



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Erie Township
Ottawa County
P.O. Box 312
Lacarne, Ohio 43439-0312

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees (the Board) and the management of Erie Township, Ottawa County, Ohio (the Township), on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Township's cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Township. The Township is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Township. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

This report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

Cash and Investments

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2017 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to documentation in the prior year agreed-upon procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2018 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2017 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2018 bank account balances with the Township's financial institution. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2018 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected a sample (agreed upon) of five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2018 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.

- b. We traced the amounts and dates to the Outstanding Payments Report, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.
6. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 to determine that they:
 - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 135.13, 135.14 or 135.144. We found no exceptions.
 - b. Mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code Section 135.13 or 135.14. We noted no exceptions.

Property Taxes and Intergovernmental Cash Receipts

1. We selected a property tax receipt from one *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes (the Statement)* for 2018 and one from 2017:
 - a. We traced the gross receipts from the *Statement* to the amount recorded in the Revenue Ledger Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Revenue Ledger Report to confirm the receipt was allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.05-.06 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the Revenue Ledger Report to confirm whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year.
2. We inspected the Revenue Ledger Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2018 and 2017. The Revenue Ledger Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.
3. We selected a sample (agreed upon) of five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2018 and five from 2017. We also selected a sample (agreed upon) of five receipts from the Ottawa County Local Government Confirmation from 2018 and five from 2018.
 - a. We compared the amount from the above reports to the amount recorded in the Revenue Ledger Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Revenue Ledger Report to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found one receipt of \$1,850 for an EMS grant recorded in the General Fund that should have been recorded in the Special Levy Fund during the year ended December 31, 2018. We brought this to management's attention and they corrected the General and Special Levy Fund balances for this item. However, because we did not inspect all receipts, our report provides no assurance regarding whether or not other similar errors occurred. The Township should implement controls to help ensure receipts are recorded in the proper funds.
 - c. We inspected the Revenue Ledger Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Over-The-Counter Cash Receipts

We selected a sample (agreed upon) of ten over-the-counter cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2018 and ten over-the-counter cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2017 recorded in the duplicate cash receipts book and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount to the amount recorded in the Revenue Ledger Report. The amounts agreed.
- b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period, as applicable. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the Revenue Ledger Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper fund, and was recorded in the proper year. We found four receipts totaling \$1,526 for emergency medical services runs recorded in the General Fund that should have been recorded in the Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance Services, and Emergency Medical Services Fund in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code Section 505.84 during the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. We brought this to management's attention and they corrected the General Fund and Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance Services, and Emergency Medical Services Fund balances for these items. However, because we did not inspect all receipts, our report provides no assurance regarding whether or not other similar errors occurred. The Township should implement controls to help ensure receipts are recorded in the proper funds.

Debt

- 1. From the prior audit documentation, we observed the following loan was outstanding as of December 31, 2016. This amount agreed to the Township's January 1, 2017 balance on the summary we used in procedure 3.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2016:
Maintenance Building Loan	\$110,828

During 2018 and 2017, the Township made principal payments on a bank loan. This type of debt is not authorized in Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 133. The Township has no statutory authority to incur debt through either installment loans or promissory notes with any banking institutions. Without a statutory provision authorizing this method of incurring debt, the Township was not permitted to use such a method. Inadequate policies and procedures related to debt issuance can result in illegal expenditures by the Township. The Township should consult with legal counsel before incurring debt to determine if the debt is authorized by statute.

- 2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2018 or 2017 or debt payment activity during 2018 or 2017. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
- 3. We obtained a summary of loan and leases debt activity for 2018 and 2017 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules and loan billing statements to General, Motor Vehicle License, Gasoline Tax, and Special Levy Fund payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report. The General Fund made maintenance building loan debt service payments in the amount of \$4,594 during the year ended December 31, 2017. The maintenance

building houses road and bridge equipment. To the extent that the General Fund contains moneys that are not subject to any limitation against expenditure for road and bridge purposes, those moneys may be expended directly for road and bridge purposes, provided that those moneys can be separately identified and have not been comingled with other moneys that cannot be used for road and bridge purposes. Since the Township's General Fund co-mingles moneys that both can and cannot be used for road and bridge purposes, we recommend disbursements related to debt service for the maintenance building loan first be transferred from the Township's General Fund to its Road and Bridge Fund or a similar road-related fund with the disbursement then being made from the Road and Bridge Fund or a similar road-related fund. There is no effect on ending fund balances, so no adjustments to the accounting system are necessary. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2018 and one payroll check for five employees from 2017 from the Wage Earnings Report and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Earnings Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the fund and account codes to which the check was posted to determine the posting was reasonable based on the employee's duties as documented in the employee's personnel file or as required by statute. We also confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2018 to confirm remittances were timely paid, and if the amounts paid agreed to the amounts withheld, plus the employer's share where applicable, during the final withholding period of 2018. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Due	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes and Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2019	January 15, 2019	\$1,815	\$1,815
State income taxes	January 15, 2019	January 14, 2019	330	330
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2019	January 14, 2019	2,512	2,512

3. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 to determine if Township employees and/or Board members were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. Insurance reimbursements made were in compliance with Ohio Rev. Code Sections 505.60 and 505.601 and federal regulations.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

We selected a sample (agreed upon) of ten disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2018 and ten from the year ended December 31, 2017 and determined whether:

- a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
- b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the Payment Register Detail Report and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
- c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the restricted purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.
- d. The Fiscal Officer certified disbursements requiring certification or issued a *Then and Now Certificate*, as required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D). We found no exceptions.

Compliance – Budgetary

1. We compared the total estimated receipts from the *Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources*, required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(1), to the amounts recorded in the Revenue Status Report for the General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge funds for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. The amounts agreed.
2. We inspected the appropriation measures adopted for 2018 and 2017 to determine whether, for the General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge funds, the Board appropriated separately for "each office, department, and division, and within each, the amount appropriated for personal services," as is required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38(C). We found no exceptions.
3. We compared total appropriations required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.38 and 5705.40, to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report for 2018 and 2017 for the following funds: General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge. The amounts on the appropriation measures agreed to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report.
4. Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.36(A)(5) and 5705.39 prohibits appropriations from exceeding the certified resources. We compared total appropriations to total certified resources for the General, There were no funds for which appropriations exceeded certified resources.
5. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 for the General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge funds, as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. There were no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
6. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 requires establishing separate funds to segregate externally-restricted resources. We inspected the Receipt Register Report for evidence of new restricted receipts requiring a new fund during the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. We also inquired of management regarding whether the Township received new restricted receipts. We observed no evidence of new restricted receipts for which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 would require the Township to establish a new fund.

7. For funds existing in prior years, we inspected the fund activity to determine whether the fund is still being used for the statutorily approved purpose and that all the required funds were established. The Township did not establish the Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance Services, and Emergency Medical Services Fund to account for charges for the use of ambulance and/or emergency medical services in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code Section 505.84. We brought this to management's attention and they established the Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance Services, and Emergency Medical Services Fund in the Township's accounting system. We noted no funds for which the statutorily approved purpose was no longer valid were included on the accounting records.
8. We inspected the 2018 and 2017 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for evidence of interfund transfers which Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.14 - .16 restrict. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which Section 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner (effective after June 30, 2017) or Court of Common Pleas (effective through June 30, 2017).
9. We inquired of management and inspected the Appropriation Status Reports to determine whether the Township elected to establish reserve accounts permitted by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.13. The Township did not establish these reserves.
10. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.10 (l) provides that money paid into a fund must be used for the purposes for which such fund is established. As a result, a negative fund cash balance indicates that money from one fund was used to cover the expenses of another. We noted no funds having a negative cash fund balance.

Compliance – Contracts and Expenditures

We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 to determine if the Township proceeded by force account (i.e. used its own employees) to maintain or repair roads (cost of project \$15,000-\$45,000) or to construct or reconstruct Township roads (cost of project \$5,000-\$15,000/per mile) for which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5575.01 requires the County Engineer to complete a force account project assessment form (i.e., cost estimate). We identified no projects requiring the County Engineer to complete a force account cost estimate.

Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.38 requires townships to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. Auditor of State established policies regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the HINKLE System. We confirmed the Township filed its complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and Auditor of State established policy, within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 in the HINKLE system. There were no exceptions.

2. For all credit card accounts we obtained:

- copies of existing internal control policies,
 - a list of authorized users, and
 - a list of all credit card account transactions.
- a. We selected three credit card transactions for testing. For selected transactions we inspected documentation to determine that:
- i. Use was by an authorized user within the guidelines established in the policy, and
 - ii. Each transaction was supported with original invoices and for a proper public purpose.

We found no exceptions.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants attestation standards and applicable attestation engagement standards included in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the Township's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is to provide assistance in the evaluation of the Township's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in its cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

August 9, 2019

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



ERIE TOWNSHIP

OTTAWA COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**