



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Westshore Council of Governments
Cuyahoga County
350 Dover Center Road
Bay Village, Ohio 44140

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Council Board and the management of Westshore Council of Governments (the Council), on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Council's cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Council. The Council is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Council. 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 recalculated the December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2018 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2018 beginning fund balances recorded in the Monthly Financial Statement to the December 31, 2017 balances in the prior year documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2019 beginning fund balances recorded in the Monthly Financial Statements to the December 31, 2018 balances in the Monthly Financial Statement. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2019 and 2018 fund cash balances reported in the Monthly Financial Statement and the financial statements filed by the Council in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.
4. We observed the year-end bank balances on the financial institution's website. The balances agreed. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2019 bank reconciliation without exception.

Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2019 and a total of five from 2018:
 - a. We compared the amount from the above reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Ledger. The amounts agreed.

- b. We inspected the Receipt Ledger to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
- c. We inspected the Receipt Ledger to confirm whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Member Contributions

We selected five member contribution cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2019 and five member contribution cash receipts from the year ended 2018 recorded in the duplicate cash receipts book and:

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

Over-The-Counter Cash Receipts

We selected 10 over-the-counter cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2018 recorded in the duplicate cash receipts book and:

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

Debt

1. The prior agreed-upon procedures documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2017.
2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Ledgers and Expenditure Ledgers for evidence of debt issued during 2019 or 2018 or debt payment activity during 2019 or 2018. No new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2019 or 2018 was found.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2019 and one payroll check for five employees from 2018 from the Employee Earning Record and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Employee Earning Record to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We recomputed gross and net pay and agreed it to the amount recorded in the payroll register. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the Expenditure Ledger to determine whether the fund and account code to which the check was posted were reasonable based on the employees' personnel files. We also inspected the Expenditure Ledger to determine whether the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.

- d. For any new employees selected, we compared the following information in the employees' personnel file was consistent with the information used to compute gross and net pay related to this check:
 - i. Name
 - ii. Authorized salary or pay rate and department and fund to which the check should be charged
 - iii. Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization and withholding

We found no exceptions related to procedures i. – iii. above.

2. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2019 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 2019. 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, 2020	12/23/19	\$2,779.35	\$2,779.35
State income taxes	January 15, 2020	12/23/19	\$512.32	\$512.32
Local income tax	December 31, 2019	12/23/19	\$321.89	\$321.89
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2020	12/23/19	\$5,804.68	\$5,804.68

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the Expenditure Ledger for the year ended December 31, 2019 and 10 from the year ended 2018 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 Expenditure Ledger 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.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Council's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7)(c) and did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired with Council management and determined the Council's records regarding public records requests were not maintained in a manner that permitted us to complete our testing.

3. We inquired whether the Council had a records retention schedule, and observed that it was readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2). We found no exceptions.
4. We inspected written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
5. We inspected the Council's policy manual and determined the public records policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
6. We inquired with Council management and determined the Council's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Council as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
7. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inspected individual training certificates and determined each elected official in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(1) (or his/her designee) successfully attended a certified three-hour Public Records Training for each term of office as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 109.43(B). We found no exceptions.
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the Council notified the general public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(C) and determined whether they were:
 - a. Prepared – a file is created following the date of the meeting
 - b. Filed – placed with similar documents in an organized manner
 - c. Maintained – retained, at a minimum, for the engagement period
 - d. Open to public inspection – available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G) and determined the following:
 - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
 - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session (when applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code Section 121.22(G).
 - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.38 requires councils 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 Council filed their 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, 2019 and 2018 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 inspected the established policy obtained above and determined it is:
 - i. in compliance with the HB 312 statutory requirements, and
 - ii. implemented by the entity.We found no exceptions.

 - b. We selected 1 credit card transaction from each credit card account 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.

 - c. We selected 3 credit card statements from each credit card account for testing. For selected statements we inspected documentation to determine that:
 - i. No unpaid beginning balance was carried forward to the current billing cycle,
 - ii. Ending statement balance was paid in full, and
 - iii. Statement contained no interest or late fees.We found no exceptions.

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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 Council of Government'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 Council's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

August 24, 2020

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



WESTSHORE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 9/8/2020

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
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