

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

REPORT OF AUDIT

DECEMBER 31, 2023

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

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COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

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COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3

OFFICIALS IN OFFICE AND SURETY BONDS

The following officials were in office during 2023

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF SURETY BOND</u>
<u>Board of Fire Commissioners</u>		
James D'Ambrosio Jr.	Chairman	(A)
Larry Coffman Sr.	Treasurer	(A)
James D'Ambrosio III	Secretary	(A)
David Carangi	Commissioner	(A)
William Bitting	Commissioner	(A)

(A): VFIS provides blanket employee dishonesty coverage for a limited amount of \$100,000.

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FINANCIAL SECTION

The following financial statements are prepared in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles and practices of the United States of America. The financial statements are prepared on the basis of the accounting records and other supporting data furnished by the client. The financial statements are prepared on the basis of the accounting records and other supporting data furnished by the client. The financial statements are prepared on the basis of the accounting records and other supporting data furnished by the client.

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NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA

A Professional Association

Certified Public Accountants

991 S. Black Horse Pike
P.O. Box 799
Williamstown, NJ 08094

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

President and Members of the
Commercial Township Fire District No. 3
County of Cumberland
Laurel Lake, New Jersey

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, 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 Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey'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, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, 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 Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, 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.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements (Cont.)

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 Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey'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 Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey'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 Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey'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 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 Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey'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. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of 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 nonmajor fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory and insurance sections of the annual report. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with **Government Auditing Standards**, we have also issued our report dated April 23, 2024 on our consideration of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants 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 the effectiveness of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Governments Auditing Standards* in considering Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Colavita', is written over a faint, circular embossed seal. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Raymond Colavita, C.P.A., R.M.A.
April 23, 2024

NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA

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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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

President and Members of the
Commercial Township Fire District No. 3
County of Cumberland
Laurel Lake, 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 1, in the County of Cumberland, 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 Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 23, 2024.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey'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 Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey'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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

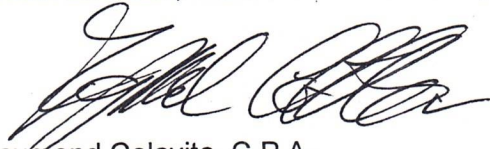
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under **Government Auditing Standards**.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with **Government Auditing Standards** in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. However, this report is a matter of public record.

Respectfully submitted,

NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Colavita', written over a horizontal line.

Raymond Colavita, C.P.A.
Registered Municipal Accountant
April 23, 2024

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – PART I

**COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
UNAUDITED**

As management of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, we offer readers of the Fire District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of our financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2023. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Fire District's financial performance as a whole. Readers should also review the information furnished in the notes to the basic financial statements and other financial statements along with the financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Fire District's financial performance. This presentation is in conformance with GASB 34, which provides more detailed comparisons to prior year financial information.

Financial Highlights

- The assets of Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent year by \$357,074 which constitutes Net Position.
- As of the close of the current year, the Fire District's governmental funds reported ending fund balances of \$65,106, an increase of \$23,720 in comparison with the prior year.

Overview of Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's basic financial statements, which comprise three components: (1) district-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, and (3) notes to the basic financial statements.

District-wide Financial Statements. The district-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Fire District's finances, in a manner similar to a private sector business, on a longer-term view. They also reflect what funds remain available for future spending.

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all of the Fire District's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two 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 Fire District is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's Net Position changed during the most recent 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 in this statement for certain items that will result in cash flows in future periods.

Both of the district-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities). The activities of the Fire District include firefighting/suppression services that are provided to the citizens of the Mauricetown area of Commercial Township.

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 Fire District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of Fire District No. 3 constitute one fund type, which is the governmental fund type.

Governmental Funds. All of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called the modified accrual basis of accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Fire District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Government fund information provides insight as to determining a range of financial resources available to finance fire-fighting/suppression services in the near future.

Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 may maintain a maximum of four 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, special revenue fund, capital projects fund, and the debt service fund. At present, it is only necessary to maintain a general fund.

The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements on Exhibit B-3.

Also, Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 adopts an annual budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14:78-3. Budgetary comparison schedules have been provided to demonstrate compliance regarding spending within the budget, as well as provide management with a planning tool to achieve the goals of the District.

Notes to the Financial Statements. The notes 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 financial statements are an integral part of the financial statements.

District-wide Financial Analysis

The Net Position reported each year, and amount of change thereon, provide a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, Assets totaled \$673,292 and Liabilities totaled \$316,218 at the close of the most recent year.

A portion of the Fire District's Net Position reflects its investment in capital assets (i.e., land buildings, equipment) less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The District uses these assets to provide fire-fighting/suppression services to the citizens of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3. Consequently these assets are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from operating sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate those liabilities.

Statement of Net Position

Table 1 provides a comparative summary of the Fire District's Net Position for the years ended in 2023 and 2022.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Cash	\$ 155,700	\$ 132,432
Accounts Receivable	861	
Prepaid Grant Expenditures	7,245	
Capital Assets, Net	509,486	572,070
Total Assets	<u>673,292</u>	<u>704,502</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	14,226	20,132
Due to LOSAP Fund	11,730	13,685
Accrued Interest Payable	1,096	1,212
Unearned Revenue	37,178	
Noncurrent Liabilities:		
Reserve for LOSAP	65,499	57,229
Capital Lease:		
Due Within One Year	91,629	88,508
Due Beyond One Year	94,860	186,489
Total Liabilities	<u>316,218</u>	<u>367,255</u>
Net Position	<u>357,074</u>	<u>337,247</u>
Analysis of Net Position		
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	322,997	297,073
Restricted for:		
Future Capital Outlay	61,607	36,607
Debt Service	179	179
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(27,709)	3,388
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 357,074</u>	<u>\$ 337,247</u>

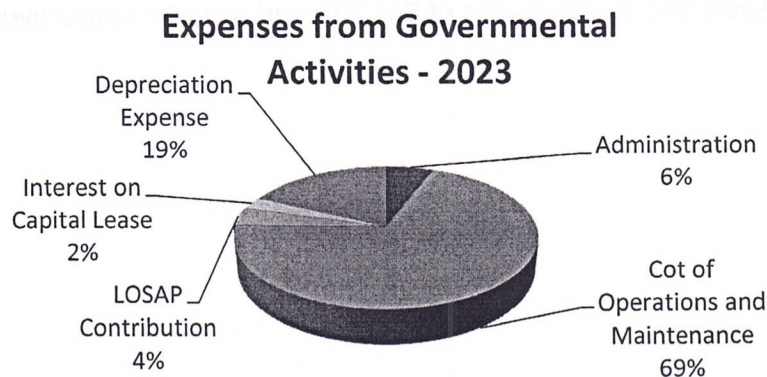
Net position of governmental activities increased \$19,827 from the previous year, resulting from decreases in total assets and total liabilities of \$31,210 and \$51,037 respectively.

Governmental Activities. The Statement of Activities shows the cost of the governmental activities program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. Table 2 shows the changes in Net Position for 2023 and 2022.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Expenses:		
Operating Expenses		
Administration	\$ 28,252	\$ 28,444
Cost of Operations and Maintenance	330,371	335,867
LOSAP Contribution	20,000	20,000
Interest on Capital Lease	9,580	12,333
Depreciation Expense	92,517	86,582
Total Program Expenses	<u>480,720</u>	<u>483,226</u>
Program Revenues		
Operating Grants and contributions	<u>861</u>	<u>861</u>
Net Program Expenses	<u>479,859</u>	<u>482,365</u>
Taxes:		
Property Taxes, Levied for General Purpose	399,856	379,006
Taxes Levied for Debt Service	98,204	98,204
Other Miscellaneous Income	1,626	319
Total General Revenues	<u>499,686</u>	<u>477,529</u>
Decrease in Net Position	19,827	(4,836)
Net Position, January 1	337,247	342,083
Net Position, December 31	<u>\$ 357,074</u>	<u>\$ 337,247</u>

Taxes constituted 99% of Fire District revenues for the year 2023.

Administrative expenses were 6% of the Fire District's 2023 expenses, while cost of operations and maintenance comprised 69%. The remaining 25% of the District's total expenses were non-operating costs.



Financial Analysis of the Government Funds

As previously stated, Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds. The focus of the Fire District's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the year and as a useful measure of permitting a governmental unit to maintain cash flow in anticipation of tax collections.

As of the end of the current year, the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$65,106 representing a \$23,720 increase from the prior year. The general fund's ending fund balance of \$64,927 is comprised of \$61,607 restricted for future capital outlay, \$3,100 assigned to support the 2024 operating budget and \$220 in Unassigned Fund Balance. The debt service fund has a restricted fund balance of \$179. The general fund is the main operating fund utilized and possessing the resources of the Fire District.

Key factors of operations are as follows:

- General Fund Expenditures exceeded Revenues by \$23,720. This was achieved through positive Revenue Variances of \$2,487 and Expenditure Variances of \$25,833.
- Operating Expenditures decreased \$34,587 from the prior period.
- Total Revenue increased \$22,157 from the prior period.

Capital Projects Fund

There was no Capital Projects Fund maintained, as of December 31, 2023.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The original operating budgetary estimate of \$404,456 and debt service estimate of \$98,204 were the same as the final budget for planned expenditure appropriations. The final budgetary basis expenditure appropriation estimate exceeded the final budgetary basis revenue by \$4,600, which represents the amount of fund balance necessary to support 2023 appropriations.

The original budgetary revenue estimate of \$399,856 was the same as the final budget. This amount was made up entirely of property taxes (local tax levy). The District also levied taxes for debt service during 2023, in the amount of \$98,204.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Commercial Township Fire District No. 3's net investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2023, amounts to \$509,486. This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings and improvements, vehicles and firefighting equipment, as shown in Note 7 to the Financial Statements. The total cost of the capital assets was \$2,501,926 and the balance in accumulated depreciation was \$1,992,440. There were additions to Capital Assets of \$29,933 and Depreciation expense of \$92,517 during 2023.

CAPITAL ASSETS (NET OF ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION)

	2023	2022
Land, Building & Improvements	\$ 17,186	\$ 24,696
Furniture and Fixtures	1,371	2,868
Equipment	64,223	50,157
Vehicles	421,706	494,349
Total Capital Assets	\$ 504,486	\$ 572,070

Long-Term Obligations

The District currently has one capital lease agreement outstanding. As of December 31, 2023, the principal balance remaining on this lease amounted to \$186,489 of which, \$91,629 is due in 2024.

Economic Factors and Subsequent Years Budget

For the 2023 year Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 was able to sustain its budget through the district tax levy and other sources of revenue.

The Board of Fire Commissioners adopted the 2024 budget on December 10, 2023 and the voters subsequently approved the budget at the annual fire district election held on February 17, 2024.

The Fire District's budget is prepared according to New Jersey law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of accrual accounting.

Contacting the Fire District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our patrons, citizens, taxpayers, and creditors with a general overview of the Fire District's finances and to show the Fire District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact, William Bitting, Current Chairman of Commercial Township Fire District No. 3, Commercial Township, NJ at 5436 Battle Lane, Millville, NJ 08332.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DISTRICT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 155,700
Accounts Receivable	861
Prepaid Grant Expenditures	7,245
Capital Assets, net (Note 7)	509,486
Total Assets	<u>673,292</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	14,226
Due to LOSAP Trust Fund	11,730
Accrued Interest Payable	1,096
Unearned Revenue	37,178
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Reserve for LOSAP	65,499
Capital Lease:	
Due Within One Year (Note 8)	91,629
Due Beyond One Year (Note 8)	94,860
Total Liabilities	<u>316,218</u>
NET POSITION	
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	322,997
Restricted	
Reserve for Future Capital Outlay	61,607
Debt Service Fund	179
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(27,709)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 357,074</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

EXHIBIT A-2

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Expenses:	
Operating Appropriations:	
Administration	\$ 28,252
Cost of Operations and Maintenance	330,371
Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) - Contribution (P.L. 1997, c. 388)	20,000
Interest on Long Term Debt	9,580
Depreciation	92,517
Total Program Expenses	<u>480,720</u>
Program Revenues:	
Operating Grants and Contributions	861
Net Program Expenses	<u>479,859</u>
General Revenues:	
Taxes:	
Property Taxes, Levied for General Purposes	399,856
Taxes Levied for Debt Service	98,204
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,626
Total General Revenues	<u>499,686</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	19,827
Net Position, January 1	<u>337,247</u>
Net Position, December 31	<u>\$ 357,074</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 155,521	\$	\$ 179	\$ 155,700
Accounts Receivable:				
Supplemental Fire Services Program	861			861
Deferred Charge - Prepaid Grant Expenditures		37,178		37,178
Total Assets	\$ 156,382	\$ 37,178	\$ 179	\$ 193,739
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities:				
Accounts Payable	\$ 14,226	\$	\$	\$ 14,226
Due to LOSAP Trust Fund	11,730			11,730
Unearned Revenue		37,178		37,178
Reserve for LOSAP	65,499			65,499
Total Liabilities	91,455	37,178		128,633
Fund Balances:				
Restricted:				
Reserve for Future Capital Outlay	61,607			61,607
Debt Service Fund			179	179
Assigned:				
Designated for Subsequent Years Expenditures	3,100			3,100
Unassigned, Reported in:				
General Fund	220			220
Total Fund Balances	64,927		179	65,106
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 156,382	\$ 37,178	\$ 179	

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. The cost of the assets is \$2,501,926 and the accumulated depreciation is \$1,992,440. (Note 7)

509,486

Amounts reported as deferred charges to future taxation that meet the criteria of capital assets are reclassified as such in the statement of net position.

(29,933)

Accrued interest payable is not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, is not reported as liabilities in the funds.

(1,096)

Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported as liabilities in the funds (see Note 8).

(186,489)

Net position of governmental activities

\$ 357,074

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
REVENUES			
Non Budgetary Revenues	\$ 1,626	\$	\$ 1,626
Operating Grant Revenue	861		861
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	399,856	98,204	498,060
	<u>402,343</u>	<u>98,204</u>	<u>500,547</u>
Total Revenues			
EXPENDITURES			
Operating Appropriations:			
Administration	28,252		28,252
Cost of Operations and Maintenance	330,371		330,371
Capital Leases Principle		88,508	88,508
Capital Leases Interest		9,696	9,696
Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) - Contribution (P.L. 1997, c. 388)	20,000		20,000
	<u>378,623</u>	<u>98,204</u>	<u>476,827</u>
Total Expenditures			
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	23,720		23,720
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Total Other Financing Sources and Uses			
Net Change in Fund Balances	23,720		23,720
Fund Balance—Jan 1	41,207	179	41,386
Fund Balance—Dec 31	<u>\$ 64,927</u>	<u>\$ 179</u>	<u>\$ 65,106</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Total net change in fund balances - governmental funds (from B-2) \$ 23,720

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement
of activities (A-2) are different because:

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

This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the period.

Depreciation Expense	\$ (92,517)	
Capital Outlay	29,933	
		(62,584)

Deferred Charge - Prepaid Grant (29,933)

Repayment of capital lease principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces
long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets and is not reported in the statement of activities. 88,508

In the Statement of Activities, interest on Capital Leases is accrued, regardless of when it is due. 116

Proceeds from debt issues are a financing source in the governmental funds. They are not revenue in
the statement of activities; issuing debt increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets.

Capital lease proceeds

Change in net assets of governmental activities (A-2) \$ 19,827

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The District Council is a local authority established under the Local Government Act 1972. The Council is a body corporate and has a separate legal identity from its members. The Council is a public body for the purposes of the Public Finance Act 1975. The Council's financial year is 1 April to 31 March. The Council's accounts are prepared on a cash basis. The Council's financial statements are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Government Accounting Regulations 1999. The Council's financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General for the United Kingdom.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council's financial statements are prepared on a cash basis. The Council's financial statements are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Government Accounting Regulations 1999. The Council's financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General for the United Kingdom.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- a. **Description of Reporting Entity** - Fire District No. 3 of Commercial Township is a political subdivision of the Township of Commercial, Cumberland County, New Jersey. A board of five commissioners oversees all operations of the Fire District. The length of each commissioner's term is three years with the annual election held the third Saturday of every February.

Fire Districts are governed by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70 et al. and are organized as a taxpaying authority charged with the responsibility of providing the resources necessary to provide fire-fighting services to the residents within its territorial location known as the Laurel Lake area.

The Fire District is not a component unit of any other financial reporting entity as to Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14, as amended by GASB Statements No. 39 and No. 61.

- b. **Basis of Accounting, Measurement Focus and Basis of Preparation**

Basis of Presentation: The financial statements of the Fire District conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied 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 Fire District's accounting policies are described in this Note.

The Fire District's basic financial statements consist of district-wide statements, including a Statement of Net Position and a Statement of Activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

District-wide Financial Statements – The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the Fire District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the government. The Statement of Net Position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the Fire District at year-end. The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each program or function of the Fire District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. The policy of the Fire District is to not allocate indirect expenses to functions in the Statement of Activities.

Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program and interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. Revenues, which are not classified as program revenues, are presented as general revenues of the Fire District, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the Fire District.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

c. Basis of Accounting, Measurement Focus and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements – During the year, the Fire District segregates transactions related to certain Fire District functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the Fire District at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a single column. The Fire District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. For fire districts, only one category of funds exists, which is governmental.

Governmental Funds: Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. The following is the Fire District's major governmental fund:

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Fire District and is used to account for its 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.

Measurement Focus:

District-wide Financial Statements – the district-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of the Fire District are included on the Statement of Net Position.

Fund Financial Statements – All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the district-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the district-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds, labeled as Exhibit B-3.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

c. Basis of Accounting, Measurement Focus and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Basis of Accounting: Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. District-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Differences in the accrual and the modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred revenue, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

Revenues – Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions – Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current year. For the Fire District, available means expected to be received within thirty days of year-end.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the Fire District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include Ad Valorem (property) taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. Ad Valorem (property) Taxes are susceptible to accrual, as under New Jersey State Statute, a municipality is required to remit to its fire district the entire balance of taxes in the amount voted upon or certified, prior to the end of the fire district year. The Fire District records the entire approved tax levy as revenue (accrued) at the start of the year since the revenue is both measurable and available. The Fire District is entitled to receive moneys under the following established payment schedule: on or before April 1, an amount equaling 21.25% of all moneys assessed; on or before July 1, an amount equaling 22.5% of all moneys assessed; on or before October 1, an amount equaling 25% of all moneys assessed; and on or before December 31, an amount equaling the difference between the total of all moneys so assessed and the total amount of moneys previously paid over. Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations is recognized in the year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Fire District must provide local resources to be used for a specific purpose, and expenditures requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Fire District on a reimbursement basis. Under the modified accrual basis, grants, fees, and rental revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at year-end.

Expenses / Expenditures – On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in governmental funds.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

- d. **Budgets and Budgetary Accounting** - The Fire District must adopt an annual budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.1 et al. The fire commissioners must introduce and approve the annual budget not 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 Fire District. The public hearings 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 Fire District budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.3. The budget may not be amended subsequent to its final adoption and approval.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Fire District budget, the amount of money to be raised by taxation in support of the Fire 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 Fire District's basic financial statements.

Amounts reported under "final budget" in Exhibits C-1 for operations include modifications, if any, to the adopted budget that were made during the year as approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Exhibit C-2 presents a reconciliation of the general fund revenues and special revenue fund revenues and expenditures from the budgetary basis of accounting as presented in the General Fund Budgetary Comparison Schedule and the Special Revenue Fund Budgetary Comparison Schedule to the GAAP basis of accounting as presented in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds. Note that the Fire District does not report encumbrances outstanding at year-end as expenditures in the general fund since the general fund budget follows modified accrual basis of accounting.

- e. **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. Due to the small size of the Fire District, the selective encumbrance method is implemented rather than a full encumbrance system.

Open encumbrances in the special revenue fund, if any, for which the Fire District has received advances are reflected in the balance sheet as unearned revenues at year-end.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

- e. **Encumbrances (Continued)** - 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 amount as of the current year-end.
- f. **Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments** - Cash and cash equivalents include petty cash, change funds, cash in banks and all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase and are stated at cost plus accrued interest. All certificates of deposit are recorded as cash regardless of the date of maturity.

New Jersey governments are limited as to the types of investments and types of financial institutions they may invest in. **N.J.S.A. 18A:20-37** provides a list of permissible investments that may be purchased by New Jersey governments.

Additionally, the Fire District follows the guidelines which require it to deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act. The Act was enacted in 1970 to protect Governmental Units from a loss of funds on deposits with a failed banking institution in New Jersey.

N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq. establishes the requirements for security of deposits of governmental units. The statute requires that no governmental unit shall deposit public funds in a public depository unless such funds are secured in accordance with the Act. Public depositories include State or federally chartered banks, savings banks or associations located in the State of New Jersey or state or federally chartered banks, savings banks or associations located in another state with a branch office in the State of New Jersey, the deposits of which are federally insured. All public depositories must pledge collateral, having a market value at least equal to five percent of the average daily balance of collected public funds, to secure the deposits of the Governmental Units. If a 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.

- g. **Inventories and Prepaid Expenses** - Inventories are valued at cost, which approximates market. The costs are determined on a first-in, first-out method. The cost of inventories in governmental fund types is recorded as expenditures when purchased rather than when consumed.

Prepaid expenses represent payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond the year end.

- h. **Interfunds** - Interfund receivables and payables, if any, that arise from transactions between funds that are due within one year are recorded by all funds affected by such transactions in the period in which the transaction is executed. These amounts are eliminated in the Statement of Net Position.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

- i. **Capital Assets** – General capital assets result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the district-wide Statement of Net Position but are not reported in the fund financial statements.

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated fixed assets are recorded at their fair market value as of the date received. The Fire District maintains a capitalization threshold of \$1,000. The Fire District does not possess any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized; the cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add value to the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not. All reported capital assets, except land and construction in progress, are required to be depreciated. Improvements are to be depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets.

Depreciation should be computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Buildings and Improvements	20 - 50 Years
Vehicles	5-10 Years
Furniture and Firefighting Equipment	5 Years

N.J.S.A. 40A:14-84 governs the procedures for the acquisition of property and equipment for Fire Districts, and **N.J.S.A. 40A:14-85 to 87** governs procedures for the issuance of any debt related to such purchases. In summary, Fire Districts may purchase firefighting apparatus and equipment and land and buildings to house such property in an amount not exceeding 5 mills on the dollar of the last assessed valuation or 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.

- j. **Long-Term Obligations** - Long-term debt is recognized as a liability in the Fund Financial Statements of the Fire District when due, or when resources have been accumulated in the Debt Service Fund for payment early in the following year. For other long-term obligations, only that portion expected to be financed from expendable available financial resources is reported as a fund liability of the Fire District. The remaining portion of such obligations is reported in the Statement of Net Position.
- k. **Unearned Revenue** - Unearned revenue in the special revenue fund represents cash, which has been received but not yet earned. As of December 31, 2023, the District has \$31,178 of unearned revenue, representing grant funds received by the NJ Department of Community Affairs in advance of expenditure.
- l. **Fund Equity and Reserves** - Reserves represent those portions of fund equity not available for appropriation for expenditure or legally segregated for a specific future use. These include legally restricted appropriations and future capital outlays, designated for future use of financial resources. Unreserved Fund Balances represent that portion of Fund Balance that is available for appropriation in future periods. Open Encumbrances represent reserve expenditures that are not complete but will be satisfied within the next accounting period.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

- m. Use of Estimates** - In order for the preparation of basic financial statements to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.
- n. Comparative Data** - Comparative total data for the prior year have been presented in selected sections of the accompanying basic financial statements in order to provide an understanding of the changes in the Fire District's financial position and operations.
- o. Net Position**- Net Position represents the difference between the summation of assets and deferred outflows of resources, and the summation of liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net Position is classified into 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 Fire 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.

The Fire District applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

- p. Fund Balance**- The Fire District reports fund balance in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the Fire District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. The Fire District's classifications and policies for determining such classifications are as follows:

Non-Spendable- The non-spendable fund balance classification included amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash, such as inventories and prepaid amounts.

Restricted- The restricted fund balance classification includes amounts that are restricted to specific purposes. Such restrictions or constraints are placed on the use of resources either by being externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

p. Fund Balance (Continued)

Committed- The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Fire District's highest level of decision-making authority, which for the Fire District, is the Board of Commissioners. Such formal action consists of an affirmative vote by the Board of Commissioners, memorialized by the adoption of a resolution. Once committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board of Commissioners removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts.

Assigned- The assigned fund balance classification includes amounts that are constrained by the Fire District's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Intent is expressed by the Board of Commissioners.

Unassigned- The unassigned fund balance classification is the residual classification for the general fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. The general fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. In other governmental funds, if expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceed the amounts restricted, committed, or assigned to those purposes, it may be necessary to report a negative unassigned fund balance.

q. New Accounting Standards:

The accounting standards that the District is currently reviewing for applicability and potential impact on the financial statements include:

- GASB Statement No. 100 - *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62: The primary objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The requirements of this Statement are effective for accounting changes and error corrections made in fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged. The District's management is currently evaluating the future financial impact as a result of the issuance of GASB Statement No. 100.
- GASB Statement No. 101 – *Compensated Absences*: The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged. The District's management does not anticipate any future financial impact as a result of the issuance of GASB Statement No. 101.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

q. New Accounting Standards (Continued)

- GASB Statement No. 102 - *Certain Risk Disclosures*— The objective of this Statement is to provide users of government financial statements with essential information about risks related to a government's vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints. This Statement requires a government to assess whether a concentration or constraint makes the primary government reporting unit or other reporting units that report a liability for revenue debt vulnerable to the risk of a substantial impact. Additionally, this Statement requires a government to assess whether an event or events associated with a concentration or constraint that could cause the substantial impact have occurred, have begun to occur, or are more likely than not to begin to occur within 12 months of the date the financial statements are issued. The District's management is currently evaluating the future financial impact as a result of the issuance of GASB Statement No. 102.

2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

- a. **Custodial Credit Risk** - All bank deposits and investments as of the balance sheet date are entirely insured or collateralized by a pool maintained by public depositories as required by the Governmental Unit Protection Act which are classified as credit risk per N.J.S. 40 A:5-15.1(A).

Custodial Credit Risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the districts deposits may not be returned to it. Although the district does not have a formal policy regarding custodial credit risk, as described in Note 1, N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et. Seq. requires that governmental units deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Protection Act.

The Fire District designates and approves a list of authorized depository institutions based on an evaluation of solicited responses and presentation of GUDPA certifications provided by the financial institutions.

As of December 31, 2023, the District's bank balance of \$166,352 was exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

Insured	\$ 166,352
Uninsured and collateralized with securities held by pledging financial institutions	<u>\$ 166,352</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (CONT'D)

b. Interest Rate Risk

The District does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, New Jersey Statutes 40A:5-15.1(a) limits the length for most investments.

- c. Credit Risk** - New Jersey Statutes 40A:5-15.1(a) limits District investments to those specified in the Statutes. The type of allowable investments are bonds of the United States of America or of the local unit or school districts of which the local unit is a part of, obligations of federal agencies not exceeding 397 days, the State of New Jersey Cash Management Plan, local government investment pools, or repurchase of fully collateralized securities.
- d. Concentration of Credit Risk** - The District places no limit on the amount the District may invest in any one issuer.
- e. Unaudited Investments** - As more fully described in Note #10, the District has created a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for emergency service volunteers. The LOSAP investments are similar to those allowed in a deferred compensation program as specified in N.J.S.A. 43:15B-1 et. seq. except that all investments are retained in the name of the District. All investments are valued at fair market value. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.37 the investments are maintained by Lincoln Financial Advisors, which is an authorized provider approved by the Division of Local Government Services. Any information available on the investments is with the Lincoln Financial Group, who is the approved plan agent.

3. PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

Following is a tabulation of Fire District assessed valuations, tax levies and property tax rates per \$100 of assessed valuations for the current and preceding four years:

<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>		<u>Assessed</u> <u>Valuations</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Tax Levy</u>		<u>Property</u> <u>Tax Rates</u>
2023	\$	130,456,300	\$	498,060	\$ 0.383
2022		130,479,200		477,210	0.366
2021		131,568,400		475,411	0.362
2020		133,056,000		467,828	0.352
2019		135,079,500		440,733	0.327

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

4. LITIGATION

None.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

Property and Liability Insurance – The District maintains commercial insurance coverage for property, liability and surety bonds.

6. FUND BALANCES APPROPRIATED

The following presents the fund balance as of the end of the last five years and the amount utilized in the subsequent year's budget:

Year	Restricted and		Utilization in	
	Assigned Fund Balance	Unassigned Fund Balance	Subsequent Budget	
			Unrestricted	Restricted
2023	\$ 61,786	\$ 220	\$ 3,100	\$
2022	36,607		4,600	
2021	46,611	20,420	7,200	
2020	23,290	20,174	1,500	
2019	7,890	7,889	6,800	

Of the \$65,106 in fund balance, \$179 is restricted for debt service, \$3,100 is assigned to support the 2024 adopted budget, \$220 is unassigned, and \$61,607 is restricted for future capital outlay.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

7. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital Asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2023 was as follows:

	Balance December 31, 2022	Additions	Adjustment	Balance December 31, 2023
Land	\$ 5,000	\$	\$	\$ 5,000
Total Capital Assets not Being Depreciated	5,000			5,000
Buildings and Improvements	121,866			121,866
Furniture & Fixtures	23,373			23,373
Vehicles	1,455,464			1,455,464
Equipment	866,290	29,933		896,223
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	2,466,993	29,933		2,496,926
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Buildings and Improvements	(102,171)	(2,511)		(104,682)
Furniture & Fixtures	(20,506)	(1,496)		(22,002)
Vehicles	(961,114)	(72,644)		(1,033,758)
Equipment	(816,132)	(15,866)		(831,998)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	(1,899,923)	(92,517)		(1,992,440)
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	567,070	(62,584)		504,486
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 572,070	\$ (62,584)	\$	\$ 509,486

* Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

Unallocated	\$ 92,517
	\$ 92,517

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

8. LONG-TERM DEBT

The following changes occurred in long-term obligations:

	Principal Outstanding 1/1/2023	Increases	Decreases	Principal Outstanding 12/31/2023	Due Within One Year	Due After One Year
Obligations under Capital Lease	\$ 274,997	\$	\$ 88,508	\$ 186,489	\$ 91,629	\$ 94,860

Capital Leases Payable – During the year ended December 31, 2018, the Fire District entered into a lease agreement for a Spartan Pumper/Tanker. The following is a schedule of the future minimum lease payments under the capital lease.

Year Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 91,629	\$ 6,575	\$ 98,204
2025	94,860	3,344	98,204
Total	\$ 186,489	\$ 9,919	\$ 196,408

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

None

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

10. LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (LOSAP)

On February 13, 2000, the voters of Commercial Fire District #3 approved the Resolution adopted to establish a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) Deferred Compensation Plan. This Plan is made available to all bona fide eligible volunteers who are performing qualified services, which are defined as firefighting and prevention services, emergency medical services and ambulance services pursuant to Section 457 (e) (11) (13) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, except for provisions added by reason of the LOSAP as enacted into federal law in 1997. The establishment of this LOSAP will also comply with New Jersey Public Law 1997, Chapter 388 and the LOSAP Document.

The first year of eligibility for entrance into the Plan by qualified volunteers was calendar 2000. Amounts deferred under section 457 Plans must be held in trust for the exclusive benefit of participating volunteers and not be accessible by the Fire District or its Creditors.

As required by N.J.A.C 5:30-14.49, the Fire District must have an annual review of its LOSAP performed in accordance with Statement on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The following description of the LOSAP of Commercial Fire District #3 provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Program agreement for a more complete description of the Program's provisions. The Fire District is the Program sponsor.

General – The Program is a defined contribution Program covering volunteers in Commercial Fire District No. 3 who have performed sufficient services to earn a number of "points" as defined in a resolution adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 3 on February 13, 2000 and approved by the voters of the District as a public question at the annual fire commissioners' election on February 13, 2000.

Contributions – If an active member meets the required years of active service, the LOSAP must provide a benefit between the minimum contribution of \$100 and a maximum contribution of \$1,150 per year. While the maximum amount was established by statute, it is subject to periodic increases related to the consumer price index (N.J.S.A. 40A:14-185) and provided for in a resolution of the Fire District. The Division of Local Government Services issues the permitted maximum annually, which is \$2,070 for 2023.

Participant Accounts – Each participant's account reflects the total amount of contributions that are allocated to the account and the earnings thereon, any payments or withdrawals on the participant's behalf from the account and any expenses. Under the enabling legislation, the amount in each participant's account is not subject to the general creditors of the District.

Vesting – Participants are 100% vested after 5 years of service. If a participant deceases prior to 5 years of service, the full amount of the volunteer's account will be considered vested and will be paid to the estate of the participant.

Participant Loans – Loans are not permitted under the Program.

Payment of Benefits – A fully taxable distribution may be made at any time for the full amount of the participant's vested interest in his or her account.

Fees and Costs – The Program participants pay all fees costs related to administration of the Program.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(CONTINUED)

10. LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (LOSAP) (Continued)

Employer Contributions – All employer contributions are paid to Lincoln Financial Group, within a reasonable time, in the year subsequent to the year in which the required points have been earned and certified by the chief of the fire company or rescue squad as applicable.

Withdrawals – The plan provides for hardship withdrawals.

Contribution Payable – As set forth in the resolution adopted by District, the Plan Sponsor is obligated to make contributions for participants in the plan who meet the service requirements in any qualifying year. In 2023, the District determined its 2023 LOSAP contribution to be \$11,730. This amount has been accrued and is reflected in the District's Balance Sheet and Statement of Net Position. There is also a balance in a Reserve for Losap of \$65,499, as of December 31, 2023.

Investments – All investment balances at December 31, 2023 are certified by Lincoln Financial Group and are valued at market value as stated by Lincoln Financial Group.

Program Termination – The Fire District Resolution and the enabling legislation do not have any provisions for program termination.

Tax Status – The LOSAP was established as a Deferred Compensation Plan pursuant to Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986, as amended, except for specific provisions added by reason of the LOSAP as enacted into federal law in 1997. The establishment of this LOSAP also complies with New Jersey Public Law 1997, Chapter 388 and the LOSAP Document.

Under the terms of an IRC Section 457 deferred compensation plan, all deferred compensation and income attributable to the investment of the deferred compensation amounts held by the financial institution, until paid or made available to the employees or beneficiaries, are the property of the Township of Commercial Fire District No. 3 subject only to the claims of the District's general creditors. In addition, the participants in the plan have rights equal to those of the general creditors of the District, and each participant's rights are equal to his or her share of the fair market value of the plan assets.

10. DEFERRED CHARGES TO BE RAISED IN SUCCEEDING BUDGET

There existed one deferred charge for a Grant awarded by the NJ Department of Community Affairs, in the amount of \$37,178, to be raised in 2024.

End of Notes to Financial Statements

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – PART II

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(WITH TOTALS FOR 2021)

	2023				2022
	Original Budget	Modified Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Actual
Revenues					
Revenues and Other Financing Sources:					
Operating Grant Revenue:					
Supplemental Fire Services Program	\$	\$	\$ 861	\$ 861	\$ 861
Amount to be Raised by Taxation to Support the District Budget	399,856	399,856	399,856		379,006
Total Anticipated Revenue	399,856	399,856	400,717	861	379,867
Non-Budgetary Revenues:					
Interest on Investments and Deposits			1,626	1,626	319
Total Revenues	\$ 399,856	\$ 399,856	\$ 402,343	\$ 2,487	\$ 380,186
Expenditures					
Operating Appropriations:					
Administration:					
Stipend Payments to Commissioners	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$	\$ 17,000
Office Expense	3,000	1,950	1,531	419	2,956
Legal	2,500				
Professional Services	8,750	8,750	8,536	214	7,869
Advertising	600	885	885		319
Elections	500	500	300	200	300
Total Administration	32,350	29,085	28,252	833	28,444
Cost of Operations and Maintenance:					
Membership and Dues	4,500	7,814	7,814		7,236
Building - Maintenance and Repairs	25,000	32,448	32,448		44,373
Equipment - Maintenance and Repairs	25,000	19,448	19,448		41,372
Inspections & Certifications	5,000	400	400		285
Fuel	34,000	33,269	33,269		36,589
Materials and Supplies	2,500	1,137	1,137		3,189
Rental and Leases	57,689	57,689	57,689		57,689
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,117	580	580		1,210
Training and Education	4,000	875	875		460
Medical	1,500	255	255		350
Insurance	85,000	85,535	85,535		78,040
Utilities	19,000	18,710	18,710		23,134
Telephone	8,000	11,107	11,107		13,981
Website Maintenance	2,000	1,200	1,200		1,200
Rescue Expenses	20,000	27,104	27,104		22,858
EMS Contracted Services	14,000	14,000	14,000		14,000
Agreement to Fight Fires	18,800	18,800	18,800		18,800
Total Other Operating and Maintenance	327,106	330,371	330,371		364,766
Length of Service Awards (LOSAP) Contribution (P.L. 1997, c. 388)	20,000	20,000	20,000		20,000

See Notes to Financial Statements

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(WITH TOTALS FOR 2021)

	2023			Variance	2022
	Original Budget	Modified Budget	Actual	Favorable (Unfavorable)	Actual
Capital Appropriations					
Reserve for Future Capital Outlays	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$	\$ 25,000	\$
Total Capital Appropriations	25,000	25,000		25,000	
Total Operating and Maintenance Expenditures	404,456	404,456	378,623	25,833	413,210
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund					
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Excess (Deficit) of Revenue Over Expenditures	(4,600)	(4,600)	23,720	28,320	(33,024)
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	41,207	41,207	41,207		74,231
Fund Balance - End of Year	\$ 36,607	\$ 36,607	\$ 64,927	\$ 28,320	\$ 41,207
Restricted for:					
Reserved for Future Capital Outlay			\$ 61,607		
Assigned Fund Balance:					
Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures			3,100		
Unassigned Reported in General Fund:			220		
Fund Balance Per Governmental Funds (GAAP)			\$ 64,927		

See Notes to Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
NOTE TO RSI
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

**Note A - Explanation of Differences between Budgetary Inflows and Outflows and
GAAP Revenues and Expenditures**

	<u>General Fund</u>
Sources/inflows of resources	
Actual amounts (budgetary basis) "revenue" from the budgetary comparison schedule	\$ 402,343
Total revenues as reported on the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances - governmental funds.	\$ 402,343
Uses/outflows of resources	
Actual amounts (budgetary basis) "total outflows" from the budgetary comparison schedule	\$ 378,623
Total expenditures as reported on the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances - governmental funds	\$ 378,623

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL LEASE PAYABLE
DECEMBER 31, 2023

<u>Description</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Amount</u>		<u>Issued</u>	<u>Retired</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Current</u>			
		<u>Amount</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>31, 2022</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>December</u>
							<u>31, 2023</u>
Spartan Pumper/Tanker	3.470%	\$ 599,897	274,997		88,508		186,489
Total Capital Lease Payable		\$	\$ 274,997	\$	\$ 88,508	\$	186,489

Note: The amount payable in 2024 is \$91,629

EXHIBIT I-3

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE

DEBT SERVICE FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023			Variance	2022
	Original Budget	Modified Budget	Actual	Positive (Negative) Final to Actual	Actual
REVENUES:					
Amount to be Raised by Taxation to Support the District Budget	\$ 98,204	\$ 98,204	\$ 98,204	\$	\$ 98,204
EXPENDITURES:					
Principal Payments:					
Capital Lease - Firetruck	88,508	88,508	88,508		85,494
Interest Payments:					
Capital Lease - Firetruck	9,696	9,696	9,696		12,710
Total Expenditures	98,204	98,204	98,204		98,204
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	179	179			179
Fund Balance, January 1					
Fund Balance, December 31	\$ 179	\$ 179	\$ 179	\$	\$ 179

EXHIBIT J-1

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND
SCHEDULE OF STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

State Funding Department	State Program	GMIS Number	Grant Award Amount	From	To	Balance 1/1/2023	Receipts or Revenue	Expenditures	Balance Receivable 12/31/2023
Department of Community Affairs	Supplemental Fire Services Program	8030-150-041650	\$ 861	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	\$	\$	\$ (861)	\$ (861)

EXHIBIT J-2

**SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Cash - January 1, 2023		\$	132,432
Receipts:			
District Taxes	\$	498,060	
Interest and Other		2,487	
			<u>500,547</u>
			632,979
Disbursements:			
Prior Year Accounts Payable		20,132	
Prior Year LOSAP Contribution		13,685	
Debt Service Payments		98,204	
Budget Appropriations		345,258	
			<u>477,279</u>
Cash - December 31, 2023		\$	<u><u>155,700</u></u>
<u>Analysis of Balance:</u>			
Balance per Bank in Checking		\$	166,352
Less Outstanding Checks			(10,652)
		\$	<u><u>155,700</u></u>

The purpose of the study was to determine the effect of the intervention on the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of the community. The study was conducted in a rural area of the district. The study was conducted in a rural area of the district. The study was conducted in a rural area of the district.

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GENERAL COMMENTS SECTION

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GENERAL COMMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated April 23, 2024. As part of our examination, we made a study and evaluation of the system of internal accounting control of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 to the extent deemed necessary to evaluate the system as required by generally accepted auditing standards.

The purpose of our study and evaluation was to determine the nature, timing and extent of performing the auditing procedures necessary for expressing an opinion on the District's financial statements. Our study and evaluation was more limited than would be necessary to express an opinion on the system of internal control taken as a whole.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal accounting control. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of control procedures. The objectives of a system are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements.

Because of inherent limitations in any system of internal accounting control, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the system to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with the procedures may deteriorate.

Our study and evaluation made for the purpose described in the second paragraph would not necessarily disclose all material weaknesses in the system. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the system of accounting control of the Commercial Township Fire District No. 3 taken as a whole.

The size of the staff is not large enough to achieve adequate segregation of duties. This can result in accounting errors or irregularities that may go undetected. Therefore, to increase the likelihood of detecting material errors or irregularities at an early date, management should monitor and review the financial area and analytically review significant fluctuations between actual and budgeted results of operations. All significant fluctuations should be investigated and resolved in a timely manner.

These conditions were considered in determining the nature, timing and extent of audit tests to be applied in our audit of the financial statements dated April 23, 2024.

The report is intended solely for the use of management and the Division of Local Government Services and should not be used for any other purpose.

GENERAL COMMENTS (Continued)

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE ADVERTISED PER N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4

N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4 requires every appropriate contract or agreement shall be made or awarded only after public advertising for bids, except as provided otherwise by any other law for the sum exceeding the aggregate of \$17,500.

The Board of Fire Commissioners has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory threshold 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. Our examination of expenditures revealed no instance of noncompliance with **N.J.S.A 40A:11-4**.

AWARD OF PURCHASES, CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS BY QUOTATIONS

N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6.1

Prior to the award of any purchase, contract or agreement, the District shall (except in the case of the performance of professional services) solicit quotations, whenever practicable, on any purchase, contract or agreement, the estimated cost or price of which is in excess of \$2,625. The award shall be made on the basis of the lowest responsible quotation received, which quotation is most advantageous to the contracting unit, price and other factors considered; provided, however, that if the contracting agent deems it impracticable to solicit competitive quotations in the case of extraordinary, unspecifiable services, or, in the case of such or any other purchase, contract or agreement awarded hereunder, having sought such quotations received, the contracting agent shall file a statement of explanation of the reason or reasons therefore, which shall be placed on file with said purchase, contract or agreement. Our examination of expenditures revealed that solicitation of quotations was made when needed.

Purchase Orders/Vouchers

Our review of the purchasing and disbursements procedure disclosed that purchase orders/vouchers were used and contained appropriate signatures for approval. The selective encumbrance method of expenditures has been implemented, as required by directive of the Director of the Division of Local Government.

Minutes

Minutes of the meetings of the Commissioners were available, signed and appeared to be prepared on a timely basis.

Supplemental Fire Service Program

During 2023, a total of \$861 was allocated and received by the District for Supplemental Fire Service Program Aid.

REPORTABLE CONDITIONS AND OTHER FINDINGS

This section identifies the significant deficiencies, material weaknesses and instances of noncompliance related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and with audit requirements as prescribed by the Bureau of Authority Regulation, Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey.

SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

1) Material weakness (es) identified? _____ yes X no

2) Significant deficiencies identified? _____ yes X no

Noncompliance material to basic
financial statements noted?

_____ yes X no

PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS

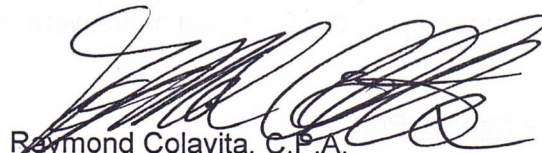
None

APPRECIATION

We desire to express our appreciation for the assistance and courtesies rendered by the Fire District officials during the course of the audit.

Respectfully submitted,

NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA, P.A.



Raymond Colavita, C.P.A.
Registered Municipal Accountant