# FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
# 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)**

**DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor
County of Ocean
Little Egg Harbor, 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 the Fire District No. 1 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. 1 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. 1 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 Services, 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. 1 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.

### 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. 1 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. 1 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. 1 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 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 Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's basic financial statements. The long-term debt schedules of obligations under finance purchases and lease obligations 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 long-term debt schedules of obligations under finance purchases payable and lease obligations are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 13, 2024 on our consideration of Fire District No. 1 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. 1 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Holman Frenia Allison, P.C.

**HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.**
*Certified Public Accountants*

March 13, 2024
Lakewood, New Jersey

HFA
Certified Public Accountants + Advisors

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# 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. 1 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor
County of Ocean
Township of 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. 1 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon March 13, 2024 .

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Fire District No. 1 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. 1 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Fire District No. 1 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Fire District No. 1 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.

**HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.**
*Certified Public Accountants*

March 13, 2024
Lakewood, New Jersey

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

As management of the Fire District No. 1 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 $2,191,700. During, 2022 the excess of assets over liabilities was approximately $2,089,500. This is an increase of approximately $102,200.

- During 2023 the District operated at a surplus of approximately $102,200. During 2022 the Fire District operated at a surplus of approximately $44,600. This is an increase of approximately $57,600.

- The District's liabilities decreased approximately $80,300 in 2023 and assets increased by approximately $21,900.

## 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 one basic function: activities that are supported by property taxes. The District provides firefighting services to the citizens of within the jurisdiction of the District.

**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 three separate governmental funds; the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund and the Debt Service 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, Capital Projects Fund and Debt Service 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:14:78-3*, the District adopts an annual budget which is voted on by the legal voters of the district on the third Saturday 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.

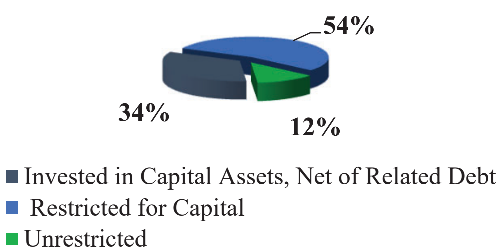
## DISTRICT WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The District's net position is a useful indicator of the District's financial condition. At the end of 2023, the District's assets exceed its liabilities by approximately $2,191,700. 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.

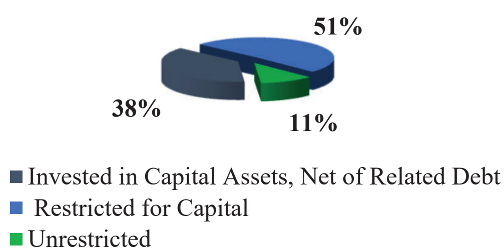
**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

| | 2023 | 2022 | $ Increase/ (Decrease) | % Increase/ (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Current and other assets | $ 2,166,714 | $ 2,045,167 | $ 121,547 | 5.94% |
| Capital assets, net | 1,219,966 | 1,319,608 | (99,642) | (7.55%) |
| Total assets | 3,386,680 | 3,364,775 | 21,905 | 0.65% |
| Total liabilities | 1,195,017 | 1,275,304 | (80,287) | (6.30%) |
| Net position | $ 2,191,663 | $ 2,089,471 | $ 102,192 | 4.89% |
| **Analysis of net position** | | | | |
| Invested in capital assets, net of related debt | $ 735,601 | $ 790,877 | $ (55,276) | (6.99%) |
| Restricted for: | | | | |
| Capital projects | 1,181,928 | 1,061,928 | 120,000 | 11.30% |
| Unrestricted | 274,134 | 236,666 | 37,468 | 15.83% |
| Total net position | $ 2,191,663 | $ 2,089,471 | $ 102,192 | 4.89% |

**2023**
**Net Position**




**2022**
**Net Position**




The net position of the District increased approximately $102,200 as a result of a current year surplus. In 2023 the capital assets decreased by approximately $99,600 after depreciation expense.

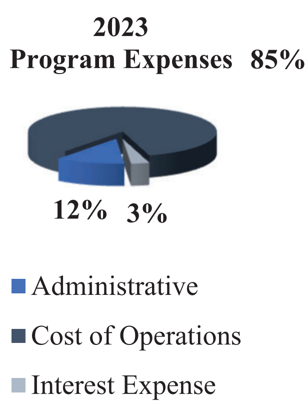
**DISTRICT WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (continued)**

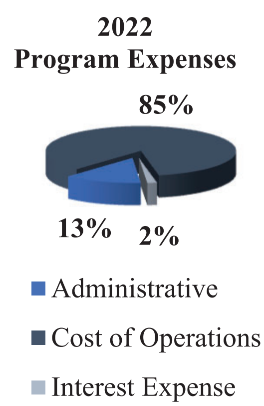
**Governmental Activities**

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. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

| | 2023 | 2022 | $ Increase/ (Decrease) | % Increase/ (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Program expenses: | | | | |
| Administrative expenses | $ 73,443 | $ 80,814 | $ (7,371) | (9.12%) |
| Cost of operations and maintenance | 530,597 | 523,904 | 6,693 | 1.28% |
| Interest expense | 19,734 | 9,959 | 9,775 | 98.15% |
| Total program expenses | $ 623,774 | $ 614,677 | $ 9,097 | 1.48% |

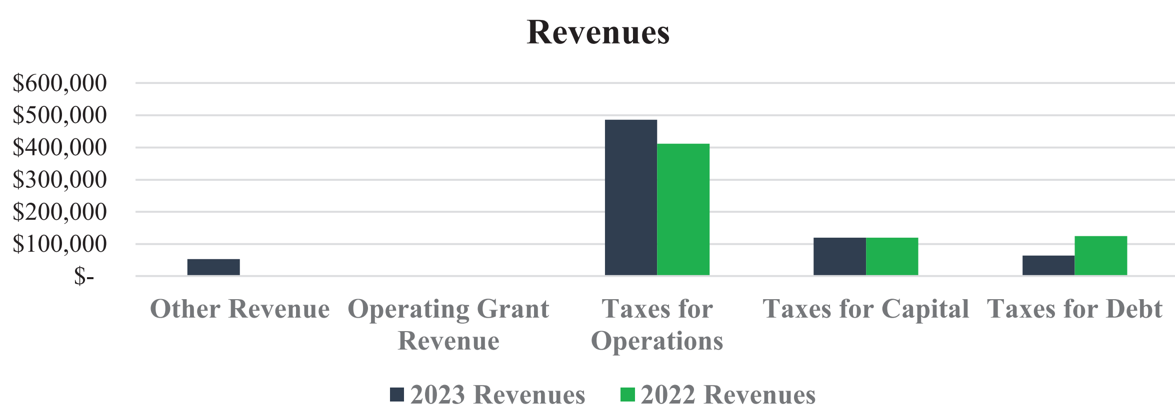


**DISTRICT WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (continued)**

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (continued)**
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

| | 2023 | 2022 | $ Increase/ (Decrease) | % Increase/ (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General revenues: | | | | |
| Property taxes levied for: | | | | |
| General purposes | $ 485,801 | $ 411,850 | $ 73,951 | 17.96% |
| Capital purchases | 120,000 | 120,000 | - | 0.00% |
| Debt service | 64,669 | 125,267 | (60,598) | (48.38%) |
| Total property taxes levied | 670,470 | 657,117 | 13,353 | 2.03% |
| Other revenue | 53,751 | 454 | 53,297 | 11739.43% |
| Operating grant revenue | 1,745 | 1,745 | - | 0.00% |
| Total general revenues | 725,966 | 659,316 | 66,650 | 10.11% |
| Increase in net position | 102,192 | 44,639 | 57,553 | 128.93% |
| Net position, January 1 | 2,089,471 | 2,044,832 | 44,639 | 2.18% |
| Net position, December 31 | $ 2,191,663 | $ 2,089,471 | $ 102,192 | 4.89% |




Property tax revenue constituted 92% of the total governmental activities revenues received by the District in 2023 and 100% in 2022, respectively.

The Cost of Operations & Maintenance comprised 85% of the District's total expenses in 2023 and 2022. Administration expenses comprised 12% and 13% of the total expenses 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 on 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 cash funds of the District was approximately $1,346,600. This balance is approximately $31,800 higher than last year's combined governmental funds balance.

The combined fund balance of the governmental fund of the District was approximately $1,443,300. Of that total, funds of approximately $760,000 have been assigned for subsequent year's expenditures, $528,700 have been assigned for other purposes (encumbrances), and $154,500 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 $261,400. Of this balance, approximately $154,500 of it was unassigned.

At the end of 2023 the general fund balance of the District increased by approximately $46,700. The primary reason for this increased are as follows:

- The Board recognized revenues in excess of expenses of approximately $46,700.

At the end of 2023, the District had a capital projects fund balance of approximately $1,181,900. This is an increase of $120,000. The primary reason for this increase are as follows:

- The Board recognized revenues in excess of expenses of approximately $120,000.

### 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 unused surplus becomes available for future budget periods as undesignated surplus in the General Fund.

- The District recognized actual revenues in excess of budgeted revenues of approximately $53,300 in 2023.

- Overall, the District's expenditures were approximately $113,400 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 $1,220,000 (net of accumulated depreciation). Capital assets consists of vehicles and various equipment.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**CAPITAL ASSETS**
**NET OF ACCUMULATED DEPRECATION**
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

| | 2023 | 2022 | $ Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Capital Assets: | | | |
| Depreciable: | | | |
| Vehicles and apparatus | $ 2,730,208 | $ 2,684,497 | $ 45,711 |
| Fire equipment | 962,226 | 915,814 | 46,412 |
| Office equipment | 19,314 | 12,424 | 6,890 |
| Total depreciable assets | 3,711,748 | 3,612,735 | 99,013 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (2,491,782) | (2,293,127) | (198,655) |
| Total capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation | $ 1,219,966 | $ 1,319,608 | $ (99,642) |

Additional information on the District's capital assets can be found in Note 6 in the notes to the financial statements.

## DEBT ADMINISTRATION

As of December 31, 2023 the District long-term liabiltiies for government activities of approximately $484,400 of which approximately $46,100 is due within one year.

Additional information on the District's debt obligations can be found in Note 7 in the notes to the financial statements.

## ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEARS BUDGET

The District introduced their 2024 budget on December 11, 2023. The voters subsequently voted to approve the budget at the February election. The 2024 adopted budget reflects an increase in the tax levy of $45,000, in which the Board anticipates an increase to the fire tax rate of $0.004.

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's finances for all of those with an interest in the District’s finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report, or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to District's, P.O Box 1173, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**District Wide Statement of Net Position**
**December 31, 2023**

| | | Governmental Activities |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash (Note 3) | $ | 817,853 |
| Accounts receivable (Note 5) | | 169,362 |
| Prepaid expenses | | 38,163 |
| Total current assets | | 1,025,378 |
| Current restricted assets: | | |
| Cash held with trustee (Note 4) | | 528,731 |
| Total current restricted assets | | 528,731 |
| Capital assets, net: | | |
| Depreciable (Note 6) | | 1,219,966 |
| Total capital assets | | 1,219,966 |
| Right to use leased assets, net of amortization (Note 8) | | 612,605 |
| Total assets | $ | 3,386,680 |
| **LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION** | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | $ | 58,918 |
| Accrued expenses | | 13,750 |
| Accrued interest payable | | 6,217 |
| Current portion of finance purchases payable (Note 7) | | 46,070 |
| Current portion of lease liability (Note 7) | | 70,319 |
| Total current liabilities | | 195,274 |
| Noncurrent liabilities: | | |
| Finance purchases payable, net of current portion (Note 7) | | 438,295 |
| Lease liability, net of current portion (Note 7) | | 561,448 |
| Total noncurrent liabilities | | 999,743 |
| Total liabilities | | 1,195,017 |
| Net position: | | |
| Net investment in capital assets | | 735,601 |
| Restricted net position: | | |
| Capital | | 1,181,928 |
| Unrestricted | | 274,134 |
| Total net position | | 2,191,663 |
| Total liabilities and net position | $ | 3,386,680 |

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**District Wide Statement of Activities**
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

| | Expenses | Total Governmental Activities |
|---|---|---|
| Governmental activities: | | |
| Operating appropriations: | | |
| Administration | $ 73,443 | $ 73,443 |
| Costs of operations and maintenance | 530,597 | 530,597 |
| Interest expense | 19,734 | 19,734 |
| Total operating appropriations | $ 623,774 | 623,774 |
| General revenues: | | |
| Miscellaneous revenue | | 53,751 |
| Operating grant revenue | | 1,745 |
| Amount to be raised by taxation | | 670,470 |
| Total general revenues | | 725,966 |
| Change in net position | | 102,192 |
| Net position, January 1 | | 2,089,471 |
| Net position, December 31 | | $ 2,191,663 |

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**Governmental Funds**
**Balance Sheet**
**December 31, 2023**

| | General Fund | Capital Projects Fund | Debt Service Fund | Total Governmental Funds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Current unrestricted assets: | | | | |
| Cash | $ 817,853 | $ - | $ - | $ 817,853 |
| Accounts receivable | 169,362 | - | - | 169,362 |
| Other receivables | - | 653,197 | - | 653,197 |
| Total current unrestricted assets | 987,215 | 653,197 | - | 1,640,412 |
| Current restricted assets: | | | | |
| Cash held with trustee | - | 528,731 | - | 528,731 |
| Total current restricted assets | - | 528,731 | - | 528,731 |
| Total assets | $ 987,215 | $ 1,181,928 | $ - | $ 2,169,143 |
| Liabilities, equity and other credits: | | | | |
| Accounts payable | $ 58,918 | $ - | $ - | $ 58,918 |
| Accrued expenses | 13,750 | - | - | 13,750 |
| Other payables | 653,197 | - | - | 653,197 |
| Total liabilities | 725,865 | - | - | 725,865 |
| Fund balances: | | | | |
| Assigned for: | | | | |
| Subsequent year's expenditures | 106,803 | 653,197 | - | 760,000 |
| Other purposes | - | 528,731 | - | 528,731 |
| Unassigned, reported in: | | | | |
| General fund | 154,547 | - | - | 154,547 |
| Total fund balance | 261,350 | 1,181,928 | - | 1,443,278 |
| Total liabilities and fund balance | $ 987,215 | $ 1,181,928 | $ - | |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepaid expenses are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of net position, the cost of those assets is expensed over the term of the policy as insurance expense. | 38,163 |
| Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds. | 1,219,966 |
| Accrued interest payable is not recorded in the fund financial statements due to the fact that the payable is not due in the period. | (6,217) |
| Right to use leased assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds. | 612,605 |
| Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and are therefore not reported as liabilities in the funds. | (1,116,132) |
| Net governmental activities | $ 2,191,663 |

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 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 | Debt Service Fund | Total Governmental Funds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Miscellaneous anticipated revenues: | | | | |
| Interest income | $ 418 | - | - | $ 418 |
| Other revenues | 53,333 | - | - | 53,333 |
| Total miscellaneous revenues | 53,751 | - | - | 53,751 |
| Operating grant revenues: | | | | |
| Supplemental fire service act | 1,745 | - | - | 1,745 |
| Total operating grant revenue | 1,745 | - | - | 1,745 |
| Total revenues | 55,496 | - | - | 55,496 |
| Amount raised by taxation to support district budget | 485,801 | 120,000 | 64,669 | 670,470 |
| Total anticipated revenues | 541,297 | 120,000 | 64,669 | 725,966 |
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| Operating appropriations: | | | | |
| Administration: | | | | |
| Salaries and wages | 30,000 | - | - | 30,000 |
| Other expenditures: | | | | |
| Membership dues | 370 | - | - | 370 |
| Professional fees | 28,506 | - | - | 28,506 |
| Elections | 2,337 | - | - | 2,337 |
| Office expense | 12,230 | - | - | 12,230 |
| Total administration | 73,443 | - | - | 73,443 |
| Cost of operations and maintenance: | | | | |
| Fringe benefits | 32,721 | - | - | 32,721 |
| Other expenditures: | | | | |
| Advertising | 227 | - | - | 227 |
| Contingencies | 1,000 | - | - | 1,000 |
| Fire prevention | 12,464 | - | - | 12,464 |
| Contracted service expenses | 25,655 | - | - | 25,655 |
| Fire service contract | 90,000 | - | - | 90,000 |
| Insurance | 49,165 | - | - | 49,165 |
| Maintenance and repairs | 31,407 | - | - | 31,407 |
| Reimbursement of expenses | 6,325 | - | - | 6,325 |
| Materials and supplies | 42,224 | - | - | 42,224 |
| Training and education | 10,601 | - | - | 10,601 |
| Uniforms and gear | 22,914 | - | - | 22,914 |
| SFSG expenses | 373 | - | - | 373 |
| Non-bondable equipment | 96,049 | - | - | 96,049 |
| Total cost of operations and maintenance | 421,125 | - | - | 421,125 |
| Debt service for capital appropriations: | | | | |
| Principal on finance purchases | - | - | 44,366 | 44,366 |
| Interest on finance purchases | - | - | 20,303 | 20,303 |
| Total debt service for capital appropriations | - | - | 64,669 | 64,669 |
| Total operating appropriations | 494,568 | - | 64,669 | 559,237 |
| Excess (efficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures | 46,729 | 120,000 | - | 166,729 |
| Fund balance, January 1 | 214,621 | 1,061,928 | - | 1,276,549 |
| Fund balance, December 31 | $ 261,350 | $ 1,181,928 | $ - | $ 1,443,278 |

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**Governmental Funds Reconciliation of the 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) | | $ 166,729 |
| Amounts reported for governmental activities in the district wide Statement of Activities (A-2) are different because: | | |
| Prepaid expenses are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the district wide statement of net position, the cost of those assets is expensed over the term of the policy as insurance expense. | | |
| Prior Year | (39,495) | |
| Current Year | 38,163 | |
| | | (1,332) |
| 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 | 99,013 | |
| Depreciation Expense | (198,655) | |
| | | (99,642) |
| Accrual of interest on finance purchases is not an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the adjustment is charged to expense and is reported in the district wide statement of activities. | | |
| Prior Year | 6,786 | |
| Current Year | (6,217) | |
| | | 569 |
| Certain activity related to right to use assets and liabilities is not reported in governmental funds, whereas such activity is a reported on the district wide statement of | | |
| Amortization of Right to use Leased Assets | (76,577) | |
| Repayment of Right to use Lease Liability | 68,079 | |
| | | (8,498) |
| Repayment of finance purchase principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the district wide statement of net position and is not reported in the district wide statement of activities. | | 44,366 |
| Change in net position of governmental activities | | $ 102,192 |

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**Notes to Financial Statements**

## NOTE 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

### Description of Reporting Entity

Fire District No. 1 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. A board of five commissioners 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 fire fighting 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.

There were no additional entities required to be included in the reporting entity under the criteria as described above. Furthermore, the District is not includable in any other reporting entity on the basis of 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 |
|---|---|
| Joseph Bird, IV | 2024 |
| Thomas Bramhall | 2025 |
| Jennie Hollingsworth | 2025 |
| John Mathis, Jr | 2026 |
| Mario Vitulli | 2026 |

### 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.

## 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 did not have a component unit 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 Board's accounting policies are described below.

The basic financial statements report using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting generally includes the reclassification or elimination of internal activity (between or within funds). 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."

## 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 fire fighting 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 of the ballot either during the annual election or at a special election.

*Debt Service Fund*

The Debt Service Fund is used to account for resources that will be used to service general long-term debt.

### 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.

Program revenues also include grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function, segment, or component unit. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues. The District does not allocate general government (indirect) expenses to other functions.

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.

## NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### District Wide and Fund Financial Statements (continued)

*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 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.

### 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 are recorded when due.

### Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The District must adopt an annual budget in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A: 14-78.1 et al*.

The Board 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.

## NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### 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 had $528,731 of encumbrances as of December 31, 2023.

### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include petty cash, change funds and cash in banks. All certificates of deposit are recorded as cash regardless of the date of maturity. 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 of New Jersey organized under the laws of the United States or of the State of New Jersey 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 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 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.

### Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivables represent amounts due from intergovernmental agencies for amounts to be raised by taxation to support the District's budget and supplemental fire service act grant awards. Receivables are reported net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts and revenues net of uncollectible. Allowances are reported when accounts are proven to be uncollectible. All receivables are current and therefore due within one year, thus no allowance was recorded by the District (see Note 5: *Accounts Receivables).*

### Prepaid Expenses

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

### 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 fire fighting 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.

## NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include firematic and office equipment and vehicles and apparatus, are reported in the district 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 $2,000. 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:

| Description: | Useful Lives |
|---|---|
| Firematic equipment | 5 – 10 Years |
| Office equipment | 5 – 8 Years |
| Vehicles and apparatus | 5 – 25 Years |

### Right to use Assets and Liabilities

Right to use assets are initially measured at an amount equal to the initial measurement of the related lease liability plus any lease payments made prior to the lease term, less lease incentives, and ancillary charges necessary to place the lease into service. Right to use assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the life of the related lease.

### Inventory, Materials and Supplies

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

### Other Receivables/Payables

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.

### 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, and 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.

## NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### Fund Equity

In accordance with GASB 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 authority 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 of Fire Commissioners.
- Unassigned – includes balance within the General Fund which has not been classified within the above mentioned 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 the summation of liabilities. 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.

## NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

*Adopted Accounting Pronouncements*

GASB has issued the following statements which became effective December 31, 2023 as shown below:

Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*. This Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. 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*

Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences* . This Statement amends the existing requirement to disclose the gross increases and decreases in a liability for compensated absences to allow governments to disclose only the net change in the liability (as long as they identify it as a net change). In addition, governments are no longer required to disclose which governmental funds typically have been used to liquidate the liability for compensated absences. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged. Management has yet determine the potential impact of this pronouncement on the District's financial statements.

Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections- an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62* . This Statement defines accounting changes as changes in accounting principles, changes in accounting estimates, and changes to or within the financial reporting entity and describes the transactions or other events that constitute those changes. This Statement also addresses corrections of errors in previously issued financial statements. The effective date is for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged. Management has yet to determine the potential impact of these pronouncements on the District's financial statements.

### Subsequent Events

The District has evaluated subsequent events occurring after December 31, 2023 through the date of March 13, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

## NOTE 3: CASH

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

| Type | Carrying Value |
|---|---|
| Deposits: | |
| Demand deposits | $ 1,346,584 |
| Total deposits | $ 1,346,584 |
| | |
| **Reconciliation to the Governmental Funds:** | |
| **General Fund:** | |
| Current unrestricted assets: | |
| Cash | $ 817,853 |
| **Capital Projects Fund:** | |
| Current restricted assets: | |
| Cash held with trustee | 528,731 |
| Total | $ 1,346,584 |

### 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 $1,366,669 was exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Insured | $ 250,000 |
| Collateralized in the District's name under GUDPA | 587,938 |
| Uninsured and uncollateralized | 528,731 |
| Total | $ 1,366,669 |

## NOTE 4: CASH HELD WITH TRUSTEE

Cash held with trustee consists of amounts held with financial intuitions that is legally restricted for the purchase of a fire apparatus, such funds are uninsured and uncollateralized. As of December 31, 2023, the District had $528,731 in cash held with trustees.

## NOTE 5: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable as of December 31, 2023 consisted of the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Amount to be raised by taxation to support the District's budget | $ 167,617 |
| Supplemental Fire Service act | 1,745 |
| Total | $ 169,362 |

## NOTE 6: CAPITAL ASSETS

*N.J.S.A. 40A: 14-84* governs the procedures for the acquisition of property and equipment for the 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:

| | Beginning Balance | Additions | Retirements | Ending Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Governmental activities: | | | | |
| Depreciable assets: | | | | |
| Firematic equipment | $ 915,815 | $ 46,411 | $ - | $ 962,226 |
| Office equipment | 12,423 | 6,891 | - | 19,314 |
| Vehicles and apparatus | 2,684,497 | 45,711 | - | 2,730,208 |
| Total depreciable assets | 3,612,735 | 99,013 | - | 3,711,748 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation: | | | | |
| Firematic equipment | (616,767) | (97,346) | - | (714,113) |
| Office equipment | (9,518) | (1,387) | - | (10,905) |
| Vehicles and apparatus | (1,666,842) | (99,922) | - | (1,766,764) |
| Total accumulated depreciation | (2,293,127) | (198,655) | - | (2,491,782) |
| Total capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation | $ 1,319,608 | $ (99,642) | $ - | $ 1,219,966 |

## NOTE 7: LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

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

| | Beginning Balance | Accrued/ increases | (Retired)/ (decreases) | Ending Balance | Due within One Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Finance purchases payable | $ 528,731 | $ - | $ (44,366) | $ 484,365 | $ 46,070 |
| Lease liability | 699,846 | - | (68,079) | 631,767 | 70,319 |
| Total | $ 1,228,577 | $ - | $ (112,445) | $ 1,116,132 | $ 116,389 |

**Lease Liability**

In January, 2021 the District entered into a one (1) year lease agreement, in which management deemed it reasonably certain that the lease agreement would not terminate and would be renewed and effective, for ten (10) additional one year agreements, for the use of office space. A lease liability was recorded as of December 31, 2022 in the amount of $699,846. As of December 31, 2023, the value of the lease liability is $631,767. The District is required to make quarterly payments of $22,500. The lease liability is measured at a discount rate of 3.25%. The following is a schedule of the remaining future minimum lease payments under these lease obligations and the present value of the net minimum lease payments at December 31,:

## NOTE 7: LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (continued)

### Right to use Lease Liability (continued)

| | Principal | Interest | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $ 70,319 | $ 19,681 | $ 90,000 |
| 2025 | 72,632 | 17,368 | 90,000 |
| 2026 | 75,022 | 14,978 | 90,000 |
| 2027 | 77,490 | 12,510 | 90,000 |
| 2028 | 80,039 | 9,961 | 90,000 |
| 2029 - 2031 | 256,265 | 13,735 | 270,000 |
| Total | $ 631,767 | $ 88,233 | $ 720,000 |

### Obligations under Finance Purchases

As of December 31, 2023, the District is purchasing a fire apparatus with a total cost of $528,731 under a finance purchase agreement. The finance purchase agreement is for a term of ten (10) years with an interest rate of 5.48% for the apparatus. The following is a schedule of the remaining future minimum lease payments under the finance purchase, and the present value of the net minimum lease payments at December 31,:

| | Principal | Interest | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $ 46,070 | $ 18,600 | $ 64,670 |
| 2025 | 47,839 | 16,831 | 64,670 |
| 2026 | 49,736 | 14,934 | 64,670 |
| 2027 | 51,584 | 13,086 | 64,670 |
| 2028 | 53,564 | 11,105 | 64,669 |
| 2029 - 2032 | 235,572 | 23,105 | 258,677 |
| Total | $ 484,365 | $ 97,661 | $ 582,026 |

## NOTE 8: RIGHT TO USE LEASE ASSET

The District has recorded a right to use leased asset for the use of office space. The related lease is discussed in the lease liability subsection of Note 7: *Long-Term Obligations*. The right to use lease asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over the terms of the related leases. Right to use asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2023, was as follows:

| | Beginning Balance | Additions | Adjustments /Retirements | Ending Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Governmental activities: | | | | |
| Right to use Assets: | | | | |
| Office space | $ 765,757 | $ - | $ - | $ 765,757 |
| Total right to use assets | 765,757 | - | - | 765,757 |
| Less: accumulated amortization: | | | | |
| Property | (76,575) | (76,577) | - | (153,152) |
| Total accumulated amortization | (76,575) | (76,577) | - | (153,152) |
| Total right to use assets, net of accumulated amortization | $ 689,182 | $ (76,577) | $ - | $ 612,605 |

## NOTE: 9: 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 10: RISKS AND UNCERTANTIES

There are actions, which have been instituted against the District. The outcome of these actions cannot be determined at the present time. The final outcomes, if unfavorable to the District, will be covered through the budgetary process.

## NOTE 11: OTHER RECEIVABLE/PAYABLE

Other receivables and payables represent interfund receivables and payables. The purpose of the interfunds is for short-term borrowing. As of December 31, 2023, the following interfund balances remained on the balance sheet:

| Fund | Interfund receivable | Interfund payable |
|---|---|---|
| General | $ - | $ 653,197 |
| Capital projects | 653,197 | - |
| Total | $ 653,197 | $ 653,197 |

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 columns of the District wide statement of net position.

## NOTE 12: FUNDING

The activities of the Board of Commissioners 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 $.067 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 13: FUND BALANCE

**General Fund** – Of the $261,350 General Fund, fund balance at December 31, 2023; $106,803 is assigned for subsequent year's expenditures and $154,547 is unassigned.

**Capital Projects Fund** – Of the $1,181,928 Capital Projects Fund, fund balance at December 31, 2023; $653,197 is assigned for subsequent year's expenditures and $528,731 is assigned for other purposes.

The District uses restricted/committed amounts to be spent first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, unless prohibited by law or regulation.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 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 anticipated revenues: | | | | |
| Interest income | $ 400 | $ 400 | $ 418 | $ 18 |
| Contracted services | - | - | 53,333 | 53,333 |
| Total miscellaneous revenues | 400 | 400 | 53,751 | 53,351 |
| Operating grant revenues: | | | | |
| Supplemental fire service act | 1,745 | 1,745 | 1,745 | - |
| Total operating grant revenue | 1,745 | 1,745 | 1,745 | - |
| Total revenues | 2,145 | 2,145 | 55,496 | 53,351 |
| Amount raised by taxation to support district budget | 670,470 | 670,470 | 670,470 | - |
| Total anticipated revenues | 672,615 | 672,615 | 725,966 | 53,351 |
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| Operating appropriations: | | | | |
| Administration: | | | | |
| Salaries and wages | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | - |
| Other expenditures: | | | | |
| Membership dues | 3,800 | 800 | 370 | 430 |
| Professional fees | 20,000 | 28,600 | 28,506 | 94 |
| Elections | 5,000 | 2,700 | 2,337 | 363 |
| Office expense | 12,400 | 12,400 | 12,230 | 170 |
| Total administration | 71,200 | 74,500 | 73,443 | 1,057 |
| Cost of operations and maintenance: | | | | |
| Fringe benefits | 35,000 | 35,000 | 32,721 | 2,279 |
| Other expenditures: | | | | |
| Advertising | 500 | 500 | 227 | 273 |
| Contingencies | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | - |
| Fire prevention | 20,000 | 20,500 | 12,464 | 8,036 |
| Contracted service expenses | - | - | 25,655 | (25,655) |
| Fire service contract | 90,000 | 95,500 | 90,000 | 5,500 |
| Insurance | 55,000 | 52,800 | 49,165 | 3,635 |
| Maintenance and repairs | 62,000 | 32,000 | 31,407 | 593 |
| Reimbursement of expenses | 10,000 | 10,000 | 6,325 | 3,675 |
| Materials and supplies | 52,000 | 42,300 | 42,224 | 76 |
| Training and education | 12,500 | 11,000 | 10,601 | 399 |
| Uniforms and gear | 25,000 | 23,000 | 22,914 | 86 |
| SFSG expenses | 1,746 | 1,746 | 373 | 1,373 |
| Non-bondable equipment | 52,000 | 88,100 | 96,049 | (7,949) |
| Total cost of operations and maintenance | 416,746 | 413,446 | 421,125 | (7,679) |
| Capital appropriations | 120,000 | 120,000 | - | 120,000 |
| Debt service for capital appropriations: | | | | |
| Principal on finance purchases | 44,366 | 44,366 | 44,366 | - |
| Interest on finance purchases | 20,303 | 20,303 | 20,303 | - |
| Total debt service for capital appropriations | 64,669 | 64,669 | 64,669 | - |
| Total operating appropriations | 672,615 | 672,615 | 559,237 | 113,378 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures | - | - | 166,729 | 166,729 |
| Fund balance, January 1 | 1,276,549 | 1,276,549 | 1,276,549 | - |
| Fund balance, December 31 | $ 1,276,549 | $ 1,276,549 | $ 1,443,278 | $ 166,729 |

EXHIBIT I-1

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**Long-Term Debt**
**Schedule of Obligations Under Finance Purchases**
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

| Description | Date of Financing | Term of Financing | Amount of Original: Principal | Amount of Original: Interest | Annual Maturity Date | Annual Maturity Amount | Interest Rate Payable | Balance December 31, 2022 | Issued | Retired | Balance December 31, 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Apparatus | August 31, 2022 | Ten Years | $ 528,731 | $ 117,965 | August 31, 2024 | $ 46,070 | 5.48% | $ 528,731 | $ - | $ (44,366) | $ 484,365 |
| | | | | | August 31, 2025 | 47,839 | 5.48% | | | | |
| | | | | | August 31, 2026 | 49,736 | 5.48% | | | | |
| | | | | | August 31, 2027 | 51,584 | 5.48% | | | | |
| | | | | | August 31, 2028 | 53,564 | 5.48% | | | | |
| | | | | | August 31, 2029 | 55,621 | 5.48% | | | | |
| | | | | | August 31, 2030 | 57,767 | 5.48% | | | | |
| | | | | | August 31, 2031 | 59,976 | 5.48% | | | | |
| | | | | | August 31, 2032 | 62,208 | 5.48% | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Total | $ 528,731 | $ - | $ (44,366) | $ 484,365 |

EXHIBIT I-2

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**
**Long-Term Debt**
**Schedule of Obligations Under Leases Obligations**
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

| Description | Date of Lease | Term of Lease | Amount of Original: Principal | Amount of Original: Interest | Annual Maturity Date | Annual Maturity Amount | Interest Rate Payable | Balance December 31, 2022 | Issued | Retired | Balance December 31, 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Property Lease | January 1, 2022 | Ten Years | $ 765,756 | $ 108,481 | December 31, 2024 | $ 70,319 | 3.25% | $ 699,846 | $ - | $ (68,079) | $ 631,767 |
| | | | | | December 31, 2025 | 72,632 | 3.25% | | | | |
| | | | | | December 31, 2026 | 75,022 | 3.25% | | | | |
| | | | | | December 31, 2027 | 77,490 | 3.25% | | | | |
| | | | | | December 31, 2028 | 80,039 | 3.25% | | | | |
| | | | | | December 31, 2029 | 82,672 | 3.25% | | | | |
| | | | | | December 31, 2030 | 85,392 | 3.25% | | | | |
| | | | | | December 31, 2031 | 88,201 | 3.25% | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Total | $ 699,846 | $ - | $ (68,079) | $ 631,767 |

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Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Little Egg Harbor
County of Ocean
Township of Little Egg Harbor, State of New Jersey

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Fire District No. 1 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.

The District has a qualified purchasing agent on staff and therefore may award contracts up to $44,000 without competitive bids.

It is pointed out that the Board of Fire Commissioners has 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.

**Contracts and Agreements Requiring Solicitation of Quotations**

The examination of expenditures did not reveal any 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. The results of the test did not disclose any discrepancies.

**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. The results of the examination did not disclose any discrepancies with respect to signatures, certification or supporting documentation.

**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 its operating budget on November 14, 2022 and adopted its operating budget on December 12, 2022.

**Current Year Findings**

There were no current year findings.

**Prior Year Findings**

In accordance with G*overnment 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 concerning our comments or recommendations, or should you desire any assistance in implementing our recommendations, please contact us.

Holman Frenia Allison, P.C.

**HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.**
*Certified Public Accountants*

March 13, 2024
Lakewood, New Jersey