



**BERNE TOWNSHIP
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

AGREED UPON PROCEDURES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009-2008



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Berne Township
Fairfield County
1590 Blue Valley Rd SE
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, with which the Board of Trustees and the management of Berne Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, (the Township) agreed, solely to assist the Board in evaluating receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Management is responsible for recording transactions; and management and the Board are responsible for complying with the compliance requirements. 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*. 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

1. We tested the mathematical accuracy of the December 31, 2009 and 2008 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2008 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Status Report to the December 31, 2007 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2009 and 2008 fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Reports. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2009 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, 2009 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five outstanding checks haphazardly from the December 31, 2009 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We traced each check to the debit appearing in the subsequent January and February bank statements. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We traced the amounts and date written to the check register, to determine the checks were dated on or prior to December 31. We noted no exceptions.

Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a property tax receipt from one *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes* (the Statement) for 2009 and one from 2008:
 - a. We traced the gross receipts from the *Statement* to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.

Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts (Continued)

- b. We determined whether 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 determined whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year.
2. We scanned the Receipt Register Report to determine whether it included the proper number of tax receipts for 2009 and 2008:
 - a. Two personal property tax receipts
 - b. Two real estate tax receiptsWe noted the Receipts Register Report included the proper number of tax settlement receipts for each year.
3. We selected five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2009 and five from 2008.
 - a. We compared the amount from the DTL to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We determined whether these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We determined whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We haphazardly selected one payroll check for five employees from 2009 and one payroll check for five employees from 2008 from the Employee Detail Adjustment Report and determined whether the following information in the minute record was consistent with the information used to compute gross and net pay related to this check:
 - a. Name
 - b. Authorized salary or pay rate
 - c. Department(s) and fund(s) to which the check should be charged.
 - d. Retirement system participation and payroll withholding.
 - e. Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization and withholding.
 - f. Any other deduction authorizations (deferred compensation, etc.)

We found no exceptions related to steps a. – f. above, except there was conflicting information in the minute record for one employee regarding his wage rate and work schedule, and the amount of salary he was to be paid. Due to the minute records providing conflicting information for the actual amount of salary to be paid, we recommend the Township revise the wording in the minute records to be detailed and precise.

2. We tested the checks we selected in step 1, as follows:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary amount used in computing gross pay to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We determined whether the fund and account codes to which the check was posted was reasonable based on the employees' duties as documented in the minute record or as required by statute. We also determined whether the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)

3. We scanned the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2009 to determine whether remittances were timely paid, and that the amounts paid agreed to the amounts withheld during the final withholding period during 2009. We noted the following:

Withholding	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Withheld	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes	31-Jan-10	12/31/2009	\$1,491.37	\$1,491.37
State income taxes	15-Jan-10	12/31/2009	\$225.52	\$225.52
OPERS retirement (withholding plus employee share)	30-Jan-10	12/31/2009	\$2,514.96	\$2,514.96

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We haphazardly selected ten disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2009 and ten from the year ended 2008 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 two instances where disbursements requiring certification were not certified and four instances where the certification date was after the vendor invoice date. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) requires certifying at the time of a commitment, which should precede the invoice date.

Compliance – Budgetary

1. We compared the total from the *Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources*, required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(1), to the amounts recorded in the Resources Available for Appropriation Report for the General, Road and Bridge and Fire District funds for the year ended December 31, 2009 and for the General, Gasoline Tax and Capital Improvement funds for the year ended December 31, 2008. The amounts on the *Certificate* agreed to the amount recorded in the accounting system, except for the General Fund in 2009 and the General and Fire District funds in 2008. The Resources Available for Appropriation Report recorded budgeted (i.e. certified) resources for the General fund of \$340,736 and for the Fire District fund of \$773,934 for 2008. However, the final *Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources* reflected \$495,939 for the General Fund and \$773,799 for the Fire District Fund for 2008. The Resources Available for Appropriation Report recorded budgeted (i.e. certified) resources for the General fund of \$446,135 for 2009. However, the final *Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources* reflected \$431,137 for the General Fund for 2009. The fiscal officer should periodically compare amounts recorded in the Resources Available for Appropriation Report to amounts recorded on the *Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources* to assure they agree. If the amounts do not agree, the Trustees may be using inaccurate information for budgeting and monitoring purposes.

Compliance – Budgetary (Continued)

2. We scanned the appropriation measures adopted for 2008 to determine whether, for the General, Road and Bridge and Fire District funds, and we scanned the appropriation measures adopted for 2009 to determine whether, for the General, Gasoline Tax and Capital Improvement funds, the Trustees 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 Section 5705.38 and 5705.40, to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report for 2008 for the following funds: General, Road and Bridge, and Fire District Funds. We compared total appropriations required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38 and 5705.40 to amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report for 2009 for the following funds: General, Gasoline Tax, and Capital Improvement Funds. The amounts on the Final Appropriation Resolution agreed to the amount recorded in the accounting system, except for the Fire District fund in 2008. The Appropriation Status Report recorded appropriations for the Fire District fund of \$490,850 for 2008. However, the Final Appropriation Resolution reflected \$575,850 for the Fire District Fund for 2008. The amounts on the appropriation resolutions agreed to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report for 2009.
4. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.39 prohibits appropriations from exceeding the certified resources. We compared total appropriations to total certified resources for the General, Road and Bridge and Fire District funds for the year ended December 31, 2009 and for the General, Gasoline Tax and Capital Improvement funds for the year ended December 31, 2008. We noted 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 year ended December 31, 2009 for the General, Road and Bridge, and Fire District funds and for the year ended December 31, 2008 for the General, Gasoline Tax and Capital Improvement funds, as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. We noted no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
6. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 requires establishing separate funds to segregate externally-restricted resources. We scanned the Receipt Register Report for evidence of new restricted receipts requiring a new fund during December 31, 2009 and 2008. We also inquired of management regarding whether the Township received new restricted receipts. The Township established the FEMA fund for both 2009 and 2008 to segregate Federal Emergency Management Agency receipts and disbursements, in compliance with Section 5705.09 and 2 CFR Part 176.210.
7. We scanned the 2009 and 2008 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for evidence of interfund transfers exceeding \$5,000 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 and Court of Common Pleas.
8. We inquired of management and scanned the Appropriation Status Reports to determine whether the Township elected to establish reserve accounts permitted by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.13.

We noted the Township established a budget stabilization reserve account within the Capital Improvement fund, for the Fire Department. We noted the Township did not properly excluded this balance from its unencumbered Capital Improvement Fund balance when certifying carryover balances available for appropriation at December 31, 2009 and 2008. The balance in this account was \$314,429 as of December 31, 2009, and was \$239,429 as of December 31, 2008.

Compliance – Contracts & Expenditures

1. We inquired of management and scanned the Payment Register Detail report for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 for procurements requiring competitive bidding under the following statutes:
 - a. Materials, machinery and tools used in constructing, maintaining and repairing roads and culverts, where costs exceeded \$25,000. (Ohio Rev. Code Section 5549.21)
 - b. Construction and erection of a memorial building or monument costs exceeding \$25,000 (Ohio Rev. Code Section 511.12)
 - c. Equipment for fire protection and communication costs exceeding \$50,000 (Ohio Rev. Code Sections 505.37 to 505.42)
 - d. Street lighting systems or improvement costs exceeding \$25,000 (Ohio Rev. Code Section 515.07)
 - e. Building modification costs exceeding \$25,000 to achieve energy savings (Ohio Rev. Code Section 505.264)
 - f. Private sewage collection tile costs exceeding \$25,000 (Ohio Rev. Code Sections 521.02 to 521.05)
 - g. Fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, other fire equipment, appliances, materials, fire hydrants, buildings, or fire-alarm communications equipment or service costs exceeding \$50,000 (Ohio Rev. Code Section 505.37(A))

We identified a chip and seal road project exceeding \$25,000, subject to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5549.21. For this project, we noted that the Board advertised the project in a local newspaper, and selected the lowest responsible bidder.

2. We inquired of management and scanned the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 to determine if the township had road construction projects exceeding \$45,000 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.

We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on the Township's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and those charged with governance and is not intended to be, and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

March 29, 2010



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BERNE TOWNSHIP

FAIRFIELD 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
MAY 11, 2010**