

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
UPPER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #1
TOWNSHIP OF UPPER, NEW JERSEY**

**AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**Upper Township Fire District #1
Table of Contents
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

| | <u>Exhibit</u> | <u>Page #</u> |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Independent Auditor's Report | | 1-3 |
| Required Supplemental Information - Part I | | |
| Management Discussion and Analysis | | 4-8 |
| Statement of Net Position | A | 9 |
| Statement of Activities | B | 10 |
| Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds | C | 11 |
| Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet | D | 12 |
| Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance | E | 13 |
| Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances | F | 14 |
| Notes to Financial Statements | | 15-18 |
| Required Supplemental Information - Part II | | |
| Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Budget to Actual | H | 19 |
| Other Supplementary Information | | |
| Independent Auditor's Report - Government Auditing Standards | | 20-21 |
| Schedule of Financial Statement Findings | | 22-23 |



FINANCIAL SECTION

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}



FORD - SCOTT

& ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

1535 HAVEN AVENUE • OCEAN CITY, NJ • 08226

PHONE 609.399.6333 • FAX 609.399.3710

www.ford-scott.com

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Commissioners
Township of Upper Township Fire District #1
Strathmere, New Jersey

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Township Fire District #1 (the "Fire District"), State of New Jersey, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Township Fire District #1, State of New Jersey, as of December 31, 2024, 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 Opinion

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 Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Division"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Fire District 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 these financial statements in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, 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'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 Responsibility 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 GAAS, Government Auditing Standards and audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services 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 an 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 judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, Government Auditing Standards and audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, we:

- exercise professional judgement 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 the internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District'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 judgement there are conditions or events considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fire District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charge with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control – related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

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

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 24, 2025, on our consideration of the Fire District'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 the Fire District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Very truly yours,

FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.
FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Leon P. Costello
Leon P. Costello
Certified Public Accountant
Registered Municipal Accountant
No. 393

April 24, 2025

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION - PART I

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}

**Upper Township Fire District #1
Management Discussion & Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

The discussion and analysis of the Township of Upper #1's financial performance provides an overall review of the Fire District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Fire District's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to enhance their understanding of the Fire District's financial performance.

The Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is Required Supplementary Information specified in the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) Statement No. 34 – Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments issued in June 1999. Certain comparative information between the current year (2024) and the prior year (2023) is required to be presented in the MD&A.

Overview

The Township of Upper Fire District #1, hereafter referred to as the "Fire District," is a primary governmental entity located in the Township of Upper, State of New Jersey. The Fire District is run by a board of commissioners who are elected into office by the registered voters of District #1 in the Township of Upper.

The Fire District is responsible for establishing a budget and maintaining fiscal control over public funds that are used to provide for the safety and welfare of the residents located within District #1 in the Township of Upper. Under existing statute, the Fire District is exempt from both Federal and State taxes.

The accounts of the Fire District are maintained in accordance with the principles of "fund accounting." The General Fund is used to account for all revenues and expenditures applicable to the general operations of the Fire District.

Funding is acquired through property tax levies. In 2024, the total tax levy was \$107,800.00, which corresponds to a property tax rate of 0.035 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2024 are as follows:

- In total, net position increased \$1,876, which represents an 4.34% increase from 2023.
- General Revenues in the form of property tax assessments accounted for \$107,800.00 or 99.92% of the total revenues of \$107,890.
- Total assets of governmental activities increased by \$3,197 as cash and cash equivalents increased by \$3,197.
- The Fire District had \$106,014 in expenses. General revenues (primarily property tax assessments) were in the amount of \$107,890.

Reporting the Fire District as a Whole

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report information about the District as a whole. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the full accrual basis of accounting. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account when the revenue is earned or the expense is incurred. These two statements report the District's net position and changes in that position. One can think of the District's net position, the difference between assets and liabilities, as one way to measure the District's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position are one indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating. The reader will, however, need to consider other non-financial factors, such as changes in the District's tax base, to assess the overall health of the District.

The District's activities are reported as governmental activities. The District is primarily financed through the levying of property taxes.

**Upper Township Fire District #1
Management Discussion & Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

The District's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances remaining at year-end that are available for spending. The fund is reported using the modified accrual method of accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the District's programs. We describe the differences between governmental activities and governmental funds in a reconciliation detailed on Exhibit F.

The Fire District as a Whole

Recall that the Statement of Net Position provides the perspective of the Fire District as a whole. Net Position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position.

The Fire District's financial position is the product of several financial transactions including the net results of activities, the acquisition and disposal of capital assets, and the depreciation of capital assets.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Fire District's net position for 2024 and 2023.

**Table 1
Net Position**

| | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current and Other Assets | \$ 46,404 | \$ 43,207 |
| Total Assets | <u>46,404</u> | <u>43,207</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | 1,321 | |
| Total Liabilities | <u>1,321</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Net Position | | |
| Unrestricted | 45,083 | 43,207 |
| Total Net Position | <u>\$ 45,083</u> | <u>\$ 43,207</u> |

The Fire District's combined net position was \$45,083 on December 31, 2024. This was an 4.34% increase from 2023.

**Upper Township Fire District #1
Management Discussion & Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

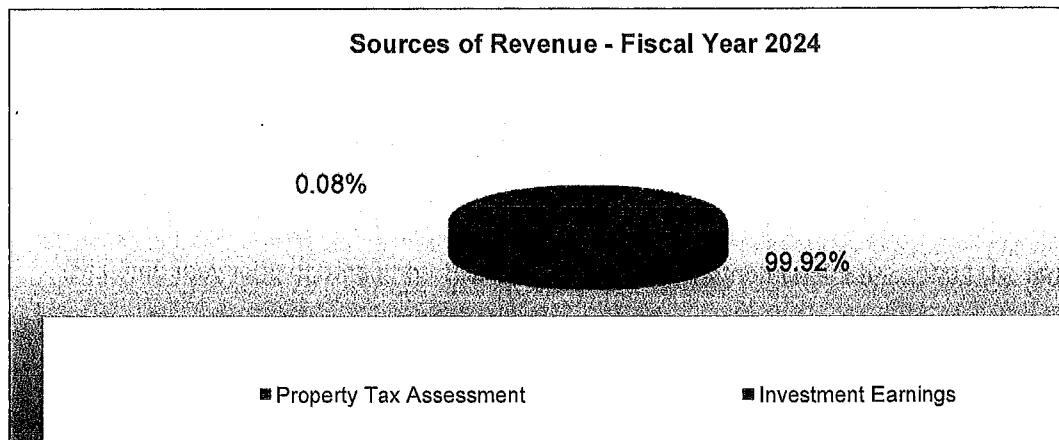
Table 2 shows changes in net position for fiscal year 2024 and 2023.

**Table 2
Changes in Net Position**

| Revenues | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| General Revenues: | | |
| Property Tax Assessments | \$ 107,800 | \$ 104,326 |
| Interest | <u>90</u> | <u>117</u> |
| Total Revenues | <u>107,890</u> | <u>104,443</u> |
| Program Expenses | | |
| Administrative | 28,584 | 27,414 |
| Cost of Operations & Maintenance | <u>77,430</u> | <u>76,513</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>106,014</u> | <u>103,927</u> |
| Other Adjustments | | 736 |
| Excess of Revenue over Expenditures | <u>1,876</u> | <u>1,252</u> |
| Increase (Decrease) in Net Position | <u>\$ 1,876</u> | <u>\$ 1,252</u> |

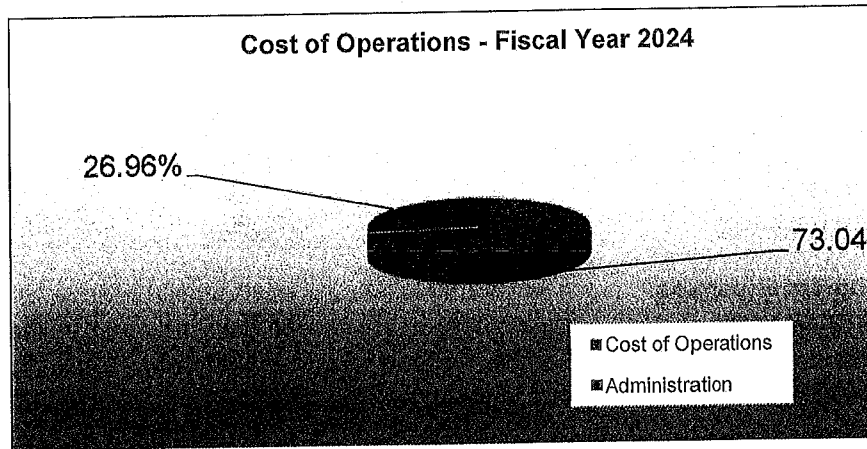
Governmental Activities

The property tax assessments made up 99.92% of revenues and investment earnings and other revenues made up 0.08% of revenues for fiscal year 2024. The Fire District's total revenues were \$107,890 for the year ended December 31, 2024.



**Upper Township Fire District #1
Management Discussion & Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

The total cost of operations was \$106,014.



The Fire District's Funds

The governmental fund (general fund presented in the fund-based statements) is accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Total revenues amounted to \$107,890 and expenditures were \$106,014.

As demonstrated by the various statements and schedules included in the financial section of this report, the Fire District continues to meet its responsibility for sound financial management. The following schedules present a summary of the revenues of the governmental funds for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, and the amount and percentage of total revenues compared to prior year revenues.

| Revenue | 2024 Amount | Percentage of Total | 2023 Amount | Percentage of Total |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Property Taxes | \$ 107,800 | 99.92% | \$ 104,326 | 99.89% |
| Investment Earnings | 90 | 0.08% | 117 | 0.11% |
| Total | \$ 107,890 | 100.00% | \$ 104,443 | 100.00% |

The following schedule represents a summary of general fund expenditures for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, and the percentage of total expenditures compared to prior year amounts.

| Expenditures | 2024 Amount | Percentage of Total | 2023 Amount | Percentage of Total |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Administration | \$ 28,584 | 26.96% | \$ 27,414 | 26.38% |
| Operations & Maintenance | 77,430 | 73.04% | 76,513 | 73.62% |
| Total | \$ 106,014 | 100.00% | \$ 103,927 | 100.00% |

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The Fire District's budget is prepared according to New Jersey law, and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund.

**Upper Township Fire District #1
Management Discussion & Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

For the Future

The Township of Upper Fire District #1 is in good financial condition presently.

In conclusion, the Township of Upper Fire District #1 has committed itself to financial excellence for many years. The Fire District plans to continue its sound fiscal management to meet the challenges of the future.

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Fire District's finances and to show the Fire District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact Eric Weeks, Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners at Township of Upper Fire District #1, 9 Commonwealth Ave, Strathmere, NJ 08248.

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}

Upper Township Fire District #1
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2024

| | Governmental Activities |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Assets | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 46,404 |
| Total Assets | <u>46,404</u> |
| Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | 1,321 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>1,321</u> |
| Net Position | |
| Unrestricted | 45,083 |
| Total Net Position | \$ <u>45,083</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Exhibit B

Upper Township Fire District #1
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

| | | Program Revenue | Net (Expenses)/ Revenues and Changes in Net Position |
|---|------------|--|---|
| | Expenses | Fees, Fines & Charges For Services | Governmental Activities |
| Governmental Activities: | | | |
| Fire Protection: | | | |
| Administration | \$ 28,584 | \$ | \$ (28,584) |
| Cost of Providing Services | 77,430 | | (77,430) |
| Tot: Total Cost of Operations & Maintenance | 106,014 | 0 | (106,014) |
| Total Governmental Activities | \$ 106,014 | \$ 0 | \$ (106,014) |
| General Revenues: | | | |
| Taxes | | | \$ 107,800 |
| Interest | | | 90 |
| Total General Revenues | | | 107,890 |
| Change in Net Position | | | 1,876 |
| Net Position - Beginning | | | 43,207 |
| Net Position - Ending | | | \$ 45,083 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Exhibit C

Upper Township Fire District #1
Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds
December 31, 2024

| | General Fund | Total Governmental Funds |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 46,404 | \$ 46,404 |
| Total Assets | <u>46,404</u> | <u>46,404</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | 1,321 | 1,321 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>1,321</u> | <u>1,321</u> |
| Fund Balance | | |
| Unrestricted | 45,083 | 45,083 |
| Total Fund Balance | <u>45,083</u> | <u>45,083</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balances | <u>\$ 46,404</u> | <u>\$ 46,404</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Upper Township Fire District #1
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2024

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total fund balances for governmental funds | \$ 45,083 |
| Total net position of governmental activities | \$ <u>45,083</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Exhibit E

Upper Township Fire District #1
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds
December 31, 2024

| | General Fund | Total Governmental Funds |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Revenues | | |
| District Taxes | \$ 107,800 | \$ 107,800 |
| Interest on Deposits and Investments | 90 | 90 |
| Total Revenues | <u>107,890</u> | <u>107,890</u> |
| Expenditures | | |
| Administration | 28,584 | 28,584 |
| Cost of Operations & Maintenance | 77,430 | 77,430 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>106,014</u> | <u>106,014</u> |
| Excess/(Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures | <u>1,876</u> | <u>1,876</u> |
| Net Change in Fund Balance | 1,876 | 1,876 |
| Fund Balance - Beginning | 43,207 | 43,207 |
| Fund Balance - Ending | <u>\$ 45,083</u> | <u>\$ 45,083</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Upper Township Fire District #1
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2024

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Net change in fund balance - total governmental funds | \$ 1,876 |
| Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities | \$ <u>1,876</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}

Upper Township Fire District #1
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Board of Commissioners of Upper Township Fire District #1 operates with an elected Board of Commissioners. The District performs fire protection services in the Township of Upper, Cape May County, New Jersey.

The financial statements of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Township Fire District #1 (the "District"), have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the District are discussed below.

A. Reporting Entity

The District is an instrumentality/subordinate entity of the State of New Jersey, established to function as a taxing entity to provide fire suppression in the Strathmere area of Upper Township. The Board consists of five (5) elected officials and is responsible for the fiscal control of the District. A secretary and treasurer are appointed by the Board and are responsible for the administrative control of the District.

The District is not a component unit of any other financial reporting entity nor does Fire District have any component units to be presented in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards.

B. Basic Financial Statements – Government-Wide Statements

The District's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the District as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the District's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. Currently the District has no business type activities. In the government-wide Statement of Net Position, the governmental column (a) is presented on a consolidated basis by column, (b) and is reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The District's net position is reported in three parts – invested in capital assets, net of related debt, restricted and unrestricted net assets.

The government-wide Statement of Activities reports both the gross and net cost of each of the District's functions. The functions are also supported by general government revenues. The Statement of Activities reduces gross expenses (including depreciation) by related program revenues, operating and capital grants. Program revenues must be directly associated with the function. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants. The net costs (by function) are normally covered by general revenue (property taxes, intergovernmental revenues, interest income, etc). The District does not allocate indirect costs.

This government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the District as an entity and the change in the District's net position resulting from the current year's activities.

C. Basic Financial Statements – Fund Financial Statements

The financial transactions of the District are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures/expenses. The various funds are reported by generic classification within the financial statements.

**Upper Township Fire District #1
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2024**

The following fund types are used by the District:

Governmental Funds – The focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statements) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental funds of the District:

- a. A General Fund is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- b. A Capital Fund is maintained for the District, in which expenditures for property, plant, and equipment financed by debt is contained, as is the related debt issued and outstanding.

D. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenditures/expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurements made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

1. Accrual – The government-wide financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.
2. Modified Accrual – The governmental funds financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual; i.e., both measurable and available. "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after year end. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. The exception to this general rule is that principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt, if any, is recognized when due.

E. Financial Statement Amounts

1. Cash and Cash Equivalents – The District has defined cash and cash equivalents to include cash on hand, demand deposits, and cash with fiscal agent.
2. Fund Balances – Governmental Funds

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report the following classifications of fund balance:

- Non-spendable – includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not spendable in form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted – includes amounts restricted by external sources (creditors, laws of other governments, etc.) or by constitutional provision or enabling legislation.
- Committed – includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes. Committed fund balance is reported pursuant to resolutions passed by the Board of Commissioners, the District's highest level of decision making authority. Commitments may be modified or rescinded only through resolutions approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- Assigned – includes amounts that the District intends to use for a specific purpose, but do not meet the definition of restricted or committed fund balance. Under the District's policy, amounts may be assigned by the Board of Commissioners.

Upper Township Fire District #1
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

- Unassigned – includes amounts that have not been assigned to other funds or restricted, committed or assigned to a specific purpose within the General Fund. The District reports all amounts that meet the unrestricted General Fund Balance Policy described below as unassigned.

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the District considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balance are available, the District considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed.

3. Revenues – Substantially all governmental fund revenues are accrued. Property taxes are billed and collected within the same period in which the taxes are levied. Subsidies and grants to proprietary funds, which finance either capital or current operations, are reported as non-operating revenue. In applying GASB standards to grant revenues, the provider recognizes liabilities and expenses and the recipient recognizes receivables and revenue when the applicable eligibility requirements, including time requirements, are met. Resources transmitted before the eligibility requirements are met are reported as advances by the provider and deferred revenue by the recipient.
4. Expenditures – Expenditures are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred. Inventory costs are reported in the period when inventory items are purchased.

F. Budgets/Budgetary Control

Annual appropriated budgets are prepared each year for the general fund. The budgets are submitted to the Bureau of Authority Regulations Division of Local Government Services and are voted upon at the annual District's election. Budgets are prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting. The legal level of budgetary control is established at line item accounts within each fund. All budget transfers must be approved by resolution of the Fire Commissioners, as well as the State of New Jersey. No material budget transfers were made during the year.

Formal budgetary integration into the accounting system is employed as a management control device during the year which complies with generally accepted accounting principles. Encumbrance accounting is also employed as an extension of formal budgetary integration in the government fund types. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.

G. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

H. Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Effective

In December 2023, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 102, "Certain Risk Disclosures". This statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024, and will not have any effect on the District's financial reporting.

In April 2024, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 103, "Financial Reporting Model Improvements". This statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, and will not have any effect on the District's financial reporting.

In September 2024, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 104, "Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets". This statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, and may have an effect on the District's financial reporting.

**Upper Township Fire District #1
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2024**

NOTE 2 – INVESTMENTS

Interest Rate Risk. The District does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, New Jersey Statutes 40A:5-15.1(a) limits the length of time for most investments to 397 days.

Credit Risk. New Jersey Statutes 40A:5-15.1(a) limits District investments to those specified in the Statutes. The type of allowable investments are Bonds of the United States of America or of the local unit or school districts of which the local unit is a part of: obligations of federal agencies not exceeding 397 days; government money market mutual funds; the State of New Jersey Cash Management Plan; local government investment pools; or repurchase of fully collateralized securities.

Concentration of Credit Risk. The District places no limit on the amount the District may invest in any one issuer.

NOTE 3 – CASH

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The municipality's policy is based on New Jersey Statutes requiring cash be deposited only in New Jersey based banking institutions that participate in the New Jersey Governmental Depository Protection Act (GUDPA) or in qualified investments established in New Jersey Statutes 40A:5-15.1(a) that are treated as cash equivalents. Under the act, all demand deposits are covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Public funds owned by the District in excess of FDIC insured amounts are protected by GUDPA. However, GUDPA does not protect intermingled trust funds or fund that may pass to the District relative to the happening of a future condition.

As of December 31, 2024, \$0 of the District's bank balance of \$58,367 was exposed to custodial credit risk.

NOTE 4 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Fire District has signed an agreement with Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company for the rental of the building for a fee of \$10,000, paid in a lump sum during the year.

NOTE 5 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The Fire District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft, casualty, errors and omissions and other losses for which the District carries commercial insurance. Settled claims have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past two years and there has been no decrease in coverage.

NOTE 6 – NET POSITION

As of December 31, 2024, net position amounted to \$45,083.

NOTE 7 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The District has evaluated subsequent events through April 24, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued and one item is noted for disclosure.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - PART II

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}

Upper Township Fire District #1
General Fund
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget to Actual
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Adjusted Final Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Variance - Over (Under)</u> |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Revenues: | | | | |
| District Taxes | \$ 107,800 | \$ 107,800 | \$ 107,800 | \$ 0 |
| Interest on Deposits and Investments | 88 | 88 | 90 | 2 |
| Total Revenues | <u>107,888</u> | <u>107,888</u> | <u>107,890</u> | <u>2</u> |
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| Operating and Maintenance: | | | | |
| Administration: | | | | |
| Election | 220 | 220 | 220 | 0 |
| Insurance | 19,000 | 19,800 | 19,793 | 7 |
| Professional Services | 10,000 | 9,200 | 8,571 | 629 |
| Contingent | 290 | 290 | | 290 |
| Total Administration | <u>29,510</u> | <u>29,510</u> | <u>28,584</u> | <u>926</u> |
| Cost of Operations & Maintenance: | | | | |
| Hydrant Rental | 14,500 | 14,500 | 13,147 | 1,353 |
| Building Rental | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 12,500 | 10,470 | 10,321 | 149 |
| Small Operating Equipment | 33,000 | 35,030 | 36,544 | (1,514) |
| Utilities | 8,378 | 8,378 | 7,418 | 960 |
| Total Cost of Operations and Maintenance | <u>78,378</u> | <u>78,378</u> | <u>77,430</u> | <u>948</u> |
| Total Expenditures | <u>107,888</u> | <u>107,888</u> | <u>106,014</u> | <u>1,874</u> |
| Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1,876</u> | <u>1,876</u> |
| Fund Balance - Beginning of Year | <u>43,207</u> | <u>43,207</u> | <u>43,207</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Fund Balance - End of Year | <u>\$ 43,207</u> | <u>\$ 43,207</u> | <u>\$ 45,083</u> | <u>\$ 1,876</u> |

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

{THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}



FORD - SCOTT

& ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

1535 HAVEN AVENUE • OCEAN CITY, NJ • 08226

PHONE 609.399.6333 • FAX 609.399.3710

www.ford-scott.com

Independent Auditor's Report

The Board of Commissioners
Township of Upper Fire District #1
Strathmere, New Jersey 08248

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Upper Township Fire District #1 (the "Fire District"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fire District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 24, 2025, which was unmodified.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Fire District's 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 the Fire District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District'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 may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

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

FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.
FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Leon P. Costello
Leon P. Costello
Certified Public Accountant
Registered Municipal Accountant
No. 393

April 24, 2025

**Upper Township Fire District #1
Schedule of Findings and Responses
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Schedule of Financial Statement Findings

No current year findings were noted.

Upper Township Fire District #1
Summary Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings and Responses as Prepared by Management
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

Status of Prior Year Findings

No prior year findings were noted.