

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**

Financial Statements and Supplementary Information

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor
County of Ocean
Little Egg Harbor, State of New Jersey

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor'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, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position 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 and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standard*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and in compliance with audit standards prescribed by the Local Financial Board and by the Division of Local Government Service, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. 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 Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

Prior period adjustment

As discussed in Note 12 of the financial statements, the opening net position/fund balance have been adjusted for the adoption and implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 73, *Accounting and Financial reporting for Pensions and Related Assets that are not Within the Scope of GASB Statement No. 68*, and *Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68* and for the correction of the overstatement of previously reported accrued expenses. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with 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 Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor'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, *Government Auditing Standards* and audit standards prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, 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, *Government Auditing Standards* and audit standards prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, 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 Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor'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 Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor'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 information 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.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 16, 2024 on our consideration of Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

December 16, 2024
Lakewood, New Jersey

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor
County of Ocean
Little Egg Harbor, State of New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and audit requirements as prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 16, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards, and audit requirements as prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and audit requirements as prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

December 16, 2024
Lakewood, New Jersey

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
DECEMBER 31, 2023

As management of the Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor (hereafter referred to as the District) offer the readers of the District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the District for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The intent of this narrative is to look at the District's overall financial performance in terms easily understood by the layperson. Please read this in conjunction with the District's financial statements which begin on page 13. Notes to the financial statements will provide the reader with additional useful information and they begin on page 18.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The assets of the District exceeded its liabilities at December 31, 2023, by approximately \$2,302,300. During 2022, the excess of assets over liabilities was approximately \$2,276,800. This is an increase of approximately \$25,500.
- During 2023, the District operated at a surplus of approximately \$25,500. During 2022, the District operated at a deficit of approximately (\$2,800). This is an increase of approximately \$28,300.
- The District's liabilities increased approximately \$41,800 in 2023 while assets increased by approximately \$133,000.
- As described in Note 2 to the financial statements the District has adopted the provisions of GASB Statement to No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, for the year ended December 31, 2023. The adoption of this statement did not have a material impact of the District's financial statements.
- As described in Note 12: *Prior Period Adjustment* the District has adopted the provisions of GASB Statement to No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets that are not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68* (GASB Statement No. 73) and adjusted opening net position as a result of the implementation. Additionally, the District adjusted the opening net position for the correction of the overstatement of accrued expenses recognized in prior periods. Prior year balances reflected in the MD&A have also been updated for comparison purposes.

USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The District's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: district wide financial statements; fund financial statements; and notes to the basic financial statements.

Reporting on the District as a Whole

Our analysis of the District as a whole begins on page 8. District wide financial statements are provided to give the reader a broad overview of the District's financial position and its financial activity for the year. It is presented in a format similar to the private sector to give the reader a familiar point of reference.

The district wide statement of net position presents information on all the assets and liabilities of the District. The difference between the assets and liabilities is reported as the District's net position. Significant increases or decreases in the District's net position can be an indication of the financial health of the District. The district wide statement of activities presents financial information about activities that result in the District's net position increasing or decreasing during the year. Financial activities are recorded when the transactions occur rather than when the cash is received or disbursed. As a result, there could be activities that result in cash flow in a future period.

The district wide financial statements report on the financial data by function. The District has two basic functions: activities that are supported by property taxes, and activities supported by other governmental activities. The District provides firefighting services to the citizens within the jurisdiction of Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

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. Like other state and local governments, the District uses fund accounting to document compliance with finance-related legal matters. The District has one type of fund, which is the governmental fund.

Governmental Funds

The District's activities are all reported in governmental funds. These funds record the flow of cash in and out of the District during the period and the balances remaining at year end for future periods. The modified accrual basis of accounting is utilized for reporting purposes. This method of accounting measures cash and all other financial assets that can be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the District's general government operations and the basic services that it provides. Governmental fund information helps the reader determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the District's services.

The District maintains two separate governmental funds; the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund. Information is presented in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund.

The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the district wide statement of net position and the district wide statement of activities) and governmental funds is described in a reconciliation at the bottom of the fund financial statements.

As required by *N.J.S.A. 40A:14:72.1*, the District adopts an annual budget which is approved on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in February. Budgetary comparison schedules have been prepared to document compliance with budgetary requirements.

Notes to Financial Statements

The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the district wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the financial statements.

DISTRICT WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The District's net position is a useful indicator of the District's financial condition. At the end of 2023, the District's liabilities and deferred inflows of resources exceeded its assets and deferred outflows of resources by approximately \$2,302,300. The largest portion of The District's net position is its investment in capital assets. The District uses these assets to provide fire-fighting services to the community; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. The District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt. Since the capital assets are not available to liquidate the debt, other sources must be utilized for the repayment of the debt.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023	2022	\$ Increase/ (Decrease)	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Current and noncurrent assets	\$ 2,213,751	\$ 1,918,921	\$ 294,830	15.36%
Capital assets, net	454,794	616,600	(161,806)	(26.24%)
Total assets	2,668,545	2,535,521	133,024	5.25%
Total liabilities	(366,271)	(258,718)	107,553	41.57%
Net position	<u>\$ 2,302,274</u>	<u>\$ 2,276,803</u>	<u>\$ 25,471</u>	1.12%

Analysis of net position

Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 454,794	\$ 616,600	\$ (161,806)	(26.24%)
Restricted for:				
Capital projects	1,117,416	938,416	179,000	19.07%
Unrestricted	730,064	721,787	8,277	1.15%
Total net position	<u>\$ 2,302,274</u>	<u>\$ 2,276,803</u>	<u>\$ 25,471</u>	1.12%

2023 Net Position



- Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt
- Restricted for Capital
- Unrestricted

2022 Net Position



- Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt
- Restricted for Capital
- Unrestricted

The net position of the District increased approximately \$25,500 as a result of a current year surplus. In 2023, the capital assets decreased by approximately \$161,800 after depreciation expense.

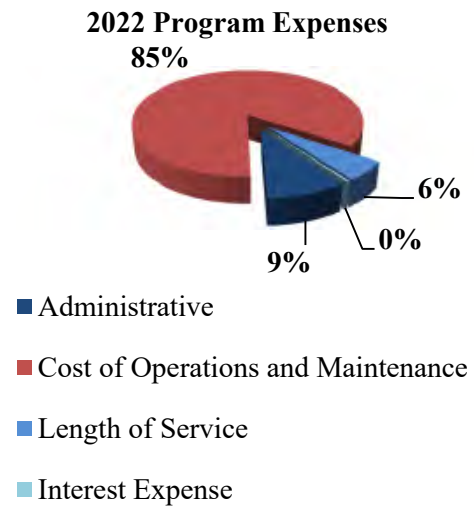
DISTRICT WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (continued)

Governmental Activities

The district wide statement of activities shows the cost of the governmental activities, program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting these costs. A summary of these activities follows:

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
Expenses:				
Program expenses:				
Administrative expenses	\$ 63,827	\$ 44,625	\$ 19,202	43.03%
Cost of operations and maintenance	379,855	411,956	(32,101)	(7.79%)
Length of service awards program contribution	27,472	27,472	-	0.00%
Interest expense	-	1,833	(1,833)	(100.00%)
Total program expenses	<u>471,154</u>	<u>485,886</u>	<u>(14,732)</u>	<u>(3.03%)</u>



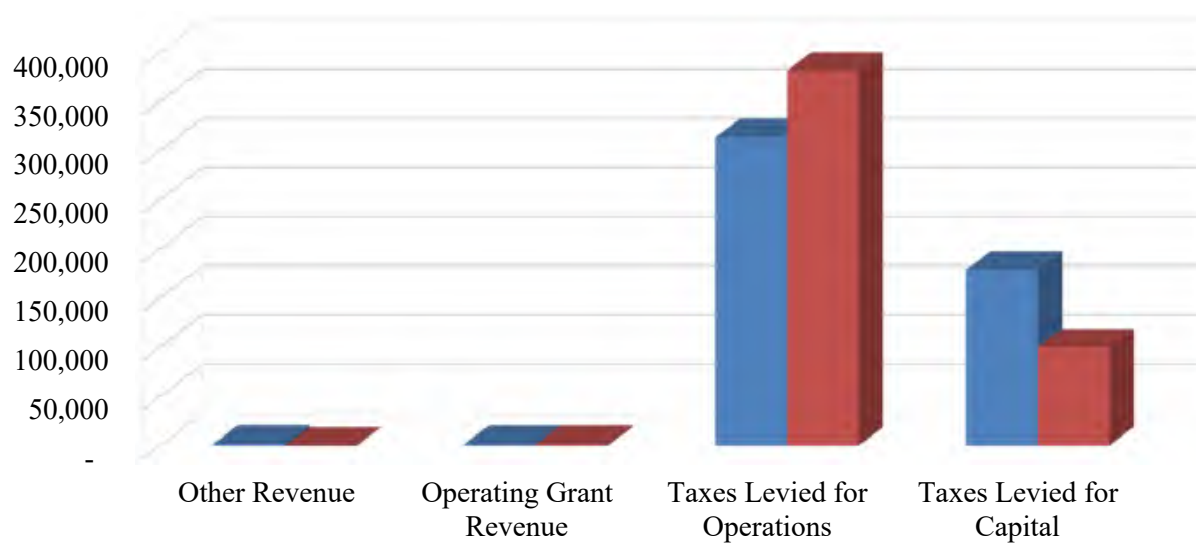
The cost of operations and maintenance comprised 81% and 85% of the District's total expenses in 2023 and 2022, respectively. Administration expenses comprised 14% and 9% of the total expenses in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

DISTRICT WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (continued)

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (continued) YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
General revenues:				
Property taxes levied for:				
General purposes	313,755	381,296	(67,541)	(17.71%)
Capital purchases	179,000	100,000	79,000	79.00%
Total property taxes levied	492,755	481,296	11,459	2.38%
Other revenue	2,125	-	2,125	100.00%
Operating grant revenue	1,745	1,745	-	0.00%
Total general revenues	496,625	483,041	13,584	2.81%
Increase (decrease) in net position	25,471	(2,845)	28,316	(995.29%)
Net position, January 1	2,276,803	2,279,648	(2,845)	(0.12%)
Net position, December 31	<u>\$ 2,302,274</u>	<u>\$ 2,276,803</u>	<u>\$ 25,471</u>	1.12%

General Revenues



Property tax revenue constituted 99% and 100% of the total governmental activities revenues received by the District in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT FUNDS

The District uses fund accounting to document compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Fund

The primary objective of the District's governmental funds is to report cash flows in and out during the period and the ending balances of the spendable resources. This information is useful to evaluate the performance of the District and to assess its future needs and available resources.

As of December 31, 2023, the combined balance of the governmental funds cash balances of the District was approximately \$1,861,200. This balance is approximately \$229,200 higher than last year's combined governmental funds cash balances.

The combined fund balance of the governmental fund of the District was approximately \$2,167,000. Of that total, funds of approximately \$1,117,400 have been restricted for capital, \$319,500 have been restricted for investment in length of service awards program, \$50,000 have been assigned for subsequent year's expenditures and \$680,100 is unassigned.

The general fund is the main operating fund of the District. At the end of 2023, the total fund balance of the general fund was approximately \$1,049,600. Of this balance, approximately \$680,100 of it was unassigned.

At the end of 2023, the general fund balance of the District increased by approximately \$71,000. The primary reason for this increase are as follows:

- The Board recognized revenues in excess of expenses of approximately \$71,000.

At the end of 2023, the District had a capital projects fund balance of approximately \$1,117,400. This is an increase of \$179,000. The primary reason for this increase are as follows:

- The Board recognized revenues in excess of expenses of approximately \$179,000.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The 2023 budget had a deficit in revenues and the District required the utilization of unrestricted surplus accumulated from prior years.

- The District recognized actual revenues that exceeded budgeted revenues by approximately \$2,100 in 2023.
- Overall, the District's expenditures were approximately \$235,200 less than originally anticipated in the operating budget for 2023.

CAPITAL ASSETS

As of December 31, 2023, the District had invested in capital assets for government activities of approximately \$454,800 (net of accumulated depreciation). Capital assets consist of vehicles and apparatus and various equipment.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
CAPITAL ASSETS
NET OF ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Increase (Decrease)</u>
Capital Assets:			
Depreciable:			
Apparatus and vehicles	\$ 2,239,748	\$ 2,239,748	\$ -
Equipment	<u>580,849</u>	<u>570,769</u>	<u>10,080</u>
Total depreciable assets	2,820,597	2,810,517	10,080
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,365,803)</u>	<u>(2,193,917)</u>	<u>(171,886)</u>
Total capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u><u>\$ 454,794</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 616,600</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (161,806)</u></u>

Additional information on the District's capital assets can be found in Note 5 in the notes to the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEARS BUDGET

The District voted to approve the budget at the February election. The 2024 adopted budget reflects an increase in the tax levy of \$12,000, in which the Board does anticipate an increase to the fire tax rate.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any question about this report or need any additional information, contact the Fire District in writing, at 827B Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey, 08087.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
District Wide Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 1,861,182
Prepaid assets	<u>33,067</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,894,249</u>
Non-current assets:	
Investment in length of service awards program: at fair value (Note 4)	<u>319,502</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>319,502</u>
Capital assets, net:	
Depreciable (Note 5)	<u>454,794</u>
Total capital assets	<u>454,794</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 2,668,545</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 32,769
Accrued expenses	<u>14,000</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>46,769</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Investment in length of service awards program liability (Note 6)	<u>319,502</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>319,502</u>
Total liabilities	<u>366,271</u>
Net Position:	
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	454,794
Restricted net position:	
Capital	1,117,416
Unrestricted	<u>730,064</u>
Total net position	<u>2,302,274</u>
Total liabilities and net position	<u><u>\$ 2,668,545</u></u>

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
District Wide Statement of Activities
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Total Governmental Activities</u>
Governmental activities:		
Operating appropriations:		
Administration	\$ 63,827	\$ 63,827
Costs of operations and maintenance	379,855	379,855
Length of service awards program	27,472	27,472
Total operating appropriations	<u>\$ 471,154</u>	471,154
General revenues:		
Miscellaneous revenues		2,125
Operating grant revenues		1,745
Amount raised by taxation		492,755
Total general revenues		<u>496,625</u>
Change in net position		25,471
Net position, January 1, unadjusted		<u>2,211,091</u>
Prior period adjustment (Note 12)		<u>65,712</u>
Net position, January 1, adjusted		<u>2,276,803</u>
Net position, December 31		<u><u>\$ 2,302,274</u></u>

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Governmental Funds
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash	\$ 1,861,182	\$ -	\$ 1,861,182
Prepaid assets	33,067	-	33,067
Other receivable (interfund)	<u>-</u>	<u>1,117,416</u>	<u>1,117,416</u>
Total current assets	1,894,249	1,117,416	3,011,665
Non-current assets:			
Investment in length of service awards program: at fair value	<u>319,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>319,502</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>319,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>319,502</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 2,213,751</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,117,416</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,331,167</u></u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	32,769	\$ -	\$ 32,769
Accrued expenses	14,000	-	14,000
Other payables (interfund)	<u>1,117,416</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,117,416</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,164,185</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,164,185</u>
FUND BALANCE			
Restricted for:			
Capital	-	1,117,416	1,117,416
Investment in length of service awards program	319,502	-	319,502
Assigned for:			
Subsequent year's expenditures	50,000	-	50,000
Unassigned, reported in:			
General fund	<u>680,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680,064</u>
Total fund balance	<u>1,049,566</u>	<u>1,117,416</u>	2,166,982
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u><u>\$ 2,213,751</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,117,416</u></u>	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position (A-1) are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	454,794
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and are therefore not reported as liabilities in the funds.	<u>(319,502)</u>
Total net position - Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 2,302,274</u></u>

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Governmental Funds
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Totals Governmental Funds
Revenues:			
Miscellaneous revenues:			
Interest on investments and deposits	\$ 625	\$ -	\$ 625
Appreciation in the value length of service awards program	35,205	-	35,205
Miscellaneous revenues	1,500	-	1,500
Total miscellaneous revenues	37,330	-	37,330
Operating grant revenues:			
Supplemental Fire Service Act	1,745	-	1,745
Total operating grant revenue	1,745	-	1,745
Amount to be raised by taxation to support budget	313,755	179,000	492,755
Total revenues	352,830	179,000	531,830
Expenditures:			
Operating appropriations:			
Administration:			
Other expenditures:			
Elections	3,292	-	3,292
Office and other administrative expenses	1,385	-	1,385
Professional services	53,645	-	53,645
Travel expenses	5,505	-	5,505
Total administration	63,827	-	63,827
Cost of operations and maintenance:			
Fringe benefits	19,824	-	19,824
Other expenditures:			
Advertising	674	-	674
Fire protection services	67,000	-	67,000
Insurance	33,907	-	33,907
Maintenance and repairs	47,976	-	47,976
Membership dues and subscriptions	300	-	300
Operating materials and supplies	4,934	-	4,934
Other non-bondable assets	10,081	-	10,081
Rent expense	29,000	-	29,000
Training and education	2,285	-	2,285
Uniforms and personnel equipment	2,068	-	2,068
Total cost of operations and maintenance	218,049	-	218,049
Total operating appropriations	281,876	-	281,876
Excess of revenues over operating appropriations	70,954	179,000	249,954
Fund balance, January 1, unadjusted	656,075	938,416	1,594,491
Prior period adjustment (Note 12)	322,537	-	322,537
Fund balance, January 1, adjusted	978,612	938,416	1,917,028
Fund balance, December 31	<u>\$ 1,049,566</u>	<u>\$ 1,117,416</u>	<u>\$ 2,166,982</u>

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balance to the District Wide Statement of Activities
For the year ended December 31, 2023

Total net changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds (B-2)	\$	249,954
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities (A-2) are different because:

Certain activity related to length of service awards program (LOSAP) is not reported in governmental funds, whereas such activity is a component of the investment in length of service awards program liability reported on the district wide statement of net position.

Length of service awards program contribution	(27,472)	
Appreciation in the value length of service awards program	<u>(35,205)</u>	
		(62,677)

Capital Outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the district wide statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense.

Capital Outlay - General Fund	10,080	
Depreciation expense	<u>(171,886)</u>	
		<u>(161,806)</u>

Change in total net position - Governmental Activities	\$	<u><u>25,471</u></u>
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FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Description of Reporting Entity

Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor (hereafter referred to as the District) is a political subdivision of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey (the State). A board of five commissioners (the Board) oversees all of the operations of the District. The length of each commissioner's term is three years with the annual election held the third Saturday of February.

Fire Districts are governed by the *N.J.S.A. 40A: 14-70 et al.* and are taxing authorities charged with the responsibility of providing the resources necessary to provide firefighting services to the residents within its territorial location.

The primary criterion for including activities within the District's reporting entity, as set forth in Section 2100 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*, is whether:

- the organization is legally separate (can sue or be sued in their own name);
- the District holds the corporate powers of the organization;
- the District appoints a voting majority of the organization's board;
- the District is able to impose its will on the organization;
- the organization has the potential to impose a financial benefit/burden on the District;
- there is a fiscal dependency by the organization on the District.

According to the criteria above, there were no additional entities required to be included in the reporting entity. Furthermore, the District is not includable in any other reporting entity based on such criteria.

District Officials

The District is governed by a board of five commissioners. The following were in office at December 31, 2023:

Officials	Term Expires: March
Jeff Chaplin	2026
Michael Coover	2026
Pete Rao	2024
Lisa Stevens	2024
Michael Tompkins	2025

Accounting Records

The official accounting records of the District are maintained in the office of the District.

Minutes

Minutes were recorded for meetings and contained approvals for disbursements.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 1: GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

Component Units

GASB Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, provides guidance that all entities associated with a primary government are potential component units and should be evaluated for inclusion in the financial reporting entity. A primary government is financially accountable not only for the organizations that make up its legal entity but also for legally separate organizations that meet the criteria established by GASB Statement No. 14, as amended by GASB Statement No. 39, *Determining Whether Certain Organizations are Component Units* and GASB Statement No. 61, *The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnis - an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34 and GASB Statement No. 80, Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units*. The District had no component units as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023.

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of the District conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) applicable to governmental funds of state and local governments in accordance with the provisions of *N.J.A.C. 5:31-7-1*. GASB is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the District's accounting policies are described below.

The district wide financial statements report using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting generally include the reclassification or elimination of internal activity (between or within funds). Fiduciary fund financial statements also report using the same focus. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. The tax revenues are recognized in the year for which they are levied (see Note 2: *Fire District Taxes*) while grants are recognized when grantor eligibility requirements are met.

Governmental fund financial statements report using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon thereafter, within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the District are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting to ensure observance of limitations and restrictions on the resources available. The principles of fund accounting require that resources be classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds or account groups in accordance with activities or objectives specified for the resources. Each fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. An account group, on the other hand, is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities that are not recorded in the funds because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources.

Funds are classified into three categories: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary. Each category, in turn is divided into separate "fund types."

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund Accounting (continued)

Governmental Funds:

General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District and is used to account for the inflows and outflows of financial resources. The acquisition of certain capital assets, such as firefighting apparatus and equipment, is accounted for in the General Fund when it is responsible for the financing of such expenditures.

Capital Projects Fund

The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities such as firehouses and firefighting apparatus. Generally, the financial resources of the Capital Projects Fund are derived from the issuance of debt or by the reservation of fund balance, which must be authorized by the voters as a separate question on the ballot either during the annual election or at a special election.

District Wide and Fund Financial Statements

District Wide Financial Statements

The district wide financial statements (A-1 and A-2) include the district wide statement of net position and the district wide statement of activities. These statements report financial information of the District as a whole excluding the fiduciary activities. All inter-fund activity, excluding the fiduciary funds, has been eliminated in the district wide statement of activities. Individual funds are not displayed but the statements distinguish governmental activities as generally supported through taxes and user fees. The district wide statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function, segment or component unit are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function, segment, or component unit. Program revenues include charges to customers who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods or services provided by a given function, segment or component unit.

Net position is restricted when constraints placed on it is either externally imposed or imposed by constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Internally imposed designations of resources are not presented as restricted net position. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, generally it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Fund Financial Statements

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, fiduciary funds and similar component units, and major component units. However, the fiduciary funds are not included in the district wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds and major individual enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

The fund financial statements provide detail of the governmental funds.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds and private purpose trust funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net position.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used for measuring financial position and operating results of all governmental fund types, private purpose trust funds, and agency funds. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. State equalization monies are recognized as revenue during the period in which they are appropriated. A one-year availability period is used for revenue recognition for all other governmental fund revenues. Expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt which is recorded when due.

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The District must adopt an annual budget in accordance with State of New Jersey Admin Code § 5:31-2.4.

The fire commissioners must introduce and adopt the annual budget no later than sixty days prior to the annual election. At introduction, the commissioners shall fix the time and place for a public hearing on the budget and must advertise the time and place at least ten days prior to the hearing in a newspaper having substantial circulation in the District. The public hearing must not be held less than twenty-eight days after the date the budget was introduced. After the hearing has been held, the fire commissioners may, by majority vote, adopt the budget. Amendments may be made to the District budget in accordance with *N.J.S.A 40A: 14-78.3*. The budget may be amended subsequent to its final adoption and approval for additional items of revenue with offsetting appropriations in accordance with *N.J.S.A 40A: 14-78.5*. Subsequent to the adoption of the District budget, the amount of money to be raised by taxation in support of the District budget must appear on the ballot for the annual election for approval of the legal voters.

Fire districts have a prescribed budgetary basis to demonstrate legal compliance. However, budgets are adopted on principally the same basis of accounting utilized for the preparation of the Districts general-purpose financial statements.

Encumbrances

Under encumbrance accounting, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of resources are recorded to reserve a portion of the applicable appropriation. Open encumbrances, other than in the special revenue fund, are reported as reservations of fund balances at year-end as they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities but rather commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods and services. Encumbered appropriations carry over into the next fiscal year. An entry will be made at the beginning of the next year to increase the appropriation reflected in the adopted budget by the outstanding encumbrance amounts as of the current year-end. The District did not recognize encumbrances as of December 31, 2023.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include petty cash, change funds and cash in banks. Fire Districts are required by *N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-14* to deposit public funds in a bank or trust company having its place of business in the State organized under the laws of the United States or of the State or with the New Jersey Cash Management Fund. *N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-15.1* provides a list of investments that may be purchased by fire districts. *N.J.S.A. 17:9-42* requires New Jersey governmental units to deposit public funds only in public depositories located in New Jersey, where the funds are secured in accordance with the provision of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA). GUDPA was enacted in 1970 to protect governmental units from a loss of funds on deposit with a failed banking institution in the State of New Jersey.

Public funds are defined as the funds of any governmental unit. Public depositories include savings and loan institutions, banks (both State and National banks) and savings banks the deposits of which they are federally insured. All public depositories must pledge collateral, having a market value of five percent of its average daily balance of collected public funds, to secure the deposits of governmental units. If public depository fails, the collateral it has pledged, plus the collateral of all other public depositories, is available to pay the full amount of their deposits to the governmental units.

Accounts Receivables

Accounts receivables represent amounts due from intergovernmental agencies for amounts raised by taxation and grant awards. Accounts receivables are reported net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts and revenues net of uncollectibles. Allowances are reported when accounts are proven to be uncollectible.

Prepaid Assets

Prepaid assets that benefit future periods are recorded as an expenditure during the year of purchase.

Other Receivable/Payable

Other receivables and payables are interfunds receivables and payables that arise from transactions between funds that are due within one year are recorded by all funds affected by such transactions in the periods in which the transaction is executed.

Investments

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Board determines the valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisers, custodians, and insurance company. See Note 4: *Investments Held at Fair Value*.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include fire equipment and vehicles and apparatus are reported in the Government-Wide Financial Statements. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual cost is not available. Donated assets are valued at their estimated fair value on the date donated. The District has set capitalization thresholds for reporting capital assets of \$1,000. Depreciation is recorded on the straight-line method (with half year depreciation applied to the first year of acquisition) over the useful lives of the assets as follows:

<u>Description:</u>	<u>Useful Lives:</u>
Apparatus and vehicles	5 – 12 Years
Equipment	5 Years

Inventory, Materials and Supplies

The inventory on hand at any time is small. Accordingly, purchases are charged directly to capital assets or to maintenance costs, as applicable.

Debt Limitation

N.J.S.A.40A:14-84 governs procedures for the issuance of any debt related to such purchases. In summary, Fire Districts may purchase firefighting apparatus, equipment, land and buildings to house such property in an amount not exceeding 5 mills on the dollar of the last assessed valuation of property within the district upon the approval of the legal voters. Debt may be issued up to \$60,000 or 2 percent of the assessed valuation of property, whichever is larger.

Revenues and Expenditures – Governmental Funds

Revenues are recorded when they are determined to be both available and measurable. Generally, fees and other non-tax revenues are recognized when qualifying expenditures are incurred. Expenditures are recorded when the related liability is incurred, if measurable, except for un-matured interest on general long-term debt, which is recognized when due.

Fire District Taxes

Upon proper certification to the assessor of the municipality in which the District is located, the assessor shall assess the amount of taxes to be realized in support of the District's budget in the same manner as all other municipal taxes. The collector or treasurer of the municipality shall then pay over to the treasurer or custodian of funds of the District the taxes assessed in accordance with the following schedule: on or before April 1, an amount equaling 21.25% of all monies assessed; on or before July 1, an amount equaling 22.5% of all monies assessed, on or before October 1, an amount equaling 25% of all monies assessed and on or before December 31 an amount equal to the difference between the total of all monies assessed and the total of monies previously paid over.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund Equity

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, the District classifies governmental fund balances as follows:

- Non-spendable – includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because it is not in spendable form or because legal or contractual constraints.
- Restricted – includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by external parties, constitutional provision or enabling legislation.
- Committed – includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government through formal action of the highest level of decision making and does not lapse at year-end.
- Assigned – includes fund balance amounts that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are neither considered restricted or committed. Fund Balance may be assigned by the Board.
- Unassigned – includes balance within the General Fund which has not been classified within the aforementioned categories and negative fund balances in other governmental funds.

Reserves represent those portions of fund equity not available for appropriation for expenditure or legally segregated for a specific future use. Designated fund balances represent plans for future use of financial resources.

Net Position

Net position, represents the difference between summation of assets and deferred outflows of resources, and the summation of liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net position is classified in the following three components:

- Net Investment in Capital Assets – This component represents capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, net of outstanding balances of borrowings used for acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- Restricted – Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.
- Unrestricted – Net position is reported as unrestricted when it does not meet the criteria of the other two components of net position.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

Accounting Pronouncements Adopted in Current Year

The following GASB Statements were adopted for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023:

- Statement No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68.*

See Note 12: *Prior Period Adjustment* for additional information.

The following GASB Statements became effective for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023:

- Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements.*

The implementation of this statement did not have a material impact on the District's financial statements and related disclosures.

Accounting Pronouncements Effective in Future Reporting Periods

The following accounting pronouncements will become effective in future reporting periods:

- Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – an amendment of GASB Statement 62.* The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023.
- Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures.* The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024.

Management has not yet determined the potential impact these Statements will have on the District's financial statements.

Subsequent Events

The District has evaluated subsequent events occurring after December 31, 2023 through the date of December 16, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 3: CASH

The District is governed by the deposit and investment limitations of State law. The deposits and investments held at December 31, 2023, and reported at fair value are as follows:

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>
Deposits:	
Demand deposits	\$ 1,860,382
Petty cash	800
Total deposits	<u>\$ 1,861,182</u>
Reconciliation to the Governmental Fund Statements:	
Current assets:	
Cash	\$ 1,861,182
Total	<u>\$ 1,861,182</u>

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned. The District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2023, the District's bank balance of \$1,871,739 was insured or collateralized as follows:

Insured	\$ 250,000
Collateralized in the District's name under GUDPA	1,621,739
Total	<u>\$ 1,871,739</u>

NOTE 4: INVESTMENTS HELD AT FAIR VALUE

Custodial Credit Risk

For an investment, custodial credit risk is a risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Investment securities are exposed to custodial credit risk if the securities are uninsured, are not registered in the name of the District, and are held by either the counterparty or the counterparty's trust department or agent but not in the District's name.

Investment Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates that will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The District has no formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. The District has no investment policy that limits its investment choices other than the limitation of state law as follows:

- Bonds or other obligations of the United States of America or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America;
- Government money market mutual funds;

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 4: INVESTMENTS HELD AT FAIR VALUE (continued)

Investment Interest Rate Risk (continued)

- Any obligation that a federal agency or federal instrumentality has issued in accordance with an act of Congress, which security has a maturity date not greater than 397 days from the date of purchase, provided that such obligations bear a fixed rate of interest not dependent on any index or other external factor;
- Bonds or other obligations of the District or bonds or other obligations of the local unit or units within which the District is located;
- Bonds or other obligations, having a maturity date of not more than 397 days from the date of purchase, approved by the Division of Investment in the Department of Treasury for investment by the District;
- Local Government investment pools;
- Deposits with the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. 1977, c.281; or
- Agreements for the repurchase of fully collateralized securities.

Fair Value Measurement

The District categorizes its assets and liabilities measured at fair value into a three-level hierarchy based on the priority of the inputs to the valuation technique used to determine fair value. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level I) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level III). In the hierarchy, the categorization is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Assets and liabilities valued at fair value are categorized based on the inputs to the valuation techniques as follows:

Level I – Inputs that utilize quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Organization has the ability to access. Fair values for these instruments are estimated using pricing models or quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics.

Level II – Inputs that include quoted market prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.

Level III – Inputs that are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, which are typically based on an entity's assumptions, as there is little, if any, related market activity. Fair values for these instruments are estimated using appraised values.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the District may remeasure the carrying value of assets and liabilities measured on a nonrecurring basis to fair value. Adjustments to fair value usually result when certain assets are impaired. Such assets are written down from their carrying amounts to their fair value. The following methods and assumptions were used by the District in estimating the fair value of its financial instruments:

Registered Investment Companies – Investments in registered investment companies consist of shares of mutual funds that are valued at quoted market prices which represent the net asset value (NAV) of shares held by the Plan at year-end.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 4: INVESTMENTS HELD AT FAIR VALUE (continued)

Fair Value Measurement (continued)

The preceding methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the LOSAP Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date. The following table sets forth by level, within the value hierarchy, the District's investments at fair value at December 31, 2023.

	<u>Level I</u>	<u>Level II</u>	<u>Level III</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Registered investment companies</i>	\$ 319,502	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 319,502
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 319,502</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 319,502</u>

NOTE 5: CAPITAL ASSETS

N.J.S.A. 40A: 14-84 governs the procedures for the acquisition of property and equipment for fire districts, and the *N.J.S.A. 40A: 14-85-87* governs procedures for the issuance of any debt related to such purchases. In summary, fire districts may purchase firefighting apparatus, equipment, land, and buildings to house such property in an amount not exceeding five mills on the dollar of the least assessed valuation of property within the District upon the approval of the legal voters. Debt may be issued up to \$60,000 or two percent of the assessed valuation of property, whichever is larger. Capital assets consisted of the following at December 31, 2023:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Governmental activities:				
Depreciable assets:				
Apparatus and vehicles	\$ 2,239,748	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,239,748
Equipment	570,769	10,080	-	580,849
Total depreciable assets	<u>2,810,517</u>	<u>10,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,820,597</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation:				
Apparatus and vehicles	(1,752,437)	(121,062)	-	(1,873,499)
Equipment	(441,480)	(50,824)	-	(492,304)
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,193,917)</u>	<u>(171,886)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,365,803)</u>
Total capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ 616,600</u>	<u>\$ (161,806)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 454,794</u>

NOTE 6: LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the following changes occurred in long-term obligations:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Accrued/ increases</u>	<u>(Retired)/ (decreases)</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due within One Year</u>
Length of service awards program payable	\$ 256,825	\$ 62,677	\$ -	\$ 319,502	\$ -
Total	<u>\$ 256,825</u>	<u>\$ 62,677</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 319,502</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 6: LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Length of Service Awards Program

For details on the length of service awards program liability, refer to Note 8: *Length of Service Awards Program*. The District's annual required contribution to the length of service awards program is budgeted and paid from the general fund on an annual basis.

NOTE 7: LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM

The District's length of service awards program (LOSAP), which is reported in the District's general fund, pursuant to Section 457 (e)(11)(B) of the Internal Service Code of 1986, as amended, except for provisions added by reason of the LOSAP as enacted into federal law in 1997. The LOSAP provides tax deferred income benefits to active volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel. The tax deferred income benefits for the active volunteer firefighters serving the residents the Township of Little Egg Harbor come from contributions made solely by the governing body of the District, on behalf of those volunteers who meet the criteria of a LOSAP Plan created by that governing body. Participants should refer to the LOSAP Plan agreement for a more complete description of the LOSAP Plan's provisions.

Contributions

If an active member meets the year of active service requirement, a length of service awards program must provide a benefit between the minimum contribution of \$100 and a maximum contribution of \$1,150 per year. While the maximum amount is established by statute, it is subject to periodic increases that are related to the consumer price index (*N.J.S.A. 40A:14-185(f)*). The Division of Local Government Services of the State will issue the permitted maximum annually. The District elected to contribute \$1,717 for the year ended December 31, 2023, per eligible volunteer, into the LOSAP Plan. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the District contributed a total of \$27,472 to the LOSAP Plan. Participants direct the investment of the contributions into various investment options offered by the LOSAP Plan. The District has no authorization to direct investment contributions on behalf of eligible volunteers nor has the ability to purchase or sell investment options offered by the LOSAP Plan. The types of investment options, and the administering of such investments, rests solely with the LOSAP Plan administrator.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the District's contribution and LOSAP Plan earnings, and charged with administrative expenses. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account. The District has placed the amounts deferred, including earnings, in a trust maintained by a third-party administrator for the exclusive benefit of the LOSAP Plan participants and their beneficiaries. Such funds, although subject to the claims of the District's creditors until distributed as benefit payments, are not available for funding the operations of the District. The funds may also be used to pay the administrative fees charged by the LOSAP Plan Administrator. AIG (Plan Administrator), an approved LOSAP program provider, is the administrator of the LOSAP Plan. The District's practical involvement in administering the LOSAP Plan is essentially limited to verifying the eligibility of each participant and remitting the funds to the LOSAP Plan Administrator.

Vesting

Benefits, plus actual earnings thereon, are one hundred percent (100%) vested after five (5) years of service.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 7: LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (continued)

Payment of Benefits

Upon retirement or disability, participants may select various payout options, which include lump sum, periodic, or annuity payments. In the case of death, with certain exceptions, any amount invested under the participant's account is paid to the beneficiary or the participant's estate. In the event of an unforeseeable emergency, as outlined in the Plan document, a participant or a beneficiary entitled to vested accumulated deferrals may request the local plan administrator to payout a portion of vested accumulated deferrals. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the District did not recognize payment of benefit to vested participants.

Forfeited Accounts

There were no forfeited amounts during the year ended December 31, 2023.

Investments

The investments of the LOSAP Plan are reported on the governmental funds balance sheet are recorded at fair, see Note 2: *Investments*.

Plan Information

Additional information about the District's LOSAP Plan can be obtained by contacting the LOSAP Plan Administrator.

NOTE 8: CONCENTRATIONS

A significant source of revenue for the District comes from its ability to levy property taxes (see Note 2: *Fire District Taxes* for detail on property taxes). The ability to levy property taxes, and the limits to which property taxes can be levied, are promulgated by State statute. As a result of this dependency, the District's operations are significantly reliant and impacted by State laws and regulations regarding property taxes.

NOTE 9: FUNDING

The activities of the District are primarily funded by the striking of the fire tax on the property owners of the District, as provided for by the state statute. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the fire tax rate on the District was approximately \$.054 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The tax revenue is supplemented by income earned on surplus funds invested in a money market fund and investments during the year. The District also participates in the Supplemental Fire Services Program and received a basic entitlement grant of approximately \$1,745.

NOTE 10: OTHER RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

Other receivable/payable is used as interfunds for short-term borrowing. As of December 31, 2023, the following interfund balances remained on the balance sheet:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Interfund receivable</u>	<u>Interfund payable</u>
General	\$ -	\$ 1,117,416
Capital projects	1,117,416	-
Total	<u>\$ 1,117,416</u>	<u>\$ 1,117,416</u>

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 10: OTHER RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES (continued)

Interfund receivables/payables represent amounts that are owed, other than charges for goods or services rendered to/from a particular fund in the District and that are due within one year. As previously mentioned, these amounts are eliminated in the district wide statement of net position, except for the net residual amounts due between governmental and district wide financial statements, which are presented as internal balances in the district wide statement of net position.

NOTE 11: FUND BALANCE

Restricted

As stated in note 1, the restricted fund balance classification includes amounts that are restricted to specific purposes. Such restrictions, or constraints, are placed on the use of resources by either of the following: (1) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Specific restrictions of the District's fund balance are summarized as follows:

General Fund (Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP)) – Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:14-187*, all accumulated proceeds shall remain restricted for the volunteer members. As a result, there exists at December 31, 2023 a restricted fund, fund balance in the amount of \$319,502 for future benefit payments of volunteers.

Capital Projects Fund (Future Capital Outlays) – These funds are restricted for future capital expenditures to be made in future years. When the District desires to utilize these funds in their annual budget, a capital resolution must be passed by the Board of Fire Commissioners prior to any expenditure against a capital appropriation. As of December 31, 2023, the balance is \$1,117,416.

Assigned

As stated in note 1, the assigned fund balance classification includes amounts that are constrained by the District's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Specific assignments of the District's fund balance are summarized as follows:

General Fund (For Subsequent Year's Expenditures) – The District has appropriated and included as anticipated revenue for the year ending December 31, 2024, \$50,000 of general fund, fund balance at December 31, 2023.

Unassigned

As stated in note 1, the unassigned fund balance classification represents fund balance that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes. The District's unassigned fund balance is summarized as follows:

General Fund – As of December 31, 2023, \$680,064 of general fund balance was unassigned.

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 12: PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

Governmental activities net position and governmental funds, general fund, fund balance as of January 1, 2023, has been restated for the implementation of GASB Statement No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets that are not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68* (GASB Statement No. 73). Additionally, in the current year, management identified an overstatement of accrued expenses as of December 31, 2022.

The implementation of GASB Statement No. 73 and the correction of the identified error has been accounted for as a prior period adjustment to opening net position and fund balance in accordance with GAAP and *Government Auditing Standards*. The adjustment on the relevant financial statement line items is presented below:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Governmental Funds General Fund</u>
Net Position / Fund Balance as previously reported on December 31, 2022	\$ 2,211,091	\$ 656,075
Prior period adjustment –		
Implementation of GASB Statement No. 73:		
Addition of length of service awards program non-current asset	256,825	256,825
Addition of length of service awards program liability	(256,825)	-
Prior period adjustment –		
Correction of overstatement of accrued expenses:		
Removal of accrued expenses	65,712	65,712
Total prior period adjustment	65,712	322,537
Net Position / Fund Balance as restated January 1, 2023	<u>\$ 2,276,803</u>	<u>\$ 978,612</u>

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Modified Budget	Actual Budgetary Basis	Variance
Revenues:				
Miscellaneous revenues:				
Interest on investments and deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 625	\$ 625
Other revenues	-	-	1,500	1,500
Total miscellaneous revenues	-	-	2,125	2,125
Operating grant revenues:				
Supplemental Fire Service Act	1,745	1,745	1,745	-
Total operating grant revenue	1,745	1,745	1,745	-
Amount to be raised by taxation to support budget	492,755	492,755	492,755	-
Total anticipated revenues	494,500	494,500	496,625	2,125
Expenditures:				
Operating appropriations:				
Administration:				
Other expenditures:				
Elections	6,500	6,500	3,292	3,208
Office and other administrative expenses	6,500	6,500	1,385	5,115
Professional services	34,000	34,000	53,645	(19,645)
Travel expenses	11,000	11,000	5,505	5,495
Total administration:	58,000	58,000	63,827	(5,827)
Cost of operations and maintenance:				
Fringe benefits	43,000	43,000	19,824	23,176
Other expenditures:				
Advertising	3,000	3,000	674	2,326
Fire protection services	67,000	67,000	67,000	-
Insurance	30,000	30,000	33,907	(3,907)
Maintenance and repairs	40,000	40,000	47,976	(7,976)
Membership dues and subscriptions	1,000	1,000	300	700
Operating materials and supplies	2,000	2,000	4,934	(2,934)
Other non-bondable assets	40,000	40,000	10,081	29,919
Rent expense	29,000	29,000	29,000	-
Training and education	12,000	12,000	2,285	9,715
Uniforms and personnel equipment	8,000	8,000	2,068	5,932
Utilities	2,500	2,500	-	2,500
Total cost of operations and maintenance:	277,500	277,500	218,049	59,451
Capital appropriations:				
Future capital outlay	179,000	179,000	-	179,000
Total capital appropriations	179,000	179,000	-	179,000
Length of service awards program	30,000	30,000	27,472	2,528
Total operating appropriations	544,500	544,500	309,348	235,152
Excess (efficiency) of revenues over (under) operating appropriations	(50,000)	(50,000)	187,277	237,277
Fund balance, January 1, unadjusted	1,594,491	1,594,491	1,594,491	-
Prior period adjustment (Note 12)	-	-	65,712	65,712
Fund balance, January 1, adjusted	1,594,491	1,594,491	1,660,203	65,712
Fund balance, December 31	\$ 1,544,491	\$ 1,544,491	1,847,480	\$ (237,277)
RECAPICULATION OF FUND BALANCE				
Restricted fund balance:				
Capital			1,117,416	
Assigned fund balance:				
Designated for subsequent year's expenditures - General Fund			50,000	
Unassigned fund balance			680,064	
Total - Budgetary Basis			1,847,480	
Reconciliation to the Governmental Fund financial statements:				
Restricted fund balance:				
Investment in length of service awards program not recognized on the Budgetary Basis			319,502	
Total fund balance - Governmental Funds			\$ 2,166,982	

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
Budgetary Basis to the Governmental Funds Reconciliation
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Total Governmental Funds
Sources / inflows of resources:	
Actual amounts (Budgetary Basis) revenues from the Budgetary Comparison Schedule (C-1)	\$ 496,625
Difference from budgetary basis to the Governmental Funds:	
Budgetary basis differs in that the District does not budget for length of service awards program investment income. GASB 73 requires the investment appreciation in the length of service awards program to be shown in financial statements using the current financial resources measurement focus and modified accrual basis of accounting:	
Appreciation in value of investments	<u>35,205</u>
Total revenues as reported on the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances (B-2)	<u>\$ 531,830</u>
Use / outflows of resources:	
Actual amounts (Budgetary Basis) operating appropriations from the Budgetary Comparison Schedule (C-1)	\$ 309,348
Difference from budgetary basis to the Governmental Funds:	
Budgetary basis differs in that the District is required to budget for contributions to the length of service awards program. However, GASB Statement No. 73 requires expenditures in paid in accordance with the LOSAP plan be shown under the current financial resources measurement focus and modified accrual basis of accounting as follows:	
Length of service awards program contribution	<u>(27,472)</u>
Total operating appropriations as reported on the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances (B-2)	<u>\$ 281,876</u>

Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor
County of Ocean
Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Fire District No. 2 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, (hereafter referred to as the District), County of Ocean, State of New Jersey for the year ended December 31, 2023. In accordance with requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, the following are the *General Comments* and *Recommendations* for the year then ended.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Contracts and Agreements Required to be Advertised by *N.J.S.A.40A:11-4*

N.J.S.A.40A:11-4 - Every contract or agreement, for the performance of any work or furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies, the cost or the contract price whereof is to be paid with or out of public funds not included within the terms of Section 3 of this act, shall be made or awarded only by the governing body of the contracting unit after public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except as is provided otherwise in this act or specifically by any other Law. No work, materials or supplies shall be undertaken, acquired or furnished for a sum exceeding in the aggregate \$44,000, except by contract or agreement.

It is pointed out that the Commissioners of the District have the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory minimum within the fiscal year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the solicitor's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

Review of the minutes and financial transactions did not identify any bids requested by public advertising.

The minutes indicate that resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services," per *N.J.S.A.40A:11-5*.

Inasmuch as the system of records did not provide for an accumulation of payments for categories for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies, the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed. The results of our examination did not disclose any discrepancies.

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Solicitation of Quotations

The examination of expenditures revealed individual payments, contracts, or agreements in excess of \$6,600 "for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies", other than those where bids had been previously sought by public advertisement or where a resolution had been previously adopted under the provision of (*N.J.S.A.40A:11-6.1*), the supporting documentation indicated that quotes were requested for all items that required them.

Examination of Cash Receipts

A test check of cash receipts was performed.

Examination of Bills

A test check of paid bills was performed and each bill, upon proper approval, was considered as a separate and individual contract unless the records disclosed it to be a part payment or estimate.

Capital Assets

The capital asset subledger was maintained properly and a reconciliation between the physical and perpetual inventory records was performed at year-end.

Budget Adoption

The State of New Jersey requires that the District's operating and capital budgets be approved and adopted for each fiscal year. The District approved the operating and capital budget on December 6, 2022 and adopted the operating and capital budget on January 17, 2023.

Current Year Findings:

There were no current year findings.

Follow-up on Prior Year's Findings:

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and audit requirements prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, our procedures included a review of all prior year findings. There were no prior year findings.

Acknowledgment

We received the complete cooperation of all the staff of the District, and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to the members of the audit team. During our audit, we did not note any problems or weaknesses significant enough that would affect our ability to express an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole.

Should you have any questions, please contact us.

HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

December 16, 2024
Lakewood, New Jersey