Assets								
Cash and Investments	\$ 5,109,155	\$ 3,384,045	\$ 8,493,200					
Receivables, net	2,705,216	507,173	3,212,389					
Prepaids	53,256	4,835	58,091					
Total Current Assets	7,867,627	3,896,053	11,763,680					
Noncurrent Assets								
Capital Assets not being Depreciated	3,533,969	8,969	3,542,938					
Capital Assets being Depreciated, net	1,352,081	8,629,560	9,981,641					
Total Assets	12,753,677	12,534,582	25,288,259					
LIABILITIES								
Current Liabilities								
Accounts Payable	304,941	218,706	523,647					
Accrued Liabilities	33,862		33,862					
Unearned Revenue	256,416		256,416					
Accrued Interest	4,000		4,000					
Current Portion of Long-term Debt	320,000		320,000					
Total Current Liabilities	919,219	218,706	1,137,925					
Noncurrent Liabilities								
Long-term Debt	520,000		520,000					
Compensated Absences	22,172		22,172					
Total Liabilities	1,461,391	218,706	1,680,097					
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES								
Deferred Premium on Refunding	45,420		45,420					
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	45,420		45,420					
NET POSITION								
Net Investment in Capital Assets	4,000,630	8,638,529	12,639,159					
Restricted for:								
Right of Way	81,476		81,476					
Debt	30,457		30,457					
Transportation	228,637		228,637					
Unrestricted	6,905,666	3,677,347	10,583,013					
Total Net Position	\$ 11,246,866	\$ 12,315,876	\$ 23,562,742					

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

		_		F	Program Revenues	5							
		_			Operating		Capital Grants			Net	(Expense) Reven	ue	
			Charges for		Grants and		and		Governmental		Business-type		
Functions/Programs	Expenses		Services		Contributions		Contributions		Activities		Activities		Total
Governmental Activities:		-								-			
General Government	\$ 1,197,884	\$	179,961	\$	332,244	\$		\$	(685,679)	\$		\$	(685,679)
Public Safety	268,127		53,408						(214,719)				(214,719)
Public Works	730,373		16,200		6,642				(707,531)				(707,531)
Community and Economic Development	98,666		6,990						(91,676)				(91,676)
Recreation and Culture	302,707		227,393						(75,314)				(75,314)
Interest on Long-term Debt	18,766								(18,766)				(18,766)
Total Governmental Activities	 2,616,523		483,952		338,886				(1,793,685)				(1,793,685)
Business-type Activities:													
Sewer Fund	538,187		548,376								10,189		10,189
Water Fund	1,406,002		1,653,551								247,549		247,549
Total Business-type Activities	 1,944,189		2,201,927					_			257,738		257,738
Total	\$ 4,560,712	\$	2,685,879	\$	338,886	\$		\$	(1,793,685)	\$	257,738	\$	(1,535,947)

General Purpose Revenues and Transfers:

Revenues			
Property Taxes	2,734,401		2,734,401
Intergovernmental	284,204		284,204
Interest Income	246,495	26,646	273,141
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets	16,066		16,066
Transfers	141,065	(141,065)	
Total General Revenues and Transfers	 3,422,231	 (114,419)	 3,307,812
Change in Net Position	 1,628,546	 143,319	 1,771,865
Net Position at Beginning of Period	 9,618,320	 12,172,557	 21,790,877
Net Position at End of Period	\$ 11,246,866	\$ 12,315,876	\$ 23,562,742

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Balance Sheet Governmental Funds December 31, 2023

		Special I		Capital Projects					
					Capital		Other		Total
				Im	provement	Governmental		Governmental Funds	
	General	CARES Act			Fund		Funds		
ASSETS									
Cash and Investments	\$ 1,424,962	\$	256,416	\$	3,232,818	\$	194,959	\$	5,109,155
Receivables, net	2,549,894						155,322		2,705,216
Prepaids	53,256								53,256
Total Assets	\$ 4,028,112	\$	256,416	\$	3,232,818	\$	350,281	\$	7,867,627
LIABILITIES									
Accounts Payable	\$ 26,329	\$		\$	268,901	\$	9,711	\$	304,941
Accrued Liabilities	33,862								33,862
Unearned Revenue	 		256,416						256,416
Total Liabilities	60,191		256,416		268,901		9,711		595,219
FUND BALANCE									
Nonspendable	53,256								53,256
Restricted							340,570		340,570
Assigned					2,963,917				2,963,917
Unassigned	 3,914,665								3,914,665
Total Fund Balance	 3,967,921				2,963,917		340,570		7,272,408
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 4,028,112	\$	256,416	\$	3,232,818	\$	350,281	\$	7,867,627

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Reconciliation of Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position December 31, 2023

Total Fund Balance - Governmental Funds	\$	7,272,408
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore are note reported in the governmental funds. This represents capital assets of \$6,961,334 less accumulated depreciation of \$2,075,284.	Э,	4,886,050
Long-term liabilities in governmental activities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		(840,000)
In the statement of net position, interest is accrued on outstanding bonds, whereas in governmental funds, the interest expenditure is reported when due. In the statement of net position, interest is accrued on outstanding bonds, whereas in governmental funds, the interest	t	(4,000)
Compensated absences are not due in and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		(22,172)
A premium resulting from the issuance of refunding long-term debt is an other source or use of funds in the governmental funds but is a deferred inflow of resources on the entity-wide financial statements.	f	(45,420)
Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	\$	11,246,866

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Special Reve	nue	Capital Projects Capital	Other		Total
				Improvement	Governmental	G	overnmental
	 General	CARES A	et	Fund	Funds	Funds	
Revenues							
Property Taxes	\$ 2,576,284	\$		\$	\$ 158,117	\$	2,734,401
Licenses and Permits	54,548						54,548
Intergovernmental	284,204			285,660	6,642		576,506
Charges for Services	365,722						365,722
Fines and Forfeitures	250						250
Interest Income	234,790			11,306	399		246,495
Other Revenues	84,679			25,337			110,016
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	68,421						68,421
Total Revenues	3,668,898			322,303	165,158		4,156,359
Expenditures							
General Government	1,133,012			56,105			1,189,117
Public Safety	256,575						256,575
Public Works	544,625				161,404		706,029
Community and Economic Development	98,230						98,230
Recreation and Culture	282,703						282,703
Debt Service - Principal					325,000		325,000
Debt Service - Interest					27,913		27,913
Capital Outlay				1,640,426			1,640,426
Total Expenditures	2,315,145			1,696,531	514,317		4,525,993
Excess of Revenues Over							
(Under) Expenditures	1,353,753			(1,374,228)	(349,159)		(369,634)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)							
Transfers In				892,963	352,913		1,245,876
Transfers Out	(1,104,811)						(1,104,811)
Net Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(1,104,811)			892,963	352,913		141,065
Net Change in Fund Balance	 248,942			(481,265)	3,754		(228,569)
Fund Balance at Beginning of Period	3,718,979			3,445,182	336,816		7,500,977
Fund Balance at End of Period	\$ 3,967,921	\$		\$ 2,963,917	\$ 340,570	\$	7,272,408

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Reconciliation of Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance with Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$	(228,569)
Governmental funds report outlays for capital assets as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of these assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This represents current year capital outlay of \$1,640,426 led depreciation expense of \$66,605 and loss on sale of \$52,355.		1,521,466
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds. This represents the change in bonds payable.	al	334,084
Changes to accrued interest are not shown in the fund financial statements. The net effect of the current year increase is to decrease net position.		63
Change to compensated absences are not shown in the fund financial statements. The net effe of the current year decrease is to increase net position.	ct	1,502
Changes in Net Position - Governmental Activities	\$	1,628,546

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Net Position Proprietary Funds December 31, 2023

		Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds								
	Se	ewer Fund	W	ater Fund	Total Enterpris Id Funds					
ASSETS										
Current Assets										
Cash and Investments	\$	1,775,233	\$	1,608,812	\$	3,384,045				
Receivables, net		227,669		279,504		507,173				
Prepaids		1,934		2,901		4,835				
Total Current Assets		2,004,836		1,891,217		3,896,053				
Noncurrent Assets										
Capital Assets not being Depreciated		8,969				8,969				
Capital Assets being Depreciated, net		3,438,132	_	5,191,428		8,629,560				
Total Assets		5,451,937		7,082,645		12,534,582				
LIABILITIES										
Current Liabilities										
Accounts Payable		97,390		121,316		218,706				
Total Current Liabilities		97,390		121,316		218,706				
NET POSITION										
Net Investment in Capital Assets		3,447,101		5,191,428		8,638,529				
Unrestricted		1,907,446		1,769,901		3,677,347				
Total Net Position	\$	5,354,547	\$	6,961,329	\$	12,315,876				

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position Proprietary Funds For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds								
	Se	wer Fund	V	Vater Fund	Tot	al Enterprise Funds			
Operating Revenues									
Charges for Services	\$	548,376	\$	1,653,551	\$	2,201,927			
Total Operating Revenues		548,376		1,653,551		2,201,927			
Operating Expenses									
Personnel Services		101,244		103,856		205,100			
Contractual Services		303,794		1,135,405		1,439,199			
Utilities		16,490		42,139		58,629			
Repairs and Maintenance		12,998		52,100		65,098			
Other		915		4,765		5,680			
Depreciation		102,746		67,737		170,483			
Total Operating Expenses		538,187		1,406,002		1,944,189			
Operating Income (Loss)		10,189		247,549		257,738			
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)									
Interest Income		14,639		12,007		26,646			
Net Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)		14,639		12,007		26,646			
Income Before Transfers		24,828		259,556		284,384			
Transfers Out		(17,633)		(123,432)		(141,065)			
Change In Net Position		7,195		136,124		143,319			
Net Position at Beginning of Period		5,347,352		6,825,205		12,172,557			
Net Position at End of Period	\$	5,354,547	\$	6,961,329	\$	12,315,876			

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Cash Flows Proprietary Funds For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds					
		Sewer		Water	Tot	al Enterprise Funds
Cash Flows from Operating Activities						
Cash Received from Charges for Service	\$	553,982	\$	1,648,177	\$	2,202,159
Cash Payments to Employees for Wages and Benefits		(101,244)		(103,856)		(205,100)
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services		(320,556)		(1,206,180)		(1,526,736)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities		132,182		338,141		470,323
Cash Flows from Non-capital Financing Activities						
Transfers Out		(17,633)		(123,432)		(141,065)
Net Cash Provided by Non-capital Financing Activities		(17,633)		(123,432)		(141,065)
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities						
Net Capital Asset Activity		(89,692)		(15,631)		(105,323)
Net Cash Used in Capital and Related Financing Activities		(89,692)		(15,631)		(105,323)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities						
Investment Income		14,639		12,007		26,646
Net Cash Provided By Investing Activities		14,639		12,007		26,646
Net Increase in Cash and Investments		39,496		211,085		250,581
Cash and Investments - Beginning of Year		1,735,737		1,397,727		3,133,464
Cash and Investments - End of Year	\$	1,775,233	\$	1,608,812	\$	3,384,045
Statement of Net Position						
Cash and Investments		1,775,233		1,608,812		3,384,045
Total Cash and Investments	\$	1,775,233	\$	1,608,812	\$	3,384,045
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities						
Operating Income (Loss)	\$	10,189	\$	247,549	\$	257,738
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to		,		,		,
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities:						
Depreciation Expense		102,746		67,737		170,483
Changes in Assets, Liabilities, and Related Deferrals		,		,		, -
Receivables, net		5,606		(5,374)		232
Prepaid Items		(1,934)		(2,901)		(4,835)
Accounts Payable		15,575		31,130		46,705
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	\$	132,182	\$	338,141	\$	470,323

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Fiduciary Net Position Fiduciary Funds December 31, 2023

	Total Custodial Funds	
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	\$	138,335
Total Assets		138,335
LIABILITIES		
Deposit Payable		580
Due to Other Governments		137,755
Total Liabilities		138,335
NET POSITION		
Total Net Position	\$	

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position Fiduciary Funds For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Total Custodial	
ADDITIONS	Funds	
Taxes Collected for Other Units of Government	\$	29,849,352
Other Collections		11,266
Total Additions		29,860,618
DEDUCTIONS		
Payments of Property Taxes to Other Units of Government		29,849,352
Other Distributions		11,266
Total Deductions		29,860,618
Change in Net Position		
Net Position at Beginning of Period		
Net Position at End of Period	\$	

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Charter Township of Pere Marquette (the "Township" or "government") have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial-reporting principles. The more significant of the Township's accounting policies are described below.

Reporting Entity

The Township is governed by an elected seven-member board. The accompanying financial statements present the government entities for which the government is considered to be financially accountable.

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and GASB Statement No. 61, "*The Financial Reporting Entity*," these financial statements represent the Township for financial reporting purposes. The criteria established by GASB for determining the reporting entity includes oversight responsibility, fiscal dependency, and whether the financial statements would be misleading if component unit data were not included. These financial statements present only the Township (located in Mason County), as management has determined that there are no other entities for which the Township is financially accountable.

Jointly Governed Organization

The Township is also a participant in a joint venture, the Western Mason County Fire District Authority, with the City of Ludington and Hamlin Township. The Authority collects property taxes to be used to finance the purchase of new fire equipment for the three fire departments. This authority is not considered to be a component unit of Pere Marquette Charter Township. Separate audited financial statements may be obtained from the Township Supervisor at Pere Marquette Township Hall at 1699 South Pere Marquette Highway, Ludington, MI 49431.

At December 3	51, 2022		Year ended Dece	mber 31, 202	2
Total Assets	\$	3,042,850			
Total Liabilities		10,009	Revenues		454,579
Total Net Position		3,032,841	Expenses		(274,978)
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$	3,042,850	Change in Net Position	\$	179,601

Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. *Governmental activities,* which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities,* which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include: 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds and major individual enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*, as are the proprietary fund and fiduciary fund financial statements, except for custodial funds which do not have a measurement focus. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement* focus and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period or within one year for expenditure-driven grants. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service and compensated absences expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

Fiduciary Funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or custodial capacity for others and therefore are not available to support Township programs. The Township has adopted GASBS No.

Charter Township of Pere Marquette

Notes to the Financial Statements

84 for the reporting and classification of its fiduciary activities. Fiduciary reporting focus is on net position and changes in net position and are reported using the accrual basis of accounting.

The Township's fiduciary funds are presented in the fiduciary fund financial statements by type (pension, private purpose and custodial). Because by definition these assets are being held for the benefit of a third party (other local governments, private parties, pension participants, etc.) and cannot be used to address activities or obligations of the Township, these funds are not incorporated into the government-wide statements.

Property taxes, state shared revenues, and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Only the portion of receivables due within the current fiscal period is considered to be susceptible to accrual as revenue of the current period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the Township.

The Township reports the following major governmental funds:

The *general fund* is the government's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those accounted for in another fund. Revenues are derived primarily from property taxes, state distributions or grants, charges for services, licenses and fees, interest income, and other intergovernmental revenues.

The *CARES Act fund* account for federal revenues received through the American Rescue Plan Act. These resources may be used for general government services.

The *Capital Improvement fund* accounts for amounts transferred from other funds and other sources to be used for the acquisition or construction of capital projects.

The Township reports the following major proprietary funds:

The *sewer fund* accounts for the operation of the Township's wastewater system. Revenues are derived primarily from charges for services, licenses and fees, interest income, and other intergovernmental revenues.

The *water fund* accounts for the operation of the Township's water mains and pumping facilities. Revenues are derived primarily from charges for services, licenses and fees, interest income, and other intergovernmental revenues.

Charter Township of Pere Marquette

Notes to the Financial Statements

Additionally, the government reports the following fund types:

Special revenue funds are used to 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.

Capital project funds are used to account for the acquisition or construction of general major capital facilities by a governmental unit.

Custodial funds are custodial in nature and used to account for assets held by the Township as an agent for another organization or individual.

As a general rule the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are charges between the Township's utility functions and various other functions of the government. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

Proprietary funds distinguish *operating* revenues and expenses from *non-operating* items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the enterprise funds are charges for services. Operating expenses for the enterprise funds include depreciation on capital assets, labor, supplies and contracted services. All revenues and expenses are not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows / Inflows of Resources, and Equity

Cash and Investments

Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Statutes authorize the primary government and component units to invest in the following:

- In bonds, securities and other obligations of the United States or agency or instrumentality of the United States.
- In certificates of deposit, savings accounts, deposit accounts or depository receipts of a bank which is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, a saving and loan association which is a member of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation or a credit union which is insured by the National Credit Union Administration.
- In commercial paper rated at the time of purchase within the two highest classifications established by not less than two standard rating services and which matures not more than 270 days after the date of purchase.

- In United States government of federal agency obligation repurchase agreements.
- In banker's acceptances of United States banks.
- In obligations of this state or any of its political subdivisions that at the time of purchase are rated as investment grade by not less than one standard rating service.
- In mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan.

Investments are stated at fair market value. Pooled investment income is generally allocated to the general fund.

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Township considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) with a maturity when purchased of three months or less and all local government investment pools to be cash equivalents.

Receivables and Payables

All trade and property tax receivables are shown as net of allowance for uncollectible amounts. Property taxes are levied on each December 1st on the taxable valuation of property as of the preceding December 31st. Taxes are considered delinquent on March 1st of the following year, at which time penalties and interest are assessed.

Although the Township's 2023 ad valorem tax is levied and collectible on December 1, 2023, it is the Township's policy to recognize revenue from the current tax levy in the current year when the proceeds of this levy are budgeted and made "available" for the financing of operations. "Available" means collected within the current period or expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period (60 days).

The Township bills and collects its own property taxes for general governmental services. The Township also collects property taxes for Mason County and various school districts. Collection of property taxes and remittances to the appropriate authorities are accounted for in the tax account custodial fund.

In general, outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds." Activity between funds that is representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year is referred to as "advances to/from other funds." Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and the business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as "internal balances."

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant and equipment, are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$10,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the asset's lives are not capitalized.

Property, plant, and equipment is depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

	Years
Buildings	40-60
Building Improvements	15-30
Water and Sewer Lines	50
Vehicles	3-5
Office Equipment	5-7
Computer Equipment	3-7

Compensated Absences (Vacation and Sick Leave)

It is the Township's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick pay benefits. Employees are eligible to claim up to twenty days of unused vacation time unless the employee quits without prior notice. Employees are eligible to claim sick leave compensation if they have been employed for more than 10 years, or if they have reached retirement. All other employees will not be eligible to claim sick leave compensation. Qualifying employees can claim up to thirty days of sick leave.

Long-term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, the long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type statement of net position. For new bond issuances of governmental funds after the implementation of GASB Statement No. 34 and all proprietary fund bond issues, bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method which approximates the effective interest method. Bonds payables are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Issuance costs are expensed during the period incurred.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported

as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

Unearned Revenues

Unearned revenues are those where asset recognition criteria have been met but for which revenue recognition criteria have not been met.

Fund Balance Policies

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report aggregate amounts for five classifications of fund balances based on the constraints imposed on the use of these resources. The *nonspendable fund balance* classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either; a) not in spendable form – pre-paid items or inventories; or b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

The spendable portion of the fund balance comprises the remaining four classifications: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

Restricted fund balance. This classification reflects the constraints imposed on resources either; a) externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed fund balance. These amounts can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal resolutions of the Township Board – the government's highest level of decision-making authority. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board removes the specified use by taking the same type of action imposing the commitment. This classification also includes contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned fund balance. This classification reflects the amounts constrained by the Township's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Amounts are designated by the Board.

Unassigned fund balance. Resources that cannot be properly classified in one of the other four categories. The general fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. Unassigned balances also include negative balances in the governmental funds reporting resources restricted for specific programs.

Fund Balance Flow Assumptions

Sometimes the Township will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the government's policy to consider restricted fund balance to have been depleted before using any of the components of unrestricted fund balance. Further, when the components of unrestricted fund balance can be used for the same purpose, committed fund balance is depleted first, followed by assigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balance is applied last.

Net Position Flow Assumption

Sometimes the Township will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted net position and unrestricted net position in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the government's policy to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position is applied.

Use of Estimates

The process of preparing financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates and assumptions regarding certain types of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses. Such estimates primarily relate to unsettled transactions and events as of the date of the financial statements. Accordingly, upon settlement, actual results may differ from estimated amounts.

Note 2 - Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability

Budgetary Information

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for all governmental funds. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end.

The Township follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- On or before September 1, the Township Supervisor submits to the Board, a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing on January 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
- A public hearing is conducted at the Township hall to obtain taxpayer comments. On or before December 31, the budget is adopted by resolution.

- The transfer of budgeted amounts between activities within any fund or any revisions that alter the total expenditures of any fund must be approved by the Township Board.
- Budgeted amounts are presented as originally adopted, or as amended by the Township Board before December 31.
- Budgets as presented for the general and special revenue funds are prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting on the activity level for the general fund and fund level for special revenue funds. Encumbrances are not recorded at year end. Budget appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- The Township legally adopts budgets for the general fund and special revenue funds.
- Budgets shown in the financial statements are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and consist only of those amounts contained in the formal budget approved as amended by the Township Board.
- The legal level of control is at the activity level of the general fund and at the fund expenditure totals for the special revenue funds.
- The Township Clerk is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between accounts within the same activity.

Amounts encumbered for purchase orders, contracts, etc., are not tracked during the year. Budget appropriations are considered to be spent once the goods are delivered or the services rendered.

Excess of Expenditures Over Budget

P.A. 621 of 1978, as amended, provides that a local unit shall not incur expenditures in excess of the amount budgeted. Budgetary control is exercised at the activity level in the general fund and the function level in other funds.

The Township's general fund had no expenditures in excess of the amounts appropriated during the year ended December 31, 2023.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 3 - Deposits and Investments

Following is a reconciliation of deposit and investment balances as of December 31, 2022:

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities			Totals
Statement of Net Position						
Cash and Investments	\$	5,109,155	\$	3,384,045	\$	8,493,200
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position						
Cash and Investments		138,335		-	_	
Total Cash and Investments	\$	5,247,490	\$	3,384,045	\$	8,493,200
		Deposits				
		Checking and	Savi	ngs Accounts	\$	2,134,977
				Investments	\$	6,358,023
				Petty Cash		200
				Total	\$	8,493,200

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Township's deposits may not be returned to it. The Township does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. At year end, the bank balance of the Township's deposits (money market, checking accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit) is \$5,198,309, of which \$881,375 is covered by insurance. The remaining is uninsured and uncollateralized. The Township believes that due to the dollar amounts of cash deposits and the limits of FDIC insurance, it is impractical to insure all deposits. As a result, the Township evaluates each financial institution with which it deposits funds and assesses the level of risk of each institution; only those institutions with an acceptable estimated risk level are used as depositories.

Custodial Credit Risk - Investments

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Township will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. The Township does not have a policy for custodial credit risk. At year end, the following investment securities were uninsured and unregistered, with securities held by the counterparty or by its trust department or agent but not in the Township's name.

Following is a summary of the Township's investments as of December 31, 2023:								
Money market accounts	\$	682,145						
Michigan CLASS		2,403,606						
Certificate of deposits		2,380,987						
U.S. Treasury Security		197,912						
U.S. Government Bonds		693,373						
	\$	6,358,023						

Notes to the Financial Statements

Credit Risk - Investments

State law limits investments to specific government securities, certificates of deposits and bank accounts with qualified financial institutions, commercial paper with specific maximum maturities and ratings when purchased, bankers' acceptances of specific financial institutions, qualified mutual funds and qualified external investment pools as identified in the list of authorized investments in the summary of significant accounting policies. The Township's investment policy does not have specific limits in excess of state law on investment credit risk. The Township's investments have the following credit ratings:

S&P AAA	\$ 2,403,606
S&P AA+	579,432
S&P AA	113,941
N/A or not rated	3,261,044
	\$ 6,358,023

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the market rate of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in market interest rates. State law limits the allowable investments and the maturities of some of the allowable investments as identified in the summary of significant accounting policies. The Township's investment policy does not have specific limits in excess of state law on investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Maturity dates for investments held at year-end are summarized as follows:

\$ 3,085,751
1,894,815
1,377,457
\$ 6,358,023

Notes to the Financial Statements

Fair Value Measurement

The Township is required to disclose amounts within a framework established for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2: Prices determined using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs are inputs that other market participants may use in pricing a security. These may include prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk and others.

Level 3: Prices determined using significant unobservable inputs. In situations where quoted prices or observable inputs are unavailable or deemed less relevant, unobservable inputs may be used. Unobservable inputs reflect the Township's own assumptions about the factors market participants would use in pricing an investment and would be based on the best information available.

		Level 1		Level 2	Ι	evel 3		Total
US Government Bonds		693,373		197,912	_			891,285
Michigan CLASS				2,403,606				2,403,606
	\$	693,373	\$	2,601,518	\$	-		3,294,891
Investment accounts not subject to fair value disclosure requirements:								
					2	rket accounts		682,145
					Certificat	tes of Deposit		2,380,987
					Total	Investments	\$	6,358,023

The Township holds shares in the Michigan CLASS government investment pool whereby the fair value of the investment is measured on a recurring basis using net asset value per share (or its equivalent) of the investment pool as a practical expedient.

At year-end, the net asset value of the Township's investment in the Michigan CLASS government investment pool was \$2,403,606. The investment pool had no unfunded commitments, specific redemption frequency or redemption notice period required. The Michigan CLASS government investment pool invests in U.S. treasury obligations, federal agency obligations of the U.S. government, high-grade commercial paper (rated 'A-1' or better) collateralized bank deposits, repurchase agreements (collateralized at 102% by Treasuries and agencies), and approved moneymarket funds. The program seeks to provide safety, liquidity, convenience, and competitive rates of return, and is designed to meet the needs of Michigan public sector investors. It purchases securities that are legally permissible under state statutes and are available for investment by Michigan counties, cities, townships, school districts, authorities and other public agencies.

Note 4 - Receivables

Receivables for the Township's funds, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

	Governmental	Business-type			
	Activities Activitie				
Property Taxes	\$ 2,659,930	\$	-		
Accounts Receivable	45,286		507,173		
Net Receivables	\$ 2,705,216	\$	507,173		

Note 5 - Capital Assets

Capital asset activity of the Township's governmental activities during the year was as follows:

	Beginning			Ending
Governmental Activities	Balance	Additions	Disposals	Balance
Capital Assets not being Depreciated				
Land	\$ 2,048,299	\$ -	\$ (52,355)	\$ 1,995,944
Construction in Progress	-	1,538,025		1,538,025
Subtotal	2,048,299	1,538,025	(52,355)	3,533,969
Capital Assets being Depreciated				
Buildings	1,882,903	-	-	1,882,903
Land Improvements	588,673	102,401	-	691,074
Equipment	828,732	-	-	828,732
Software	12,706	-	-	12,706
Intangible	11,950			11,950
Subtotal	3,324,964	102,401		3,427,365
Less Accumulated Depreciation				
Buildings	(1,210,891)	(2,501)	-	(1,213,392)
Land Improvements	(345,931)	(7,511)	-	(353,442)
Equipment	(427,201)	(56,593)	-	(483,794)
Software	(12,706)	-	-	(12,706)
Intangible	(11,950)		-	(11,950)
Subtotal	(2,008,679)	(66,605)		(2,075,284)
Capital Assets being Depreciated, net	1,316,285	35,796		1,352,081
Capital Assets, net	\$ 3,364,584	\$ 1,573,821	\$ (52,355)	\$ 4,886,050

Notes to the Financial Statements

Depreciation expense of was charged to the following governmental activities:

Governmental Activities	
General Government	\$ 13,751
Public Safety	12,177
Public Works	20,479
Recreation and Culture	19,762
Community and Economic Development	 436
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 66,605

Capital asset activity of the Township's business-type activities during the year was as follows:

Business-type Activities	Beginning Balance	Additions	Disposals	Ending Balance	
Capital Assets not being Depreciated					
Land	\$ 8,969	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,969	
Capital Assets being Depreciated					
Mains	13,365,366	53,003	-	13,418,369	
Equipment	594,626	52,000	-	646,626	
Pumping Stations	579,104			579,104	
Subtotal	14,539,096	105,003		14,644,099	
Less Accumulated Depreciation					
Mains	(5,193,227)	(138,438)	-	(5,331,665)	
Equipment	(372,407)	(18,392)	-	(390,799)	
Pumping Stations	(278,422)	(13,653)		(292,075)	
Subtotal	(5,844,056)	(170,483)	-	(6,014,539)	
Capital Assets being Depreciated, net	8,695,040	(65,480)		8,629,560	
Capital Assets, net	\$ 8,704,009	\$ (65,480)	\$ -	\$ 8,638,529	

Depreciation expense of \$170,483 was charged to the sewer (\$102,746) and water (\$67,737) of the Township.

Note 6 - Long-term Debt

The Township issues bonds to provide for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the Township. Contractual agreements and installment purchase agreements are also general obligations of the Township. Special assessment bonds provide for capital improvements that benefit specific properties, and will be repaid from amounts levied against those properties benefited from the construction. In the event that a deficiency exists because of unpaid or delinquent special assessments at the time a debt service payment is due, the Township is obligated to provide resources to cover the deficiency until other resources (such as tax sale proceeds or a

Notes to the Financial Statements

re-assessment of the district) are received. Revenue bonds involve a pledge of specific income derived from the acquired or constructed assets to pay debt service.

The Township has the following long-term debt issuances:

2013 General Obligation Capital Improvement and Refunding Bonds; payable in annual installments of \$65,000 to \$330,000 through April 1, 2028 with interest payable semi-annually at 2.00% to 3.00%.

Bond and contractual obligation activity, for the year ended December 31, 2023, can be summarized as follows:

	12/	/31/2022					12	2/31/2023	D	ue Within
Governmental Activities	E	Balance	Ade	ditions	R	eductions		Balance	C	ne Year
Compensated Absences	\$	23,674	\$	-	\$	1,502	\$	22,172		-
2013 Capital Imrovement and Refunding Bonds	1	,165,000		-		325,000		840,000		320,000
Premium		54,504		-		9,084		45,420		-
Total	\$ 1	,243,178	\$	-	\$	335,586	\$	907,592	\$	320,000

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for the above obligations are as follows:

	I	Principal	L	nterest	 Total
2024	\$	320,000	\$	19,600	\$ 339,600
2025		320,000		10,800	330,800
2026		65,000		5,025	70,025
2027		135,000		4,125	139,125
	\$	840,000	\$	39,550	\$ 879,550

Note 7 - Interfund Transfers

The composition of interfund transfers for the year ended December 31, 2023 is as follows:

Transfer In	Transfer Out	 Amount
Capital Improvement	General	\$ 892,963
General Obligations	General	211,848
General Obligations	Sewer	17,633
General Obligations	Water	123,432

Transfers are used to: 1) move revenues from the fund that statute or budget requires to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them and 2) moves receipts restricted to debt service from the funds collecting the receipts to the debt service fund as debt service payments become due, and 3) use unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 8 – Employee Retirement and Benefit Systems

Defined Contribution Pension Plan

The Township provides pension benefits to its Administrative Officials, Township Board Trustees, Deputies to Administrative Officials, and full-time employees through a defined contribution plan. The plan is administered by the Municipal Employees Retirement System ("MERS"). In a defined contribution plan, benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings. Employees are eligible to participate from the date of employment (or other date). As established under Internal Revenue Service code 403(b), Pere Marquette Charter Township contributes up to \$500 per year for Board Trustees and 12 percent of wages for all other covered employees, vested after one year.

The Township's total payroll during the current year was \$982,375. The current year contribution was calculated based on covered payroll of \$802,300. The township recognized pension expense of \$96,276. The township had no liability to the plan at year end. Nonvested contributions are forfeited upon termination of employment and such forfeitures are used to pay a portion of the Plan's administrative expenses.

Note 9 - Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors and omissions and employee injuries (workers' compensation). The Township participates in the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority for all claims. Settled claims relating to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

The Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority risk pool program operates as a claims servicing pool for amounts up to member retention limits, and operates as a common risk-sharing management program for losses in excess of member retention amounts. Although premiums are paid annually to the Authority, that it uses to pay claims up to the retention limits, the ultimate liability for those claims remains with the Township.

The Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's State Pool program operates as a common risk-sharing management program for local units of government in Michigan. Member premiums are used to purchase excess insurance coverage and to pay member claims in excess of deductible amounts. A portion of the excess insurance coverage is underwritten by the Authority itself.

Note 10 - Subsequent Events

Management is not aware of any other subsequent events that would have a significant impact on the financial condition of the Township.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual General Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Budgete	d Amo	unts				Variance Positive (Negative)
	-	Budgeted Amount Original		Final		Actual		Final to Actual
Revenues	_							
Property Taxes	\$	2,478,251	\$	2,582,251	\$	2,576,284	\$	(5,967)
Licenses and Permits		41,000		49,700		54,548		4,848
Intergovernmental		269,226		269,226		284,204		14,978
Charges for Services		329,560		357,560		365,722		8,162
Fines and Forfeitures						250		250
Interest Income		50,000		180,000		234,790		54,790
Other Revenues		30,500		69,000		84,679		15,679
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets				68,000		68,421		421
Total Revenues		3,198,537		3,575,737		3,668,898	_	93,161
Expenditures								
General Government								
Board of Trustees		185,600		247,800		240,008		7,792
Supervisor		302,486		272,340		252,338		20,002
Elections		23,525		15,025		11,435		3,590
Assessing		165,463		157,463		148,795		8,668
Clerk		212,844		199,344		189,548		9,796
Treasurer		206,958		175,958		164,227		11,731
Township Hall		309,500		133,000		124,053		8,947
Cemetery		3,000						
Board of Appeals		4,393		4,393		2,608		1,785
Total General Government		1,413,769		1,205,323		1,133,012		72,311
Public Safety								
Fire Department		274,446		259,946		237,052		22,894
Rental Inspections		48,001		25,001		19,523		5,478
Total Public Safety		322,447		284,947		256,575		28,372
Public Works		626,339		559,333		544,625		14,708
Community and Economic Development								
Planning		27,325		18,825		8,744		10,081
Zoning		108,564		103,964		89,486		14,478
Total Community and Economic Development		135,889		122,789		98,230		24,559
Recreation and Culture								
Parks and Recreation		438,247		300,536		282,703		17,833
Total Expenditures		2,936,689		2,472,926		2,315,145		157,781
Other Financing Uses								
Transfers Out		261,848		1,104,811		1,104,811		
Total Expenditures and Other								
Financing Uses		3,198,537		3,577,737		3,419,956		157,781
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and								
Other Sources Over Expenditures								
and Other Uses				(2,000)		248,942		250,942
Net Change in Fund Balance				(2,000)		248,942		250,942
Fund Balance at Beginning of Period	0	3,718,979	C.	3,718,979	a.	3,718,979	10	
Fund Balance at End of Period	\$	3,718,979	\$	3,716,979	Э	3,967,921	\$	250,942

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual CARES Act For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Budgeted A iginal	mounts Final	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative) Final to Actual
Revenues	01	igiliai	Fillai	Actual	Final to Actual
	.			.	.
Intergovernmental	\$	\$		\$	\$
Total Revenues					
Expenditures					
Capital Outlay					
Total Expenditures					
Financing Uses					
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and					
Other Sources Over Expenditures					
and Other Uses					
Net Change in Fund Balance					
Fund Balance at Beginning of Period					
Fund Balance at End of Period	\$	\$		\$	\$

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Combining Balance Sheet Nonmajor Governmental Funds December 31, 2023

	Special Revenue			Debt Service							
	Metro	Metro Act Special		Transportation System Special		2013 General Obligation Bonds		General Obligation		Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds	
ASSETS											
Cash and Investments	\$	81,476	\$	83,026	\$	1	\$	30,456	\$	194,959	
Receivables, net				155,322						155,322	
Total Assets	\$	81,476	\$	238,348	\$	1	\$	30,456	\$	350,281	
LIABILITIES											
Accounts Payable	\$		\$	9,711	\$		\$		\$	9,711	
Total Liabilities				9,711						9,711	
FUND BALANCE											
Restricted		81,476		228,637		1		30,456		340,570	
Unassigned											
Total Fund Balance		81,476		228,637		1		30,456		340,570	
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$	81,476	\$	238,348	\$	1	\$	30,456	\$	350,281	

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Nonmajor Governmental Funds For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Special	Revenue	Debt			
	Metro Act Special	Transportation System Special	2013 General Obligation Bonds	General Obligation	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds	
Revenues						
Property Taxes	\$	\$ 158,117	\$	\$	\$ 158,117	
Intergovernmental	6,642				6,642	
Interest Income	399				399	
Total Revenues	7,041	158,117			165,158	
Expenditures						
Public Works		161,404			161,404	
Debt Service Principal			325,000		325,000	
Interest on Long-term Debt			27,913		27,913	
Total Expenditures		161,404	352,913		514,317	
Excess of Revenues Over						
(Under) Expenditures	7,041	(3,287)	(352,913)		(349,159)	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
Transfers In			352,913		352,913	
Net Other Financing Sources (Uses)			352,913		352,913	
Net Change in Fund Balance	7,041	(3,287)			3,754	
Fund Balance at Beginning of Period	74,435	231,924	1	30,456	336,816	
Fund Balance at End of Period	\$ 81,476	\$ 228,637	\$ 1	\$ 30,456	\$ 340,570	

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Fiduciary Net Position Fiduciary Funds December 31, 2023

		Investment Trust				
	Trust and	d Agency	Tax	Collection		l Custodial Funds
ASSETS						
Cash and Investments	\$	580	\$	137,755	\$	138,335
Total Assets		580		137,755		138,335
LIABILITIES						
Deposit Payable		580				580
Due to Other Governments				137,755		137,755
Total Liabilities		580		137,755	1	138,335
NET POSITION						
Total Net Position						

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position Fiduciary Funds For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Investme		
ADDITIONS	Trust and Agency	Tax Collection	Total Custodial Funds
Taxes Collected for Other Units of Government	1,932	29,847,420	29,849,352
Other Collections	11,266		11,266
Total Additions	13,198	29,847,420	29,860,618
DEDUCTIONS			
Payments of Property Taxes to Other Units of Government	1,932	29,847,420	29,849,352
Other Disturbutions	11,266		11,266
Total Deductions	13,198		29,860,618
Change in Net Position			
Net Position at Beginning of Period			
Net Position at End of Period	\$	\$	\$

GABRIDGE & CQ

June 27, 2024

To the Members of the Township Board

Charter Township of Pere Marquette Mason County, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Charter Township of Pere Marquette, Michigan (the "Township") for the year ended December 31, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated April 17, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Township are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. There were no new accounting policies adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by Township during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the Township's financial statements were:

• Management's estimate of the useful lives of depreciable capital assets is based on the length of time it is believed that those assets will provide some future economic.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used above in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 27, 2024.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Township's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Township's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis and the budgetary comparison schedules, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

Communication Regarding Internal Control

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Township as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the 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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph 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. In addition, because of the inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. However, as discussed below, we have identified deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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 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. We consider the following deficiencies to be material weaknesses:

Material Weakness - 2023-001 - Material Audit Adjustments and Financial Statement Preparation

Criteria: All governmental units in Michigan are required to prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This is the responsibility of the management. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires internal controls over both: 1) recording, processing, and summarizing accounting data (i.e. maintaining internal accounting records), and 2) reporting government-wide and fund financial statements, including the related notes to the financial statements (i.e. external financial reporting).

Condition: We identified and proposed material audit adjustments that management reviewed and approved.

As is the case with many small and medium-sized governmental units, the Township has historically relied on its independent external auditor to assist with the preparation of the financial statements, the related notes, and the management's discussion and analysis as part of its external financial reporting process. Accordingly, the Township's ability to prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP is based, in part, on its reliance on its external auditor, who cannot, by definition, be considered part of the Township's internal controls. Having the auditor draft the annual financial statements is allowable under current auditing standards and ethical guidelines and may be the most efficient and effective method for preparation of the Township's financial statements. However, when an entity (on its own) lacks the ability to produce financial statements that conform to GAAP, or when material audit adjustments are identified by the auditor, auditing standards require that such conditions be communicated in writing as material weaknesses.

Cause: This condition was caused by the Township's decision to outsource the preparation of its annual financial statements to the external auditor rather than incur the costs of obtaining the necessary training and expertise required for the Township to perform this task internally because outsourcing the task is considered more cost effective.

Effect: The Township's accounting records were initially misstated by amounts material to the financial statements. In addition, the Township lacks complete internal controls over the preparation of its financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and, instead, relies, at least in part, on assistance from its external auditor for assistance with this task.

Auditor's Recommendation: We recommend that management continue to monitor the relative costs and benefits of securing the internal or other external resources necessary to develop material adjustments and prepare a draft of the Township's annual financial statements versus contracting with its auditor for these services.

Management Response: Management has made an ongoing evaluation of the respective costs and benefits of obtaining internal or external resources, specifically for the preparation of financial statements, and has determined that the additional benefits derived from implementing such a system would not outweigh the costs incurred to do so. Management will continue to review the draft financial statements and notes prior to approving them and accepting responsibility for their content and presentation.

Material Weakness - 2023-002 - Segregation of Incompatible Duties

Criteria: Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls in order to safeguard the assets of the Township. A key element of internal control is the segregation of incompatible duties within the accounting function.

Condition/Finding: The Township has accounting functions which are performed by the same individual and are not subject to a documented independent review and approval. These areas include cash reconciliation, cash disbursements, cash receipting, and manual journal entries.

Cause: This condition is a result of the limited size of the Township's accounting staff.

Effect: As a result of this condition, the Township is exposed to an increased risk that misstatements (whether caused by error or fraud) may occur and not be prevented or detected and corrected by management on a timely basis.

Recommendation: While there are, of course, no easy answers to the challenge of balancing the costs and benefits of internal controls and the segregation of incompatible duties, we would nevertheless encourage management to actively seek ways to further strengthen its internal control structure by requiring as much independent review, reconciliation, and approval of accounting functions by qualified members of management as possible.

View of Responsible Officials: As a result of limited staffing, we cannot accomplish the desired segregation of duties. Management staff will provide increased oversight and review of operations to help correct errors and to deter inappropriate actions and potential fraud.

Township's Response to Findings

The Township's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Township Board and management of the Township and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Gabridge a Company

Gabridge & Company, PLC Grand Rapids, MI