

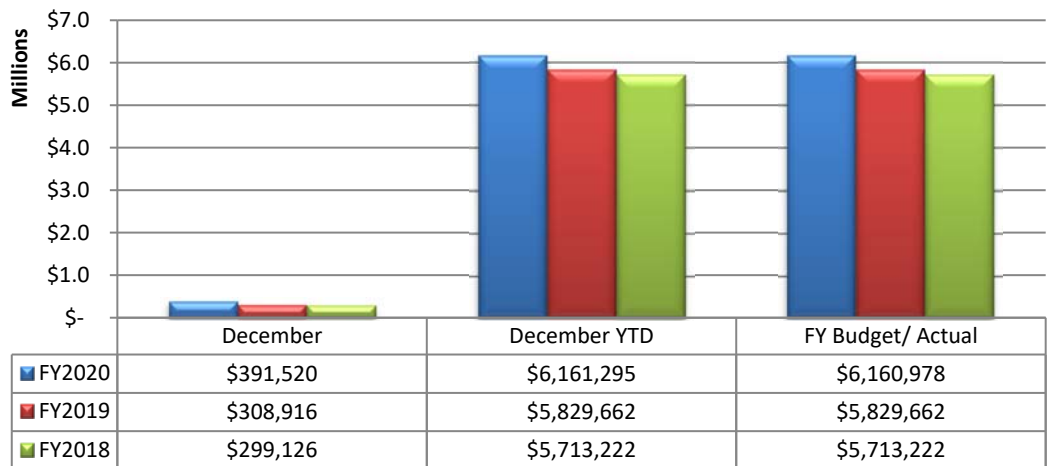


City of Pataskala Finance Department
James M. Nicholson, Finance Director
Finance Director's Report to Council

Current Projects & Issues

- **December 2020** – Over the next week, we will begin the process of closing the books for the month of December. I would anticipate closing the month within 10-15 days after the New Year's holiday, and plan to have the monthly financial report prepared and distributed shortly thereafter. At this point in time, however, I am able to update Council on the preliminary status of December's income tax collections.
 - **Income Tax Revenue** - Collections for the month of December were \$391,520 and are \$82,604 (26.74%) higher than December 2019 collections. On a year to-date basis, total collections are \$6,161,295 and are \$331,633 (5.69%) higher than last year. On a full-year basis, the 2020 collections ended the year strongly by exceeding the original budget estimates by \$88.3 thousand (1.45%). When comparing our year over year increase to other comparable RITA communities, we are experiencing a significantly higher rate of increase than those other communities combined. The average 2019-2020 change for all 228 RITA comparable communities (including Pataskala) was a decline of 1.2%, while ours was an increase of approximately 6%. For purposes of this analysis, comparable communities reflect only those municipalities that have had a consistent income tax rate/reciprocal credit over the time period in the report.

Income Tax Collections - All Funds



- **2021 Property, Casualty & Liability Insurance Renewal** – Our review and response to the Ohio Plan's request for updated information was completed and submitted prior to their November 23rd deadline. We have a meeting scheduled for January 12th with our current insurance broker to go over the 2021 proposal and any significant changes from the 2020 policy. In addition, I have requested a quote from another municipal insurer (USI Insurance) for comparison purposes. They will be presenting their proposal on January 6th. It is my hope that we will be able to bring the

authorizing legislation to Council at the January 19th meeting for approval. A comprehensive analysis of the rates and changes will be provided to Council as a part of that meeting's legislative report.

- **Auditor of State Award** – I'm pleased to announce that, once again, we received the Ohio Auditor of State's *Award with Distinction* for our 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and our overall compliance with application laws and regulations. A copy of the award is attached to this report.
- **Accounting Clerk** – We recently interviewed six (6) applicants for the Accounting Clerk position in the Finance Department, with three (3) individuals invited back for a 2nd round of interviews. I am pleased to inform Council that we've extended an offer to Shellie Widdis, which she immediately accepted. Ms. Widdis has an Associate's degree in Accounting, and comes to the city with a wealth of accounting and payroll experience. She is scheduled to start on Monday, January 4th and I believe that she'll be a great addition to the department and work well with the other city departments. I plan to invite her to attend the January 19th Council meeting. Letters of non-selection were then created and mailed to the other remaining applicants.
- **2021 Budget** – The revenue and expenditure budgets were loaded into the accounting system which will enable operations to be able to continue smoothly into 2021. Over the course of the January Council meetings, department heads will be submitting requests to Council seeking approval of their respective 2021 capital projects and equipment purchases.