

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Board of Trustees
Bennington Township
6219 Quick Lane Road NW
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of Bennington Township, Licking County, prepared by Julian & Grube, Inc., for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Bennington Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 09, 2021

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Bennington Township
Licking County
6219 Quick Lane Road NW
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees and the management of Bennington Township (the Township) and the Auditor of State, on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Township's cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 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, 2020 and 2019 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, 2020 and December 31, 2019 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2019 beginning fund balances recorded in the Cash Summary by Fund Report to the December 31, 2018 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, 2020 beginning fund balances recorded in the Cash Summary by Fund Report to the December 31, 2019 balances in the Cash Summary by Fund Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2020 and 2019 fund cash balances reported in the Cash Summary by Fund Report and the financial statements filed by the Township in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2020 bank account balances with the Township's financial institutions or via the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2020 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2020 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, and determined the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.
6. We traced interbank account transfers occurring in December of 2020 and 2019 to the accounting records and bank statements to determine if they were properly recorded. We found no exceptions.
7. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019 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 total of five receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the County Auditors Monthly Allocation Sheets for 2020 and a total of five from 2019:
 - a. We compared the amount from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the Receipts Export Reports. One receipt in 2019 for homestead and rollback was overstated by \$13, which was offset by a disbursement for the same amount.
 - b. We inspected the Receipts Export Reports to determine these receipts were 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 Receipts Export Reports to determine whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the Receipts Export Reports to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2020 and 2019. The Receipts Export Reports included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.

Debt

1. From the prior agreed-upon procedures documentation, we observed the following loans and leases were outstanding as of December 31, 2018. These amounts did not agree to the Township's January 1, 2019 balances on the summary we used in procedure 3 as noted below.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2018:	Overstated/ Understated
OPWC Loan – Drury Road South (CQ40R)	\$7,597	Overstated \$1,519
OPWC Loan – Drury Road North (CQ11S)	\$18,027	Overstated \$1,202
Building Addition Loan	\$2,920	Understated \$2,920
Tractor Loader Loan	\$11,449	Understated \$11,449
2017 International 7300 Dump Truck Lease	\$64,237	N/A

2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipts Export Reports and Payments Register Export Reports for evidence of debt issued during 2020 or 2019 or debt payment activity during 2020 or 2019. The 2019 summary excluded principal paid on the Tractor Loader Loan and the Building Addition Loan in the amounts of \$11,449 and \$2,920, respectively. The 2020 summary understated principal payments in the amount of \$12,846 for the 2017 International 7300 Dump Truck Lease.
3. We obtained a summary of loans and leases debt activity for 2020 and 2019 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to General Fund, Gasoline Tax Fund, and Road and Bridge Fund payments reported in the Payments Export Reports. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. For 2019, one payment of principal and interest recorded did not agree to the amortization schedule, however it did agree to the invoice received and one payment of principal did not agree to the amortization schedule but did agree to the invoice received.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2020 and one payroll check for five employees from 2019 from the Wage Detail Reports and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Detail Reports 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 allowable based on the employees' duties as documented in the minute record or as required by statute. We found two instances in both 2019 and 2020 where the account codes did not agree to the employee's duties.
 - c. We 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, 2020 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 2020. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Due	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes & Medicare	January 15, 2021	December 30, 2020	\$729	\$729
State income taxes	January 31, 2021	December 30, 2020	\$352	\$352
Centerburg Local School District income tax	January 31, 2021	December 30, 2020	\$28	\$28
Northridge Local School District income tax	January 31, 2021	December 30, 2020	\$97	\$97
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2021	December 30, 2020	\$2,114	\$2,114

3. For the pay periods ended August 31, 2020 and July 31, 2019, we
- a. Recomputed the allocation of the Boards' salary amounts to the General Fund, Road and Bridge Fund and Cemetery Fund per the Wage Detail Report.
 - b. Traced the Boards' pay for time or services performed to time or activity sheets the Revised Code requires.
- We found no exceptions.
4. We compared total gross pay for the fiscal officer and each board member for 2020 and 2019 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code Sections 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. We found two of the Trustees were each overpaid \$198 in 2020, this was paid back in 2021.
5. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Export Reports for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 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, 505.601, 505.602 and 505.603 and federal regulations.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the Payments Export Reports for the year ended December 31, 2020 and 10 from the year ended 2019 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 Payments Export Reports 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 three instances in 2020 where disbursements requiring certification were not certified properly in accordance with the requirements for use of a Then and Now Certificate, and two instances in 2019 where the certification date was after the vendor invoice date, and there was 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 properly. Because we did not inspect all disbursements requiring certification, our report provides no assurance whether or not additional similar errors occurred.

Compliance – Budgetary

1. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total approved appropriations (Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38 and 5705.40) plus any carryover appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 for the General, Gasoline Tax and Road and Bridge fund. There were no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
2. We inspected the Payments Export Reports for the Smith Bequest Fund. Not more than 5% of non-spendable monies were released, spent, or otherwise modified during the engagement period.
3. We inspected interfund transfers from 2020 and 2019 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for compliance with Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.14 - .16. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which Section 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner.
4. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Reports for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 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.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Township'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 Township management and determined that the Township did not have any completed public records requests during the engagement period. The Township did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period. The Township did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Township 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 Township's policies and determined the public records policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
6. We observed that the Township's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Township as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

7. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Records Commission did not meet during the engagement period as required nor did they have any applications for one-time disposal of obsolete records.
8. We inspected individual training certificates and determined whether 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 Township 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 one executive session in 2020 for which the purpose could not be determined if it correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code Section 121.22(G).

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 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, 2020 and 2019 in the Hinkle system. There were no exceptions.
2. We inquired of the current fiscal officer and inspected the Fiscal Integrity Act Portal (<http://www.ohioauditor.gov/fiscalintegrity/default.html>) to determine whether the outgoing fiscal officer obtained the training required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 507.12 and 733.81. The outgoing Fiscal Officer obtained the required training, evidenced by the Fiscal Integrity Act Requirements – First Term Certificate, however this information was not on the Fiscal Integrity Act Portal.
3. For all credit card accounts we obtained:
 - copies of existing internal control policies,
 - a list(s) 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 one missing requirement of HB 312. The policy did not identify that the compliance officer, if applicable, and the board, at least once every six months, must review the number of cards and accounts issued, the number of active cards, and accounts issued the cards; and accounts' expiration dates, and the cards' and accounts' credit limits. Additionally we noted the policy allowed for a credit limit of \$500, however upon review of the credit card statements the credit limit is \$5,000.

- 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.

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 their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.



Julian & Grube, Inc.
June 21, 2021

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP

LICKING 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 7/22/2021

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov