



Dave Yost • Auditor of State



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Gratis Township
Preble County
6843 Pleasant Valley Road
Camden, Ohio 45311

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees and the management of Gratis Township (the Township) on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Township's cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 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, 2016 and 2015 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, 2016 and December 31, 2015 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2015 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2014 balances in the documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2016 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2015 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, 2016 and 2015 fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Reports. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2016 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, 2016 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) haphazardly from the December 31, 2016 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 check register, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.

6. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 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, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We haphazardly selected a property tax receipt from one *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes* (the Statement) for 2016 and one from 2015:
 - a. We traced the gross receipts from the *Statement* to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to confirm the receipt was allocated to the proper fund(s) as required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.05-.06 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to confirm whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year.
2. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2016 and 2015. The Receipts Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.
3. We selected all receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2016 and 2015. We also haphazardly selected five receipts from the County Auditor's DTLs from 2016 and five from 2015.
 - a. We compared the amount from the above reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found an exception for a Homestead and Rollback receipt in 2016 which resulted in an understatement of the Road and Bridge Fund and overstatement of the Cemetery Fund by \$2,339. The Township posted an adjustment to their accounting system. We found no other exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the Receipts Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Over-The-Counter Cash Receipts

We haphazardly selected 10 over-the-counter cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2016 and 10 over-the-counter cash receipts from the year ended 2015 recorded in the duplicate cash receipts book and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
- b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds, and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. From the prior agreed-upon procedures documentation, we observed the following note was outstanding as of December 31, 2014. This amount agreed to the Township's January 1, 2015 balance on the summary we used in step 3.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2014:
Cemetery Note	\$25,000

2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2016 or 2015 or debt payment activity during 2016 or 2015. All debt noted agreed to the summary we used in step 3.
3. We obtained a summary of note and lease debt activity for 2016 and 2015 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to Cemetery Fund and Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report. 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 haphazardly selected one payroll check for five employees from 2016 and one payroll check for five employees from 2015 from the Wage Detail Report and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Detail 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 employees' duties as documented in the minute record and as required by statute. We also confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. For any new employees selected in step 1 we inspected the employees' personnel files and minute record for the following information and compared it 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 the Federal Tax Forms for two new employees were not entirely completed (i.e. the exemptions portion of the forms was not completed). However, the payroll register did disclose Federal Tax withholdings for one of the two employees. We found three new employees that did not have State Tax Forms on file. However, the payroll register did disclose state tax withholdings for these employees. We recommend the Township maintain all documentation to support deductions withheld.

3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2016 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 2016. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Due	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes & Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2017	January 5, 2017	\$1,264.22	\$1,264.22
State income taxes	January 15, 2017	January 5, 2017	\$311.02	\$311.02
School District income tax	January 15, 2017	January 5, 2017	\$205.67	\$205.67
OPERS retirement	January 31, 2017	January 5, 2017	\$3,255.07	\$3,255.07
Local income taxes	January 15, 2017	January 5, 2017	\$57.37	\$57.37

4. For the pay periods ended October 31, 2016 and March 31, 2015, we recomputed the allocation of the Boards' salaries to the General, Gasoline Tax, Road & Bridge, and Cemetery Fund per the Wage Detail Report. We found no exceptions.
5. For the pay periods described in the preceding step, we traced the Boards' salary for time or services performed to supporting certifications the Revised Code requires. We found no exceptions.
6. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 to determine if township employees and/or trustees were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. Insurance reimbursements made were in compliance with ORC 505.60 and 505.601 and federal regulations

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We haphazardly selected ten disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2016 and ten from the year ended 2015 and determined whether:
 - a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We noted no exceptions, except one \$35 disbursement for a donation to a Memorial Day Parade in 2015.
 - 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 twelve instances where the certification date was after the vendor invoice date, and there was also no evidence that a *Then and Now Certificate* was issued. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) requires certifying at the time of a commitment, which should be on or before the invoice date, unless a *Then and Now Certificate* is used. Because we did not inspect all disbursements requiring certification, our report provides no assurance whether or not additional similar errors occurred.

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, Road & Bridge and Gasoline Tax funds for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. The amounts agreed.

2. We inspected the appropriation measures adopted for 2016 and 2015 to determine whether, for the General, Road & Bridge and Gasoline Tax 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 Sections 5705.38 and 5705.40, to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report for 2016 and 2015 for the following funds: General, Road & Bridge, and Gasoline Tax. The amounts on the appropriation resolutions 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, Cemetery and EMS funds for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. 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, 2016 and 2015 for the General, Cemetery and EMS fund, 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 December 31, 2016 and 2015. 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 funds are still being used for the statutorily approved purpose and that all the required funds were established. We noted all the required funds were established and no funds for which the statutorily approved purpose was no longer valid were included on the accounting records.
8. We inspected the 2016 and 2015 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.
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, 2016 and 2015 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.10 (I) 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. No funds had a negative cash fund balance.

Compliance – Contracts & Expenditures

We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 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.

Proper Public Purpose

1. We inquired of management if the Township has a policy regarding the use of Township equipment. The Trustees approved a policy regarding the use of Township equipment on December 21, 2016.
2. We inquired of management if Township equipment, including riding lawn mowers, are used for personal use. The policy adopted on December 21, 2016 prohibits personal use of Township equipment.

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. We confirmed the Township filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2016-007, within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 in the Hinkle system. There were no exceptions.
2. Pursuant to 1981 OAG 027, the Township may enter into a contract with the West Elkton-Gratis Township Fire District for the provision of fire services within the Township but the Township trustees who are the members, but not a majority, of the district board of trustees should recuse themselves from future consideration, deliberation, and voting on future contracts or extensions of contracts.

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 for the use of the Township to assist in evaluating its receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

August 16, 2017



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GRATIS TOWNSHIP

PREBLE 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 5, 2017**