

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**

**Financial Statements and Supplementary Information**

**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

**(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)**

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Table of Contents**

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1
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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	4
<b>Required Supplementary Information, Part I:</b>	
Management's Discussion and Analysis	6
<b>Basic Financial Statements:</b>	
District Wide Statement of Net Position	13
District Wide Statement of Activities	15
Governmental Funds Balance Sheet	16
Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance	17
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance to the District Wide Statement of Activities	19
Notes to Financial Statements	20
<b>Required Supplementary Information, Part II:</b>	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule	47
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information Budgetary Basis to the Governmental Funds Reconciliation	49
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability – Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)	50
Schedule of District Contributions – Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)	51
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Other Post - employment Benefit Liability (OPEB)	52
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information	53
<b>Supplementary Information:</b>	
Schedules of Obligations under Bonds Payable	54
General Comments and Recommendations	55



1985 Cedar Bridge Ave., Suite 3 • Lakewood, NJ 08701 • 732.797.1333  
194 East Bergen Place • Red Bank, NJ 07701 • 732.747.0010

[www.hfacpas.com](http://www.hfacpas.com)

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Fire District No. 1 of the township of East Brunswick  
County of Middlesex  
Township of East Brunswick, 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 East Brunswick, County of Middlesex, 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 East Brunswick'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 East Brunswick, 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 East Brunswick, 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 East Brunswick'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 East Brunswick'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 East Brunswick'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 schedule and other required supplementary information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements.

We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

**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 East Brunswick’s basic financial statements. The schedule of serial bonds payable is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is 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 schedule of serial bonds payable is 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 November 1, 2024 on our consideration of Fire District No. 1 of the township of East Brunswick’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 East Brunswick’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

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

November 1, 2024  
Lakewood, New Jersey



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

To the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Fire District No. 1 of the Township of East Brunswick  
County of Middlesex  
Township of East Brunswick, 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 East Brunswick 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 East Brunswick's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon November 1, 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 East Brunswick'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 East Brunswick's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Fire District No. 1 of the township of East Brunswick'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 East Brunswick's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, and audit requirements as prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey.

**Purpose of This Report**

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

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

November 1, 2024  
Lakewood, New Jersey

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

As management of the Fire District No. 1 of the Township of East Brunswick (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 20.

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the District exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at December 31, 2023, by approximately \$5,565,900. During 2022, the excess of assets and deferred outflows of resources over liabilities and deferred inflows of resources was approximately \$5,301,600. This is an increase of approximately \$264,400.
- During 2023, the District operated at a surplus of approximately \$264,400. During 2022, the District operated at a surplus of approximately \$328,600. This is a decrease of approximately \$64,300.
- The District's liabilities and deferred inflows of resources decreased approximately \$163,100 in 2023 while their assets and deferred outflows of resources increased by approximately \$101,300.
- As described in Note 2 to the financial statements the District has adopted the provisions of GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements* (SBITAs), for the year ended December 31, 2023. Adoption of this statement did not have a material impact on the District's financial statements.

**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 East Brunswick Township, New Jersey, 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, the 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 and deferred outflows of resources exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by approximately \$5,565,900. 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.

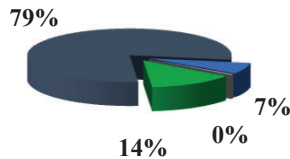
**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK  
DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
Current and noncurrent assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ 4,816,842	\$ 4,841,936	\$ (25,094)	(0.52%)
Capital assets	<u>7,801,910</u>	<u>7,675,545</u>	<u>126,365</u>	1.65%
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	12,618,752	12,517,481	101,271	0.81%
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>(7,052,803)</u>	<u>(7,215,895)</u>	<u>(163,092)</u>	(2.26%)
Net position	<u>\$ 5,565,949</u>	<u>\$ 5,301,586</u>	<u>\$ 264,363</u>	4.99%

**Analysis of net position**

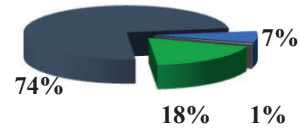
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 4,401,910	\$ 3,919,545	\$ 482,365	12.31%
Restricted for:				
Capital projects	372,721	369,719	3,002	0.81%
Dedicated penalties	33,375	33,025	350	1.06%
Unrestricted	<u>757,943</u>	<u>979,297</u>	<u>(221,354)</u>	(22.60%)
Total net position	<u>\$ 5,565,949</u>	<u>\$ 5,301,586</u>	<u>\$ 264,363</u>	4.99%

**2023 NET POSITION**



- Investment in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt
- Restricted for Capital
- Dedicated Penalties
- Unrestricted

**2022 NET POSITION**



- Investment in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt
- Restricted for Capital
- Dedicated Penalties
- Unrestricted

The net position of the District increased approximately \$264,400 as a result of the current year surplus. In 2023, the capital assets increased by approximately \$126,400 after depreciation expense.

**DISTRICT WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (continued)**

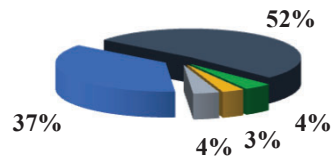
**Governmental Activities**

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 EAST BRUNSWICK  
DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

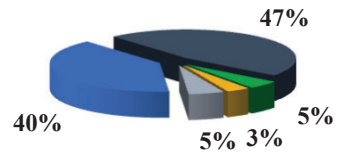
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
Expenses:				
Program expenses:				
Administrative expenses	\$ 839,310	\$ 849,532	\$ (10,222)	(1.20%)
Cost of operations and maintenace	1,184,990	995,322	189,668	19.06%
Operating appropriations offset with revenues	93,139	99,218	(6,079)	(6.13%)
Length of service awards program	73,869	73,116	753	1.03%
Interest expense	88,085	111,614	(23,529)	(21.08%)
Total program expenses	<u>\$ 2,279,393</u>	<u>\$ 2,128,802</u>	<u>\$ 150,591</u>	7.07%

**2023 PROGRAM EXPENSES**



- Administrative
- Cost of Operations
- Operating Appropriations Offset with Revenues
- Length of Service Awards Program
- Interest Expense

**2022 PROGRAM EXPENSES**



- Administrative
- Cost of Operations
- Operating Appropriations Offset with Revenues
- Length of Service Awards Program
- Interest Expense

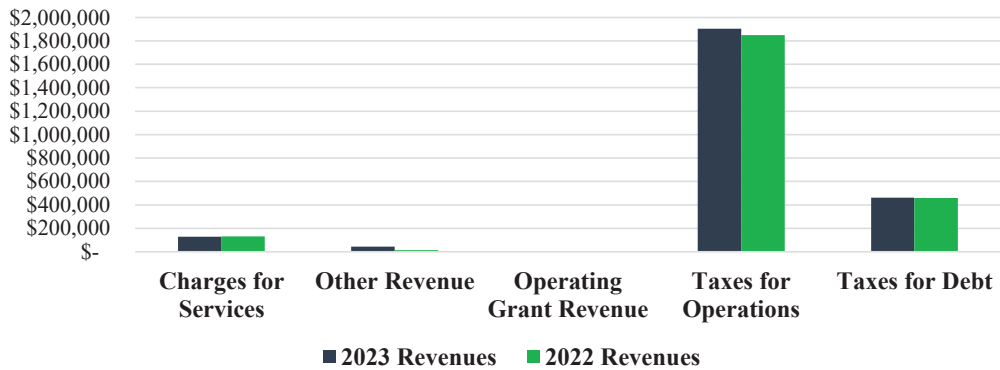
The Cost of Operations & Maintenance comprised 52% and 47% of the District's total expenses in 2023 and 2022, respectively. Administration expenses comprised 37% and 40% of the total expenses in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

**DISTRICT WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (continued)**

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

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
Program revenues:				
Charges for services	128,275	130,160	(1,885)	(1.45%)
Total program revenues	<u>128,275</u>	<u>130,160</u>	<u>(1,885)</u>	<u>(1.45%)</u>
Net program expenses	2,151,118	1,998,642	152,476	7.63%
General revenues:				
Property taxes levied for:				
General purposes	1,904,469	1,849,098	55,371	2.99%
Debt service	461,676	458,348	3,328	0.73%
Total property taxes levied	<u>2,366,145</u>	<u>2,307,446</u>	<u>58,699</u>	<u>2.54%</u>
Other revenue	42,910	13,398	29,512	220.27%
Operating grant revenue	6,426	6,439	(13)	(0.20%)
Total general revenues	<u>2,415,481</u>	<u>2,327,283</u>	<u>88,198</u>	<u>3.79%</u>
Increase in net position	264,363	328,641	(64,278)	(19.56%)
Net position, January 1	<u>5,301,586</u>	<u>4,972,945</u>	<u>328,641</u>	<u>6.61%</u>
Net position, December 31	<u>\$ 5,565,949</u>	<u>\$ 5,301,586</u>	<u>\$ 264,363</u>	<u>4.99%</u>

**REVENUES**



Property tax revenue constituted 93% of the total governmental activities revenues received by the District in 2023 and 94% in 2022.

## **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 balances of the District was approximately \$2,493,600. This balance is approximately \$326,300 lower than last year's combined governmental funds cash balances.

The combined fund balance of the governmental funds of the District was approximately \$3,428,700. Of that total, funds of approximately \$372,700 have been restricted for capital, \$1,977,400 have been restricted for length of service awards program, approximately \$33,400 have been restricted for dedicated penalties, \$190,200 have been assigned for subsequent year's expenditures, and \$855,000 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 \$3,056,000. Of this balance, approximately \$855,000 of it was unassigned.

During 2023, the general fund balance increased by approximately \$8,500. The primary reason for this increase are as follows:

- The Board recognized revenues in excess of expenses of approximately \$8,500.

During 2023, the capital projects fund balance increased by \$3,000. The primary reason for this increase are as follows:

- The Board recognized revenues in excess of expenses of approximately \$3,000.

### **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 \$71,300 in 2023.
- Overall, the District's expenditures were approximately \$264,000 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 \$7,801,900 (net of accumulated depreciation). Capital assets consist of apparatus in progress, buildings and improvements, equipment and trucks and vehicles.

### FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK CAPITAL ASSETS NET OF ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Increase (Decrease)</u>
Capital Assets:			
Non-depreciable:			
Apparatus in progress	\$ 899,388	\$ 899,388	\$ -
Total non-depreciable assets	899,388	899,388	-
Depreciable:			
Buildings and improvements	6,804,435	6,586,296	218,139
Vehicles, machinery and equipment	4,965,296	4,574,025	391,271
Total depreciable assets	<u>11,769,731</u>	<u>11,160,321</u>	<u>609,410</u>
Total capital assets	<u>12,669,119</u>	<u>12,059,709</u>	<u>609,410</u>
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,867,209)</u>	<u>(4,384,164)</u>	<u>(483,045)</u>
Total capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ 7,801,910</u>	<u>\$ 7,675,545</u>	<u>\$ 126,365</u>

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

## DEBT ADMINISTRATION

As of December 31, 2023, the District had bonds payable for government activities of approximately \$3,400,000 of which approximately \$300,000 is due within one year.

Additional information on the District's debt obligations can be found in Note 8 in the notes to the financial statements.

## ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEARS BUDGET

The District introduced their 2024 budget on December 5, 2023. The voters subsequently voted to approve the budget at the January election. The 2024 adopted budget reflects an increase in the tax levy of \$329,927, in which the Board anticipates an increase to the fire tax rate.

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's finances 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 East Brunswick Township Fire District No. 1, 680 Old Bridge Tps., East Brunswick, New Jersey, 08816.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**District Wide Statement of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2023**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<u><b>Governmental Activities</b></u>
Current assets:	
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 2,493,636
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	34,451
Prepaid assets	<u>166,068</u>
Total current assets	<u>2,694,155</u>
Noncurrent assets:	
Investment in length of service awards program:	
at fair value (Note 5)	1,653,110
at contract value (Note 6)	<u>252,395</u>
Total investment in length of service awards program	<u>1,905,505</u>
Total noncurrent assets	1,905,505
Capital assets, net:	
Non-depreciable (Note 7)	899,388
Depreciable (Note 7)	<u>6,902,522</u>
Total capital assets	<u>7,801,910</u>
Total assets	<u>12,401,570</u>
 <b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>  	
Deferred outflows related to pensions (Note 9)	5,281
Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefits (Note 10)	<u>211,901</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>217,182</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u><u>\$ 12,618,752</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**District Wide Statement of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2023**

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<u><b>Governmental Activities</b></u>
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 999,341
Accrued interest payable	14,951
Accrued expenses	5,538
Pension payable	25,656
Current portion of bonds payable (Note 8)	<u>300,000</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>1,345,486</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Bonds payable, net of current portion (Note 8)	3,100,000
Net pension liability (Note 9)	278,021
Net other postemployment benefits (Note 10)	164,472
Investment in length of service awards program payable (Note 11)	<u>1,977,438</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>5,519,931</u>
Total liabilities	<u>6,865,417</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred inflows related to pensions (Note 9)	96,203
Deferred inflows related to other postemployment benefits (Note 10)	<u>91,183</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>187,386</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>7,052,803</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	4,401,910
Restricted for:	
Capital	372,721
Dedicated penalties	33,375
Unrestricted	<u>757,943</u>
Total net position	<u>5,565,949</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position	<u><u>\$ 12,618,752</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.



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

	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Charges for Services</b>	<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>
Governmental activities:			
Operating appropriations:			
Administration	\$ 839,310	\$ -	\$ 839,310
Costs of operations and maintenance	1,184,990	-	1,184,990
Operating appropriations offset with revenues	93,139	128,275	(35,136)
Length of service awards program contribution	73,869	-	73,869
Interest expense	88,085	-	88,085
Total operating appropriations	\$ 2,279,393	\$ 128,275	2,151,118
General revenues:			
Miscellaneous revenues			42,910
Operating grant revenues			6,426
Amount raised by taxation			2,366,145
Total general revenues			2,415,481
Change in net position			264,363
Net position, January 1			5,301,586
Net position, December 31			\$ 5,565,949

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**December 31, 2023**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current assets:				
Cash	\$ 1,466,681	\$ 1,026,955	\$ -	\$ 2,493,636
Accounts receivable	23,000	-	-	23,000
Intergovernmental accounts receivable:				
State	11,451	-	-	11,451
Other receivables (interfund)	-	245,154	-	245,154
Total current assets	<u>1,501,132</u>	<u>1,272,109</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,773,241</u>
Noncurrent assets:				
Investment in length of service awards program:				
at fair value	1,653,110	-	-	1,653,110
at contract value	252,395	-	-	252,395
Total investment in length of service awards program	<u>1,905,505</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,905,505</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>1,905,505</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,905,505</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,406,637</u>	<u>\$ 1,272,109</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,678,746</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 99,953	\$ 899,388	\$ -	\$ 999,341
Accrued expenses	5,538	-	-	5,538
Other payables (interfund)	245,154	-	-	245,154
Total liabilities	<u>350,645</u>	<u>899,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,250,033</u>
Fund balance:				
Restricted for:				
Capital	-	372,721	-	372,721
Investment in length of service awards program	1,977,438	-	-	1,977,438
Dedicated penalties	33,375	-	-	33,375
Assigned for:				
Subsequent year's expenditures	190,198	-	-	190,198
Unassigned, reported in:				
General fund	854,981	-	-	854,981
Total fund balances	<u>3,055,992</u>	<u>372,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,428,713</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 3,406,637</u>	<u>\$ 1,272,109</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

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

Prepaid assets are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of net position, the cost of those assets is expensed.	166,068
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	7,801,910
Accrued interest payable is not recorded in the fund financial statements due to the fact that the payable is not due in the period.	(14,951)
Accrued pensions payable are not recorded in the governmental fund financial statements due to the fact that the payable is not due in the current period.	(25,656)
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions, other postemployment benefits and length of service awards program are applicable to future reporting periods and therefore, are not reported in the funds.	29,796
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and are therefore not reported as liabilities in the funds.	<u>(5,819,931)</u>
Total net position - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 5,565,949</u>

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**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 revenues:				
Interest on investments and deposits	\$ 2,052	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,052
Appreciation in the value of length of service awards program	279,584			
Municipal assistance	9,000	-	-	9,000
Miscellaneous	31,858	-	-	31,858
Total miscellaneous revenues	322,494	-	-	322,494
Operating grant revenues:				
Supplemental fire service act	6,426	-	-	6,426
Total operating grant revenues	6,426	-	-	6,426
Revenues offset with appropriations:				
Uniform fire safety act:				
Annual registration fee	39,176	-	-	39,176
Other revenues	89,099	-	-	89,099
Total uniform safety act	128,275	-	-	128,275
Total revenues offset with appropriations	128,275	-	-	128,275
Amount to be raised by taxation to support district budget	1,904,469	-	461,676	2,366,145
Total revenues	2,361,664	-	461,676	2,823,340
Expenditures:				
Operating appropriations:				
Administration:				
Salaries and wages	126,424	-	-	126,424
Fringe benefits	172,925	-	-	172,925
Other expenditures:				
Elections	10,149	-	-	10,149
Insurance	108,586	-	-	108,586
Membership and dues	2,276	-	-	2,276
Office expenses	37,149	-	-	37,149
Professional services	93,670	-	-	93,670
Rental of office space	12,000	-	-	12,000
Utilities	122,275	-	-	122,275
Advertising and publications	1,454	-	-	1,454
Building and office repairs	152,402	-	-	152,402
Total administration	839,310	-	-	839,310
Cost of operations and maintenance:				
Salary and wages	24,000	-	-	24,000
Fringe benefits	1,171	-	-	1,171
Other expenditures:				
Old Bridge Vol. Fire Company	345,000	-	-	345,000
Maintenance and repairs	169,352	-	-	169,352
Operating materials and supplies	45,715	-	-	45,715
Training and education	6,343	-	-	6,343
Uniforms and personal equipment	65,345	-	-	65,345
Contingent expenses	78,008	-	-	78,008
Communication equipment	44,444	-	-	44,444
Firefighting equipment	74,896	-	-	74,896
Safety officer equipment	13,158	-	-	13,158
Total cost of operations and maintenance	867,432	-	-	867,432

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance (continued)**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Operating appropriations offset with revenues:				
Salaries and wages	93,139	-	-	93,139
Total operating appropriations offset with revenues	93,139	-	-	93,139
Length of service awards program:				
Participant withdrawals	58,264	-	-	58,264
Total length of service awards program	58,264	-	-	58,264
Total operating appropriations	1,858,145	-	-	1,858,145
Capital appropriations:				
SCBA		367,514		367,514
Butler building	-	124,484	-	124,484
Total capital appropriations	-	491,998	-	491,998
Debt service for capital appropriations:				
Principal payments on debt service	-	-	356,000	356,000
Interest payments on debt service	-	-	105,676	105,676
Total debt service for capital appropriations	-	-	461,676	461,676
Total operating appropriations	1,858,145	491,998	461,676	2,811,819
Excess (efficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures before other financing sources and (uses)	503,519	(491,998)	-	11,521
Other financing sources and (uses):				
Transfer to capital projects fund	(495,000)	-	-	(495,000)
Transfer from general fund	-	495,000	-	495,000
Total other financing sources and (uses)	(495,000)	495,000	-	-
Total governmental expenditures	2,353,145	(3,002)	461,676	2,811,819
Excess of revenues and other financing sources and (uses) over expenditures and other financing sources and (uses)	8,519	3,002	-	11,521
Fund balance, January 1	3,047,473	369,719	-	3,417,192
Fund balance, December 31	<u>\$ 3,055,992</u>	<u>\$ 372,721</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,428,713</u>

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures**  
**and Changes in Fund Balance to the District Wide Statement of Activities**  
**December 31, 2023**

Total net changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds (B-2) \$ 11,521

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

Prepaid assets are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the district wide statement of net position, the cost of those assets are expensed.

	Prior year	(159,796)	
	Current year	<u>166,068</u>	6,272

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

	Length of service awards program contribution	(73,869)	
	Participant withdrawals	58,264	
	Appreciation in the value of length of service awards program	<u>(279,584)</u>	(295,189)

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	121,786	
	Capital outlay - Capital Projects Fund	487,624	
	Depreciation expense	<u>(483,045)</u>	126,365

Accrued interest on debt service 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	32,542	
	Current year	<u>(14,951)</u>	17,591

Repayment of debt service 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.

356,000

District pension benefit (expense) are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds when made. However, they are reported as deferred outflows of resources in the district wide statement of net position because the reported net pension liability is measured a year before the District's report date. Pension benefit (expense), which is the change in the net pension liability adjusted for changes in deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pension, is reported in the district wide statement of activities.

	Pension benefit (expense)	<u>61,825</u>	61,825
--	---------------------------	---------------	--------

District other postemployment benefit contributions are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds when made. However, they are reported as deferred outflows of resources in the district wide statement of net position because the reported net other postemployment benefit liability is measured a year before the District's report date. Other postemployment benefit (expense), which is the change in the net other postemployment benefit liability adjusted for changes in deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to other postemployment benefits is reported in the district wide statement of activities.

	Other postemployment benefit (expense)	<u>(20,022)</u>	(20,022)
--	--	-----------------	----------

	Change in total net position - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 264,363</u>	
--	--	-------------------	--

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**NOTE 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Description of Reporting Entity**

Fire District No. 1 of the township of East Brunswick (hereafter referred to as the District) is a political subdivision of the Township of East Brunswick, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey. A board of five commissioners (the Board) oversees all of the operations of the District. The length of each commissioner's term is three years with the annual election held the third Saturday of every 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 hold 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 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:

<u>Officials</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u> <u>March</u>
Steven T. Ansalone	2026
Frederick J. Hoover, Jr.	2024
Robert McDonald	2025
Michael P. Mosher	2024
Bruce R. Smith	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.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 1: GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)**

**Component Units**

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

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

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

**Fund Accounting**

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

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

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

**Fund Accounting (continued)**

**Governmental Funds:**

*General Fund*

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

*Capital Projects Fund*

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

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.



**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

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

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

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

*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.

In its accounting and financial reporting, the District follows the pronouncements of the GASB.

**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.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**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. As of December 31, 2023, there were no encumbrances.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include petty cash, change funds and cash in banks. Fire Districts are required by *N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-14* to deposit public funds in a bank or trust company having its place of business in the State 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 they are federally insured. All public depositories must pledge collateral, having a market value of five percent of its average daily balance of collected public funds, to secure the deposits of governmental units. If public depository fails, the collateral it has pledged, plus the collateral of all other public depositories, is available to pay the full amount of their deposits to the governmental units.

**Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable represents amounts due from registration fees associated with the District's fire prevention bureau. The District evaluates its receivables to determine if any portion is uncollectable. Management has determined all receivables to be collectible for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**Prepaid Assets**

Prepaid assets, which 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 capital 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.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

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

**Capital Assets**

Capital assets, which include, construction progress, buildings and vehicles, machinery and equipment 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 \$5,000. Depreciation is recorded on the straight-line method (with no depreciation applied to the first year of acquisition) over the useful lives of the assets as follows:

<u>Description:</u>	<u>Useful Lives:</u>
Building and improvements	25 – 40 Years
Apparatus, vehicles, and equipment	5 – 25 Years

**Investments**

Investments are reported at fair value (except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value). Contract value is the relevant measure for the portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) Plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants normally would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the LOSAP Plan. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Board determines the valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisers, custodians, and insurance company. See Note 5: *Investments Held at Fair Value* and Note 6: *Investments Held at Contract Value* for discussion of fair value and contract value measurements, respectively.

**Other Receivables/Payables**

Other receivables and payables are interfund 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, an amount equaling 21.25% of all monies assessed; on or before July 1, an amount equaling 22.5% of all monies assessed, on or before October 1, an amount equaling 25% of all monies assessed and on or before December 31 an amount equal to the difference between the total of all monies assessed and the total of monies previously paid over.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

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

**Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources**

In addition to assets, the district wide statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

In addition to liabilities, the district wide statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

**Pensions and Other Post-employment Benefits**

For purposes of measuring the net pension and Other Post-employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB and related expenses information about the fiduciary net position of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and OPEB and additions to/deductions from the PERS and OPEB fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plan. For these purposes, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

**Fund Equity**

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

- Non-spendable – includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because it is not in spendable form or because legal or contractual constraints.
- Restricted – includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by external parties, constitutional provision or enabling legislation.
- Committed – includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government through formal action of the highest level of decision-making District 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 nor committed. Fund Balance may be assigned by the Board of 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.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

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

**Net Position**

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

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

**Use of Estimates**

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

**Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements**

*Accounting Pronouncements Adopted in Current Year*

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

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

Management has determined that the implementation of these statements did not have a significant impact on the District's financial statements.

*Accounting Pronouncements Effective in Future Reporting Periods*

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

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

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

**Subsequent Events**

The District has evaluated subsequent events occurring after December 31, 2023 through the date of November 1, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 3: CASH**

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

<b>Type:</b>	<b>Carrying Value</b>
<b>Deposits:</b>	
Demand deposits	\$ 2,493,186
Petty cash	450
Total deposits	\$ 2,493,636
 <b>Reconciliation to the Governmental Funds:</b>	
Governmental Funds	\$ 2,493,636
Total	\$ 2,493,636

**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 \$2,533,717 was insured or collateralized as follows:

Insured	\$ 250,000
Collateralized in the District's name under GUPA	2,283,717
Total	\$ 2,533,717

**NOTE 4: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

As of December 31, 2023, accounts receivables consisted of the following:

State of New Jersey - Local Enforcing Agencies fees	\$ 11,451
Local fees	23,000
Total	\$ 34,451

**NOTE 5: INVESTMENTS HELD AT FAIR VALUE**

**Custodial Credit Risk**

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 5: INVESTMENTS HELD AT FAIR VALUE (continued)**

**Investment Interest Rate Risk**

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

**Investment Credit Risk**

The District has no investment policy that limits its investment choices other than the limitation of state law as follows:

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

**Fair Value Measurement**

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

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

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

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 5: INVESTMENTS HELD AT FAIR VALUE (continued)**

**Fair Value Measurement (continued)**

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

Subsequent to initial recognition, the District may remeasure the carrying value of assets and liabilities measured on a nonrecurring basis to fair value. Adjustments to fair value usually result when certain assets are impaired. Such assets are written down from their carrying amounts to their fair value.

The following methods and assumptions were used by the District in estimating the fair value of its financial instruments:

*Money Market Fund* – Valued at the quoted NAV of shares held by the LOSAP Plan at year-end.

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

The preceding methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the LOSAP Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the value hierarchy, the District’s investments at fair value at December 31, 2023.

	<u>Level I</u>	<u>Level II</u>	<u>Level III</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Money market funds</i>	\$ 300,433	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,433
<i>Registered investment companies</i>	1,352,677	-	-	1,352,677
Total investments held at fair value	<u>\$ 1,653,110</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,653,110</u>

**NOTE 6: INVESTMENTS HELD AT CONTRACT VALUE**

The District held a fully benefit-responsive investment contract with the Corebridge Financial Insurance Company (Corebridge) totaling \$252,395 as of December 31, 2023. Corebridge maintains the contributions in the group fixed annuity contract (fixed account). The account is credited with earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. The traditional investment contract held by the District is a guaranteed investment contract. The contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and interest at a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the LOSAP Plan. The District's ability to receive amounts due in accordance with the fully benefit-responsive investment contract is dependent on the contract issuer’s ability to meet its financial obligations. The fixed account continues in-force until they are terminated by Corebridge or the LOSAP Plan. For this reason, such contracts are referred to as "evergreen" contracts and do not define a maturity date. No events are probable of occurring might limit the ability of the LOSAP Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuer and also limit the ability of the LOSAP Plan to transact at contract value with participants. This contract meets the fully benefit-responsive investment contract criteria and therefore is reported at contract value (See Note 2: *Investments*).



**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 7: CAPITAL ASSETS**

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

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets				
Non-depreciable assets:				
Apparatus in progress	\$ 899,388	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 899,388
Total non-depreciable assets	<u>899,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>899,388</u>
Depreciable assets:				
Building and improvements	6,586,296	218,139		6,804,435
Apparatus, vehicles, and equipment	<u>4,574,025</u>	<u>391,271</u>		<u>4,965,296</u>
Total depreciable assets	<u>11,160,321</u>	<u>609,410</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,769,731</u>
Total capital assets, net	12,059,709	609,410	-	12,669,119
Less: accumulated depreciation				
Building and improvements	(1,482,726)	(181,307)	-	(1,664,033)
Apparatus, vehicles, and equipment	<u>(2,901,438)</u>	<u>(301,738)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,203,176)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,384,164)</u>	<u>(483,045)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,867,209)</u>
Total capital assets, net of accuulated depreciation	<u>\$ 7,675,545</u>	<u>\$ 126,365</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 7,801,910</u>

**NOTE 8: LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the following changes occurred in liabilities reported in long-term debt:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Accrued/ increases</u>	<u>(Retired)/ (decreases)</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due within One Year</u>
Bonds payable	\$ 3,756,000	\$ -	\$ (356,000)	\$ 3,400,000	\$ 300,000
Net pension liability	307,034	-	(29,013)	278,021	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability	151,968	12,504	-	164,472	-
Investment in length of service awards program payable	<u>1,682,249</u>	<u>353,453</u>	<u>(58,264)</u>	<u>1,977,438</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,897,251</u>	<u>\$ 365,957</u>	<u>\$ (443,277)</u>	<u>\$ 5,819,931</u>	<u>\$ 300,000</u>

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 8: LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**Bonds payable**

The General Obligation Bonds Series 2013 issued by the Township of East Brunswick for a fire house in the amount of \$5,820,000 with varying interest rates were dated March 21, 2013. The bonds are payable commencing in 2015 on March 15<sup>th</sup> and interest is payable on March 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> commencing in September of 2014. The following is a schedule of future minimum bond payments as of December 31:

	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Total</b>
2024	\$ 300,000	\$ 97,500	\$ 397,500
2025	315,000	88,275	403,275
2026	325,000	78,675	403,675
2027	340,000	68,700	408,700
2028	340,000	58,500	398,500
2029 - 2033	1,780,000	132,630	1,912,630
	\$ 3,400,000	\$ 524,280	\$ 3,924,280

On February 16, 2013 at the annual fire election the voters of the District approved the acquisition of a new fire truck and authorized the issuance of debt not to exceed \$750,000. The financing plan as a shared service agreement was approved by the State of New Jersey Local Finance Board and provided by the Township of East Brunswick under a bond payment agreement. The bond is payable annually on January 15, 2015 through January 15, 2023. As of the year ended December 31, 2023, the bond payment agreement was paid in full.

**Net Pension Liability**

For details on the net pension liability, see Note 9: *Pension Obligations*. The District's annual required contribution to the Public Employees' Retirement System is budgeted and paid on an annual basis.

**Other Postemployment Benefits Liability**

For details on the other postemployment benefits liability, see Note 10: *Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. The District's contribution into the postemployment benefits plan is budgeted and paid on an annual basis.

**Length of Service Awards Program**

For details on the length of service awards program liability, refer to Note 11: *Length of Service Awards Program*. The District's annual required contribution to the length of service awards program is budgeted and paid from the general fund on an annual basis.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 9: PENSION OBLIGATIONS**

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)**

**Plan Description**

The State of New Jersey, Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits (the Division). For additional information about PERS, please refer to Division's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions/financial-reports.shtml>.

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by *N.J.S.A. 43:15A*. PERS provides retirement, death and disability benefits. All benefits vest after ten years of service.

The following represents the membership tiers for PERS:

Tier Definition

- 1 Members who were enrolled prior to July 1, 2007
- 2 Members who were eligible to enroll on or after July 1, 2007 and prior to November 2, 2008
- 3 Members who were eligible to enroll on or after November 2, 2008 and prior to May 22, 2010
- 4 Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
- 5 Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

Service retirement benefits of 1/55th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tiers 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to tiers 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, tiers 3 and 4 with 25 or more years of service credit before age 62 and tier 5 with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a member retires prior to the age at which a member can receive full early retirement benefits in accordance with their respective tier. Tier 1 members can receive an unreduced benefit from age 55 to age 60 if they have at least 25 years of service. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least 10 years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective tier.

**Basis of Presentation**

The schedules of employer and nonemployer allocations and the schedules of pension amounts by employer and nonemployer (collectively, the Schedules) present amounts that are considered elements of the financial statements of PERS or its participating employers. Accordingly, they do not purport to be a complete presentation of the financial position or changes in financial position of PERS or the participating employers. The accompanying Schedules were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Such preparation requires management of PERS to make a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amounts. Due to the inherent nature of these estimates, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 9: PENSION OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

**Contributions**

The contribution policy for PERS is set by *N.J.S.A. 43:15A* and requires contributions by active members and contributing employers. State legislation has modified the amount that is contributed by the State. The State's pension contribution is based on an actuarially determined amount, which includes the employer portion of the normal cost and an amortization of the unfunded accrued liability. Funding for noncontributory group insurance benefits is based on actual claims paid. For the fiscal year 2023, the State's pension contribution was more than the actuarial determined amount. The local employers' contribution amounts are based on an actuarially determined rate, which includes the normal cost and unfunded accrued liability. Chapter 19, P.L. 2009 provided an option for local employers of PERS to contribute 50% of the normal and accrued liability contribution amounts certified for payments due in State fiscal year 2009. Such employers will be credited with the full payment and any such amounts will not be included in their unfunded liability. The actuaries will determine the unfunded liability of those retirement systems, by employer, for the reduced normal and accrued liability contributions provided under this law. This unfunded liability will be paid by the employer in level annual payments over a period of 15 years beginning with the payments due in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 and will be adjusted by the rate of return on the actuarial value of assets. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the District's contractually required contribution to PERS plan was \$25,654.

**Components of Net Pension Liability**

On December 31, 2023, the District's proportionate share of the PERS net pension liability was \$278,021. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined using update procedures to roll forward the total pension liability from an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2023. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's actual contributions to the plan relative to the total of all participating employers' contributions for the year ended June 30, 2023. The District's proportion measured as of June 30, 2023, was 0.0019194521% which was an decrease of 0.0001150462% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

	<b>Balance December 31,</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Actuarial valuation date (including roll forward)	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 5,281	\$ 20,088
Deferred Inflows of Resources	96,203	143,822
Net Pension Liability	278,021	307,034
District's portion of the plan's total Net Pension Liability	0.00192%	0.00203%

**Pension (Benefit) Expense and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources**

On December 31, 2023, the District's proportionate share of the PERS (benefit) expense, calculated by the plan as of the June 30, 2023 measurement date is \$(36,170). At December 31, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS from the following sources:

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 9: PENSION OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

**Pension (Benefit) Expense and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources (continued)**

	<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 2,658	\$ 1,136
Changes of assumptions	611	16,849
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	1,280	-
Changes in proportion and differences between the District's contributions and proportion share of contributions	732	78,218
	\$ 5,281	\$ 96,203

The following is a summary of the deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS that will be recognized in future periods:

<b>Year Ending December 31,</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2024	\$ (30,175)
2025	(23,690)
2026	(4,048)
2027	(17,546)
2028	(15,463)
Total	\$ (90,922)

**Special Funding Situation**

Under *N.J.S.A. 43:15A-15*, local participating employers are responsible for their own contributions based on actuarially determined amounts, except where legislation was passed which legally obligated the State if certain circumstances occurred. The legislation which legally obligates the State, are Chapter 366, P.L. 2001 and Chapter 133, P.L. 2001. The amounts contributed on behalf of the local participating employers under this legislation is considered to be a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68 and the State is treated as a non-employer contributing entity. Since the local participating employers do not contribute under this legislation directly to the plan (except for employer specific financed amounts), there is no net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, or deferred inflows of resources to report in the financial statements of the local participating employers related to the legislation. However, the notes to the financial statements of the local participating employers must disclose the portion of the non-employer contributing entities' total proportionate share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the local participating employer.

In addition, each local participating employer must recognize pension expense associated with the employers as well as revenue in an amount equal to the non-employer contributing entities' total proportionate share of the collective pension expense associated with the local participating employer.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 9: PENSION OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

**Special Funding Situation (continued)**

Additionally, the State has no proportionate share of the PERS net pension liability attributable to the Authority as of December 31, 2023. On December 31, 2023, the State's proportionate share of the PERS expense, associated with the Authority, calculated by the plan as of the June 30, 2023 measurement date was \$867.

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension asset/(liability) as of the measurement date was determined by using an actuarial valuation as noted in the table below, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to the measurement date. The actuarial valuations used the following actuarial assumptions:

Inflation:	
Price	2.75%
Wage	3.25%
Salary Increases:	
	2.75% - 6.55%
	Based on Years of Service
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%
Mortality Rate Table	Pub-2010 General Below – Median Income Employee Mortality table fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using Scale MP-2021
Period of Actuarial Experience	
Study upon which Actuarial Assumptions were Based	July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2021

Pre-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Employee Mortality Table with an 82.2% adjustment for males and 101.4% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Healthy Retiree mortality table with a 91.4% adjustment for males and 99.7% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Disability retirement rates used to value disabled retirees were based on the Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree mortality table with a 127.7% adjustment for males and 117.2% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Mortality improvement is based on Scale MP-2021.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 9: PENSION OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

**Long-Term Expected Rate of Return**

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7.00% at June 30, 2023) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees and the actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long -Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
U.S. Equity	28.00%	8.98%
Non-U.S. Developed Markets Equity	12.75%	9.22%
International Small Cap Equity	1.25%	9.22%
Emerging Markets Equity	5.50%	11.13%
Private Equity	13.00%	12.50%
Real Estate	8.00%	8.58%
Real Assets	3.00%	8.40%
High Yield	4.50%	6.97%
Private Credit	8.00%	9.20%
Investment Grade Credit	7.00%	5.19%
Cash Equivalents	2.00%	3.31%
U.S. Treasuries	4.00%	3.31%
Risk Mitigation Strategies	3.00%	6.21%

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers and the nonemployer contributing entity will be based on 100% of the actuarially determined contributions for the State employer and 100% of actuarially determined contributions for the local employers. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to all projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.00%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.00%) than the current rate:

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 9: PENSION OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (continued)**

**Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate (continued)**

	<b>1 % Decrease (6.00%)</b>	<b>Current Discount Rate (7.00%)</b>	<b>1% Increase (8.00%)</b>
District's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 364,975	\$ 278,021	\$ 208,350

**NOTE 10: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**General Information about the Other Post-employment Benefits Plan**

The State Health Benefit Local Government Retired Employees Plan (the Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan with a special funding situation. It covers employees of local government employers that have adopted a resolution to participate in the Plan. For additional information about the Plan, please refer to the State of New Jersey (the State), Division of Pensions and Benefits' (the Division) annual financial statements, which can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/financial-reports.shtml>.

The Plan provides medical and prescription drug to retirees and their covered dependents of the participating employers. Under the provisions of Chapter 88, P.L. 1974 and Chapter 48, P.L. 1999, local government employers electing to provide postretirement medical coverage to their employees must file a resolution with the Division. Under Chapter 88, local employers elect to provide benefit coverage based on the eligibility rules and regulations promulgated by the State Health Benefits Commission. Chapter 48 allows local employers to establish their own age and service eligibility for employer paid health benefits coverage for retired employees.

Under Chapter 48, the employer may assume the cost of postretirement medical coverage for employees and their dependents who 1) retired on a disability pension; or 2) retired with 25 or more years of service credit in a State or locally administered retirement system and a period of service of up to 25 years with the employer at the time of retirement as established by the employer; or 3) retired and reached the age of 65 with 25 or more years of service credit in a State or locally administered retirement system and a period of service of up to 25 years with the employer at the time of retirement as established by the employer; or 4) retired and reached age 62 with at least 15 years of service with the employer. Further, the law provides that the employer paid obligations for retiree coverage may be determined by means of a collective negotiations' agreement.

Pursuant to Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, future retirees eligible for postretirement medical coverage who have less than 20 years of creditable service on June 28, 2011, will be required to pay a percentage of the cost of their health care coverage in retirement provided they retire with 25 or more years of pension service credit. The percentage of the premium for which the retiree will be responsible will be determined based on the retiree's annual retirement benefit and level of coverage.



**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 10: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (continued)**

**Basis of Presentation**

The schedule of employer and nonemployer allocations and the schedule of OPEB amounts by employer and nonemployer (collectively, the Schedules) present amounts that are considered elements of the financial statements of its participating employers or the State as a nonemployer contributing entity. Accordingly, they do not purport to be a complete presentation of the financial position or changes in financial position of the participating employers or the State. The accompanying Schedules were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Such preparation requires management of the Plan to make a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amounts. Due to the inherent nature of these estimates, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Allocation Methodology**

GASB Statement No. 75 requires participating employers in the Plan to recognize their proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability, collective deferred outflows of resources, collective deferred inflows of resources, and collective OPEB expense (benefit). The special funding situation's and nonspecial funding situation's net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB (benefit) expense are based on separately calculated total OPEB liabilities. For the special funding situation and the nonspecial funding situation, the total OPEB liabilities for the year ended June 30, 2023, were \$3,461,898,890 and \$11,427,677,896, respectively. The nonspecial funding situation's net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB (benefit) expense are further allocated to employers based on the ratio of the plan members of an individual employer to the total members of the Plan's nonspecial funding situation during the measurement period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Employer and nonemployer allocation percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes; therefore, amounts presented in the schedule of OPEB amounts by employer and nonemployer may result in immaterial differences.

**Net OPEB Liability**

The components of the collective net OPEB liability of the plan as of June 30, 2023, is as follows:

Total OPEB liability	\$ 14,889,576,786
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(116,962,691)</u>
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 15,006,539,477</u>

The total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023, was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2023. The actuarial assumptions vary for each plan member depending on the pension plan the member is enrolled in. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement:

Salary Increases\*:

PERS:

Rate for all future years 2.75% to 6.55%

Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS):

Rate of all future years 3.25% to 16.25%

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 10: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (continued)**

**Net OPEB Liability (continued)**

Mortality Rate Table:  
PERS

Pub-2010 general classification headcount weighted mortality with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using scale MP-2021

PFRS

Pub-2010 safety classification headcount weighted mortality with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using scale MP-2021

\* Salary increases are based on years of service within the respective plan

Actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2022, valuation were based on the results of the PFRS and PERS experience studies prepared for July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2021.

100% of active members are considered to participate in the Plan upon retirement.

**OPEB Obligation and OPEB (Benefit) Expense**

The District's proportionate share of the total OPEB Obligations was \$164,472. The OPEB Obligation was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB Obligation used to calculate the OPEB Obligation was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2023. The State's proportionate share of the OPEB Obligation associated with the District was based on projection of the State's long-term contributions to the OPEB plan associated with the District relative to the projected contributions by the State associated with all participating entities, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2022, the State proportionate share of the OPEB Obligation attributable to the District was 0.001096%, which was an increase of 0.000155% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the State of New Jersey recognized an OPEB (benefit) expense in the amount of \$25,360 for the State's proportionate share of the OPEB (benefit) expense attributable to the District. This OPEB (benefit) expense was based on the OPEB plans June 30, 2023, measurement date.

**Health Care Trend Assumptions**

For pre-Medicare medical benefits, the trend rate is initially 6.50% and decreases to a 4.5% long-term trend rate after nine years. For post-65 medical benefits PPO, the trend rate is increasing to 14.8% in fiscal year 2026 and decreases to 4.50% in fiscal year 2033. For HMO, the trend is increasing to 17.4% in fiscal year 2026 and decreases to 4.50% in fiscal year 2033. For prescription drug benefits, the initial trend rate is 9.50% decreasing to a 4.5% long-term trend rate after seven years. For the Medicare Part B reimbursement, the trend rate is 5.00%.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 10: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (continued)**

**Sensitivity of Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Trend Rate**

The following presents the net OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the healthcare trend rate as disclosed above as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it was calculated using a healthcare trend rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1 % Decrease</u>	<u>Healthcare Cost Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
State's proportionate share of the Net OPEB Liability associated with the District	<u>\$ 190,511</u>	<u>\$ 164,472</u>	<u>\$ 143,527</u>
State's Total Nonemployer OPEB Liability	<u>\$ 17,382,355,978</u>	<u>\$ 15,006,539,477</u>	<u>\$ 13,095,561,553</u>

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate for June 30, 2023, was 3.65%. This represents the municipal bond return rate as chosen by the State. The source is the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index, which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. As the long-term rate of return is less than the municipal bond rate, it is not considered in the calculation of the discount rate, rather the discount rate is set at the municipal bond rate.

**Sensitivity of Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the collective net OPEB liability of the participating employers as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above as well as what the collective net OPEB liability would be if it was calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1 % Decrease (2.65%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (3.65%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (4.65%)</u>
State's proportionate share of the Net OPEB Liability associated with the District	<u>\$ 139,782</u>	<u>\$ 164,472</u>	<u>\$ 196,083</u>
State's Total Nonemployer OPEB Liability	<u>\$ 12,753,792,805</u>	<u>\$ 15,006,539,477</u>	<u>\$ 17,890,743,651</u>

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 10: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (continued)**

**Additional Information**

The following is a summary of the deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and net OPEB liability balances as of June 30, 2023:

	<b>Balance December 31,</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Actuarial valuation date (including roll forward)		
Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 211,901	\$ 208,268
Deferred Inflows of Resources	91,183	80,032
Net OPEB Liability	164,472	151,968
District's portion of the plan's total Net OPEB Liability	0.00110%	0.00094%

**OPEB Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources**

At December 31, 2023, the District's proportionate share of the OPEB outflows and inflows, calculated by the plan as of the June 30, 2023 measurement date is \$211,901 and \$91,183, respectively. At December 31, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 7,585	\$ 44,665
Changes of assumptions	21,305	46,491
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	27
Changes in proportion	183,011	-
	<u>\$ 211,901</u>	<u>\$ 91,183</u>

The following is a summary of the deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB that will be recognized in future periods:

<b>Year Ending December 31,</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2024	\$ 7,485
2025	10,861
2026	17,876
2027	22,268
2028	18,321
Thereafter	43,907
Total	<u>\$ 120,718</u>

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 10: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (continued)**

**Changes in Proportion**

The previous amounts do not include employer specific deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflow of resources related to the changes in proportion. These amounts should be recognized (amortized) by each employer over the average remaining service lives of all plan members, which is 7.89, 7.82, 7.82, 7.87, 8.05, 8.14 and 8.04 years for the 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 amounts, respectively.

**Plan Membership**

At July 1, 2022, the Program membership consisted of the following:

Active plan members	65,613
Retirees currently receiving benefits	34,771
Total plan members	100,384

**Changes in the Total OPEB Liability**

The change in the State's Total OPEB liability for the measurement date June 30, 2022, is as follows:

Service cost	\$ 597,135,801
Interest on Total OPEB Liability	581,375,849
Changes in benefit terms	23,039,435
Differences in expected and actual experience	(2,123,324,632)
Changes in assumptions	255,103,873
Contributions from the employer	(431,386,179)
Contributions from non-employer contributing entities	(55,614,980)
Net investment income	(2,001,914)
Administrative expenses	12,616,746
Net changes	(1,143,056,001)
 Total OPEB Liability (Beginning)	 16,149,595,478
 Total OPEB Liability (Ending)	 \$ 15,006,539,477

**NOTE 11: LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM**

The District's length of service awards program (LOSAP), which is reported in the District's general fund, was created by a resolution adopted on November 12, 1998 pursuant to Section 457 (e)(11)(B) of the Internal Service Code of 1986, as amended, except for provisions added by reason of the length of service award program as enacted into federal law in 1997. The voters of the District approved the adoption of the LOSAP at the general election held on February 20, 1999, and the first year of eligibility for entrance into the LOSAP by qualified volunteers was calendar year 1999. The LOSAP provides tax deferred income benefits to active volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel.

The tax deferred income benefits for the active volunteer firefighters serving the residents the Township of East Brunswick come from contributions made solely by the governing body of the District, on behalf of those volunteers who meet the criteria of a plan created by that governing body. Participants should refer to the LOSAP Plan agreement for a more complete description of the LOSAP Plan's provisions.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 11: LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (continued)**

**Contributions**

If an active member meets the year of active service requirement, a LOSAP must provide a benefit between the minimum contribution of \$100 and a maximum contribution of \$1,150 in the initial year. While the maximum amount is established by statute, it is subject to periodic increases that are related to the consumer price index (N.J.S.A. 40A:14-185(f)). The Division of Local Government Services of the State of New Jersey will issue the permitted maximum annually. The District elected to contribute up to \$2,070 for the year ended December 31, 2023, per eligible volunteer, into the LOSAP Plan. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the District contributed a total of \$73,869 to the LOSAP Plan. Participants direct the investment of the contributions into various investment options offered by the LOSAP Plan. The District has no authorization to direct investment contributions on behalf of eligible volunteers nor has the ability to purchase or sell investment options offered by the LOSAP Plan. The types of investment options, and the administering of such investments, rests solely with the LOSAP Plan Administrator.

**Participant Accounts**

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

**Vesting**

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

**Payment of Benefits**

Upon retirement or disability, participants may select various payout options, which include lump sum, periodic, or annuity payments. In the case of death, with certain exceptions, any amount invested under the participant's account is paid to the beneficiary or the participant's estate. In the event of an unforeseeable emergency, as outlined in the LOSAP Plan document, a participant or a beneficiary entitled to vested accumulated deferrals may request the local LOSAP Plan administrator to payout a portion of vested accumulated deferrals. There were \$58,264 of benefits paid during the year ended December 31, 2023

**Forfeited Accounts**

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

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 11: LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (continued)**

**Investments**

The investments of LOSAP reported on the governmental funds balance sheet are recorded at fair value and contract value.

**LOSAP Plan Information**

Additional information about the District’s length of service awards program can be obtained by contacting the LOSAP Plan Administrator.

**NOTE 12: RISK MANAGMENT**

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. Insurance coverage was maintained in amounts consistent with prior years. The District did not have any claims that exceeded coverage.

**NOTE 13: COMMITMENTS**

The District entered into a shared service agreement with the Old Bridge Volunteer Fire Company. The contract term is for one year terminating on December 31, 2023, unless otherwise renewed and extended. The District incurred expense in relation to this agreement in the amount of \$345,000 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**NOTE 14: 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 approximately \$.328 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 Supplemental Fire Services Grant of \$6,426.

**NOTE 15: OTHER RECEIVABLES/PAYABLES**

Other receivable/payables are interfunds whose purpose 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	\$ -	\$ 245,154
Capital Projects	245,154	-
Totals	\$ 245,154	\$ 245,154

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**NOTE 15: OTHER RECEIVABLES/PAYABLES (continued)**

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

**NOTE 16: FUND BALANCE**

**General Fund** – Of the \$3,055,992 General Fund, fund balance at December 31, 2023, \$1,977,438 has been restricted for length of service award program, \$33,375 has been restricted for dedicated penalties; \$190,198 has been assigned for subsequent year’s expenditures, and \$854,981 is unassigned.

**Capital Projects Fund** – Of the \$372,721 Capital Projects Fund balance at December 31, 2023, the entire balance has been restricted for Capital.

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.

**NOTE 17: RISKS, CONCENTRATIONS AND UNCERTANTIES**

**Pending Litigation**

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

**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.



**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Budgetary Comparison Schedule**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Modified Budget</u>	<u>Actual Budgetary Basis</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Miscellaneous revenues:				
Interest on investments and deposits	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,052	\$ 52
Municipal assistance	9,000	9,000	9,000	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	31,858	31,858
Total miscellaneous revenues	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>	<u>42,910</u>	<u>31,910</u>
Operating grant revenues:				
Supplemental fire service act	<u>5,352</u>	<u>5,352</u>	<u>6,426</u>	<u>1,074</u>
Total operating grant revenues	<u>5,352</u>	<u>5,352</u>	<u>6,426</u>	<u>1,074</u>
Revenues offset with appropriations:				
Uniform fire safety act:				
Annual registration fee	25,000	25,000	39,176	14,176
Other revenues	<u>65,000</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>89,099</u>	<u>24,099</u>
Total uniform safety act	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>128,275</u>	<u>38,275</u>
Total revenues offset with appropriations	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>128,275</u>	<u>38,275</u>
Amount to be raised by taxation to support district budget	<u>2,366,145</u>	<u>2,366,145</u>	<u>2,366,145</u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenues	<u>2,472,497</u>	<u>2,472,497</u>	<u>2,543,756</u>	<u>71,259</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
Operating appropriations:				
Administration:				
Salaries and wages	171,524	161,524	126,424	35,100
Fringe benefits	245,901	220,549	172,925	47,624
Other expenditures:				
Elections	11,000	11,000	10,149	851
Insurance	82,667	98,019	108,586	(10,567)
Membership and dues	5,000	4,000	2,276	1,724
Office expenses	36,500	17,500	37,149	(19,649)
Professional services	122,500	122,500	93,670	28,830
Travel expenses	2,000	-	-	-
Rental of office space	12,000	12,000	12,000	-
Utilities	141,000	151,000	122,275	28,725
Advertising and publications	3,500	3,500	1,454	2,046
Building and office repairs	<u>156,500</u>	<u>193,500</u>	<u>152,402</u>	<u>41,098</u>
Total administration	<u>990,092</u>	<u>995,092</u>	<u>839,310</u>	<u>155,782</u>
Cost of operations and maintenance:				
Salary and wages	25,000	25,000	24,000	1,000
Fringe benefits	2,500	2,500	1,171	1,329
Other expenditures:				
Old Bridge Vol. Fire Company	355,000	345,000	345,000	-
Maintenance and repairs	150,000	160,000	169,352	(9,352)
Operating materials and supplies	88,600	88,600	45,715	42,885
Training and education	24,600	24,600	6,343	18,257
Traffic light maintenance	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
Uniforms and personal equipment	75,000	75,000	65,345	9,655
Contingent expenses	90,000	90,000	78,008	11,992
Communication equipment	60,000	60,000	44,444	15,556
Firefighting equipment	96,000	96,000	74,896	21,104
Safety officer equipment	<u>8,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>13,158</u>	<u>(10,158)</u>
Total cost of operations and maintenance	<u>979,700</u>	<u>974,700</u>	<u>867,432</u>	<u>107,268</u>

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK  
Budgetary Comparison Schedule (continued)  
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Modified Budget	Actual Budgetary Basis	Variance
Operating appropriations offset with revenues:				
Salaries and wages	90,000	90,000	93,139	(3,139)
Total operating appropriations offset with revenues	90,000	90,000	93,139	(3,139)
Length of service awards program	75,000	75,000	73,869	1,131
Capital appropriations:				
SCBA	370,000	370,000	367,514	2,486
Butler building	125,000	125,000	124,484	516
Total capital appropriations	495,000	495,000	491,998	3,002
Debt service for capital appropriations:				
Principal payments on debt service	356,000	356,000	356,000	-
Interest payments on debt service	105,676	105,676	105,676	-
Total debt service for capital appropriations	461,676	461,676	461,676	-
Total operating appropriations	3,091,468	3,091,468	2,827,424	264,044
Excess (efficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(618,971)	(618,971)	(283,668)	335,303
Fund balance, January 1	1,734,943	1,734,943	1,734,943	-
Fund balance, December 31	<u>\$ 1,115,972</u>	<u>\$ 1,115,972</u>	1,451,275	<u>\$ 335,303</u>

**RECAPITULATION OF FUND BALANCE**

Restricted fund balance:	
Capital	372,721
Dedicated penalties	33,375
Assigned fund balance:	
Subsequent year's expenditures	190,198
Other purposes	
Unassigned fund balance	<u>854,981</u>
Total - budgetary basis	<u>1,451,275</u>
Reconciliation to governmental fund statements:	
Length of service awards program investment balance not recognized on the budgetary basis	<u>1,977,438</u>
Total fund balance - Governmental Funds	<u>\$ 3,428,713</u>

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Required Supplementary Information**  
**Budgetary Basis to Governmental Funds Reconciliation**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

	<b>General Fund</b>
Sources / inflows of resources:	
Actual amounts (Budgetary Basis) revenue from the Budgetary Comparison Schedule (C-1)	\$ 2,543,756
Difference from budgetary basis to the Governmental Funds:	
Budgetary basis differs from in that the District does not budget for length of service awards program investment income. However, GASB Statement No. 73 requires the investment appreciation in the length of service awards program to be shown in financial statements using the current financial resources measurement focus and modified accrual basis of accounting:	279,584
Total revenues as reported on the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances (B-2)	\$ 2,823,340
Uses / outflows of resources:	
Actual amounts (Budgetary Basis) operating appropriations from the Budgetary Comparison Schedule (C-1)	\$ 2,827,424
Difference from budgetary basis to the Governmental Funds	
Budgetary basis differs in that the District is required to budget for contributions to the length of service awards program. However, GASB statement No. 73 requires expenditures in paid in accordance with the LOSAP plac be shown under the current financial resources measurement focus and modified accrual basis of accounting.	
Length of service awards program district contribution	(73,869)
Participant withdrawals	58,264
Total operating appropriations as reported on the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances (B-2)	\$ 2,811,819

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK  
 Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability  
 Public Employees' Retirement System  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

	Measurement Date Ended June 30,									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
District's proportion of the net pension liability	0.00192%	0.00203%	0.00234%	0.00261%	0.00267%	0.00259%	0.00288%	0.00256%	0.00258%	0.00254%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 278,021	\$ 307,034	\$ 277,257	\$ 425,979	\$ 481,737	\$ 510,648	\$ 671,043	\$ 758,943	\$ 578,738	\$ 475,571
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 115,103	\$ 143,411	\$ 165,363	\$ 189,894	\$ 185,546	\$ 181,616	\$ 182,670	\$ 173,385	\$ 176,505	\$ 171,239
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	241.54%	214.09%	167.67%	224.32%	259.63%	281.17%	367.35%	437.72%	327.89%	277.72%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	65.23%	62.91%	70.33%	58.32%	56.27%	53.60%	48.10%	40.14%	47.93%	52.08%

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
 Schedule of District Contributions  
 Public Employees' Retirement System  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

	Year Ended December 31,									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Contractually required contribution	\$ 25,654	\$ 25,656	\$ 27,409	\$ 28,576	\$ 26,006	\$ 25,797	\$ 26,705	\$ 22,765	\$ 22,165	\$ 20,940
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(25,654)	(25,656)	(27,409)	(28,576)	(26,006)	(25,797)	(26,705)	(22,765)	(22,165)	(20,940)
District's covered-employee payroll										
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll										
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 96,535	\$ 115,103	\$ 143,411	\$ 165,363	\$ 189,894	\$ 185,546	\$ 181,616	\$ 182,670	\$ 173,385	\$ 176,505
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	26.57%	22.29%	19.11%	17.28%	13.70%	13.90%	14.70%	12.46%	12.78%	11.86%

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Other Post-Employment Benefit Liability**  
**Local Governmental Retired Employees Plan**  
**Last Two Fiscal Years \***

	<u>Measurement Date Ended June 30,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
District's proportion of the other postemployment benefit liability	0.00110%	0.00094%
District's proportionate share of the net other postemployment benefit liability	<u>\$ 164,472</u>	<u>\$ 151,968</u>
District's covered-employee payroll	<u>\$ 115,103</u>	<u>\$ 143,411</u>
District's proportionate share of the net other postemployment benefit liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	142.89%	105.97%
Plan fiduciary net position (deficit) as a percentage of the total other postemployment benefit liability	(0.79%)	(0.36%)

\* This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, governments should present information for those years for which information is available.

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Notes to the Required Supplementary Information**

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)**

***Changes of Benefit Terms***

None noted.

***Changes of Assumptions***

The discount rate used as of June 30; measurement date is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>
2023	7.00%	2018	5.66%
2022	7.00%	2017	5.00%
2021	7.00%	2016	3.98%
2020	7.00%	2015	4.90%
2019	6.28%	2014	5.39%

The long-term expected rate of return used as of June 30; measurement date is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>
2023	7.00%	2018	7.00%
2022	7.00%	2017	7.00%
2021	7.00%	2016	7.65%
2020	7.00%	2015	7.90%
2019	7.00%	2014	7.90%

The mortality assumption was updated upon the direction from the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

**Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

***Changes in Benefits***

The increase in benefit terms from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023 was a result of employers adopting and or changing Chapter 48 provisions which provide different levels of subsidy than in the prior year.

***Differences Between Expected and Actual Experiences***

The increase in differences between expected and actual experiences from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023 was a result of changes to the census, claims and premiums experience.

***Changes of Assumptions***

The increase in changes in assumptions from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023 is a result of a change in the discount rate, trend update, and the mortality projection scale update.

The discount rate used as of June 30, measurement date for the last six fiscal years is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>
2023	3.65%	2020	2.21%	2017	3.58%
2022	3.54%	2019	3.50%	2016	2.85%
2021	2.16%	2018	3.87%		

**FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**  
**Schedule of Obligations under Bonds Payable**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

Description	Date of Issuance	Amount of Original:		Annual Maturities:			Interest Rate Payable	Balance December 31, 2022	Issued	Retired	Balance December 31, 2023	
		Principal	Interest	Date	Amount							
Firehouse	September 15, 2013	\$ 5,820,000	\$ 1,877,780	March 15, 2024	\$ 300,000	2.00%	\$ 3,685,000	\$ -	\$ -	(285,000)	\$ 3,400,000	
				March 15, 2025	315,000	3.00%						
				March 15, 2026	325,000	3.00%						
				March 15, 2027	340,000	3.00%						
				March 15, 2028	340,000	3.00%						
				March 15, 2029	350,000	3.00%						
				March 15, 2030	360,000	3.00%						
				March 15, 2031	365,000	3.00%						
				March 15, 2032	379,000	3.00%						
				March 15, 2033	326,000	3.00%						
Fire Apparatus	January 15, 2014	750,000	33,440	January 15, 2023	\$ 71,000	Variable	71,000	-	(71,000)	-	-	
								\$ 3,756,000	\$ -	\$ (356,000)	\$ 3,400,000	





Certified Public Accountants + Advisors

1985 Cedar Bridge Ave., Suite 3 • Lakewood, NJ 08701 • 732.797.1333

194 East Bergen Place • Red Bank, NJ 07701 • 732.747.0010

[www.hfacpas.com](http://www.hfacpas.com)

Board of Fire Commissioners  
Fire District No. 1 of the township of East Brunswick  
County of Middlesex  
East Brunswick, New Jersey

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Fire District No. 1 of the Township of East Brunswick (hereafter referred to as the District), County of Middlesex, 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 RECCOMEDATIONS

#### **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.

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. The results of our examination did not disclose any discrepancies.

#### **Contracts and Agreements Requiring Solicitation of Quotations**

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

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 made.

### **Examination of Bills**

A test check of paid bills was made 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.

### **Examination of Payroll**

The examination of the payroll account included the detailed computation of various deductions or other credits from the payroll of the Authority employees and we ascertained that the accumulated withholdings were disbursed to the proper agencies.

### **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 December 6, 2023 and adopted its operating budget on January 17, 2024.

### **Current Year's Findings**

There were no current year findings.

### **Follow-Up of Prior Year's Findings**

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

### **Acknowledgment**

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

Should you have any questions, please call us.

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

November 1, 2024  
Lakewood, New Jersey