



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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BASIC AUDIT REPORT

City of Zanesville – Perry Township Joint Economic Development District
Muskingum County
401 Market Street
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the City of Zanesville – Perry Township Joint Economic Development District, Muskingum County, Ohio (the District), for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Our procedures were designed solely to satisfy the audit requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A). Because our procedures were not designed to opine on the District's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the District's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

The District's management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents. Our responsibility under Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A) is to examine, analyze and inspect these records and documents.

Based on the results of our procedures, we found the following significant compliance or accounting issues to report.

Current Year Observations

1. **Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38** required the District to file a financial report to the Auditor of State for each fiscal year within sixty days after the close of the fiscal year, except that public offices reporting pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles shall file their reports within one hundred fifty days after the close of the fiscal year. The Auditor of State may prescribe forms by rule or may issue guidelines, or both, for such reports. The Auditor of State has established an electronic filing system, the HINKLE System, that the District was required to utilize to file reports.

The financial statements for 2021 were due March 1, 2022, however filed March 30, 2022 and the financial statements for 2020 were due March 1, 2021, however filed May 11, 2021.

2. **Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2)** provides that every public office must have a policy in place for responding to public records requests. Generally, a public records policy cannot: (1) limit the number of public records the office will make available to a single person; (2) limit the number of public records the office will make available during a fixed period of time; and (3) establish a fixed period of time before the office will respond to a request for inspection/copying of public records unless that period is less than eight hours. However, pursuant to **Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7)(c)**, the policy may limit the number of public records the public office will physically deliver by U.S. Mail or other delivery service to ten per month unless the person certifies to the office in writing that the person does not intend to use or forward the requested records, or the information contained in them, for commercial purposes. "Commercial" is narrowly construed and does not include reporting or gathering news, reporting or gathering information to assist citizen oversight or understanding of the operation or activities of government, or nonprofit educational research.

Current Year Observations (Continued)

2. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (Continued)

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) further requires all public offices take certain actions with regard to their public record policy. Public offices must distribute their Public Records Policy to the employee who is the records custodian/manager or otherwise has custody of the records of that office and have that employee acknowledge receipt of the Public Records Policy; create and display in a conspicuous place in all locations where the public office has branch offices a poster describing the public records policy; and, if the public office has a manual or handbook of its general policies and procedures for all employees, include the public records policy in that manual or handbook.

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2) requires the entity to have available a copy of its current records retention schedule at a location readily available to the public.

The District has no formal written policy that would demonstrate compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. This could result in records requests not being fulfilled in accordance with Ohio law. The District also has not established a records retention policy that identifies the provisions for the application or schedule of destruction of public records, including transmission to the Ohio Historical Society and approval by the Auditor of State's Office. As a result, there was an increased risk that records could be destroyed without obtaining the approval of the Ohio Historical Society and Auditor of State of Ohio as required.

The District shall establish a public records policy. The policy shall be distributed to the records custodian/manager and the District should have a written acknowledgement of receipt from the records custodian/manager. In addition, a poster describing the public records policy must be conspicuously displayed in all of the District's branch offices and the public records policy must be included in policy manuals or handbooks if any exist.

The District should also establish a records retention policy to include procedures used in the destruction of public records. This will help to ensure that all public records are properly accounted for by the District and reduce the risk that the District records are mutilated or destroyed prior to an authorized time.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 1, 2022

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



CITY OF ZANESVILLE - PERRY TOWNSHIP JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

MUSKINGUM 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 9/13/2022

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