

PAXTON TOWNSHIP, ROSS COUNTY

**Independent Accountant's Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures**

**For the Years Ended
December 31, 2024 and 2023**

J.L. UHRIG
AND ASSOCIATES INC.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS





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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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800-282-0370

Board of Trustees
Paxton Township
5837 Jester Hill Road
Bainbridge, Ohio 45612

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of Paxton Township, Ross County, prepared by J.L. Uhrig and Associates, Inc., for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. 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. Paxton Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany L Ridenbaugh".

Tiffany L Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

August 06, 2025

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Paxton Township
Ross County
5837 Jester Hill Road
Bainbridge, Ohio 45612

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Paxton Township, Ross County's, (the Township) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 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, 2024 and 2023 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Township.

The Board of Trustees and the management of the Township have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing 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, 2024 and 2023, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the 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.

For the purposes of performing these procedures, this report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

Cash and Investments

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2023 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Cash Summary by Fund report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2024 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Cash Summary by Fund Report to the December 31, 2023 balances in the Cash Summary by Fund Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2024 and 2023 Bank Reconciliation UAN Balances and Bank Balances as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 to the total 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.

Paxton Township
Ross County
Independent Accountant's Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
Page 2

4. We confirmed the December 31, 2024 bank account balance with the Township's financial institution and the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected 2 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation:
 - a. Both outstanding debits were still outstanding as of February 2025. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the payment register detail report, and determined the debits were dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
6. We traced interbank account transfers occurring in December of 2024 to the accounting records and bank statements to determine if they were properly recorded. We found no exceptions.

Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of 5 receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the County Auditor Audit Trail by Account for 2024 and a total of 5 from 2023:
 - a. We compared the amount from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Detail Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Detail Report to determine these receipts were allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.05 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the Receipt Detail Report 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 Receipt Detail Report to determine whether it included 2 real estate tax receipts for 2024 and 2023. The Receipt Detail Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

Other Receipts

1. We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2023 and:
 - a. Agreed the receipt amount recorded in the Receipt Detail Report to supporting documentation. There were 4 receipts that did not have support with the receipt.
 - b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period. We found no exceptions.
 - c. Inspected the Receipt Detail 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 audit report, we observed loans were outstanding as of December 31, 2022. These outstanding balances are included in the "Summary Debt Table - Carry Forward Balance" column in the summary chart in procedure 3.
2. We inquired of management and inspected the Revenue Ledger and Appropriation Ledger for evidence of debt issued during 2024 or 2023 or debt payment activity during 2024 or 2023. We included the newly issued debt for 2024 and 2023 in the Summary Debt table below.

Paxton Township
 Ross County
 Independent Accountant's Report on
 Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
 Page 3

3. From the summary of outstanding debt for 2024 and 2023 below:

- We agreed the principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to debt service fund payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report and included the total principal payments for both years in the table below. We found the Township did not properly record the principal payments in the correct principal line item account. The Township expensed the principal payments in the wrong account line item. They were paid out of other expenses and contracted services. This debt was paid off in 2023.
- We compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. We found no exceptions.
- Based on the principal payments made, we agreed the outstanding balances to debt amortization schedule and included the outstanding balances in the summary table below. We found no exceptions.
- For any outstanding debt listed in the table below, we obtained the debt agreements and confirmed the Township was in compliance with its debt covenants. We found no exceptions.

Summary Debt Table					
Debt Issued	Carry Forward Balance 1/1/2023	New Issue 2023	New Issue 2024	Total Principal Payments 2023/2024	Outstanding Balance 12/31/2024
Backhoe	14,248	0	0	14,248	0
GMC Truck	0	0	47,008	0	47,008
	14,248	0	47,008	14,248	47,008

4. For any new debt identified in procedure 2 and added to the table in procedures 3, we agreed the amount of debt proceeds received for 2024 from the debt documents to amounts recorded revenue ledger. The Township did not record their debt proceeds in the revenue ledger.

5. For new debt issued during 2024, we inspected the debt legislation and resolution / ordinance, which stated the Township must use the proceeds to purchase a GMC truck. We inspected the appropriation ledger, supporting documentation and observed the Township purchased a GMC truck in April of 2024. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

- We selected 1 payroll check for the only employee that was not a Trustee or the Fiscal Officer from 2024 and 1 payroll check for the only employee that was not a Trustee or the Fiscal Officer from 2023 from the Payroll Summary Report and:
 - 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.
 - We inspected the fund and account code to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employees' duties as documented in the employees' personnel files. We found no exceptions.
 - We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Paxton Township
 Ross County
 Independent Accountant's Report on
 Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
 Page 4

2. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2024 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 2024. We observed the following: We found no exceptions.

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, 2025	December 31, 2024	\$874.50	\$874.50
State income taxes	January 15, 2025	December 31, 2024	\$172.54	\$172.54
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2025	December 31, 2024	\$2,500.16	\$2,500.16
Greenfield Exempted Village	January 16, 2025	December 31, 2024	\$60.00	\$60.00

3. We compared total gross pay for the fiscal officer and each board of trustees for 2024 and 2023 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. Their pay did not exceed the Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24 permitted amounts.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2024 and 10 from the year ended 2023 and determined whether:

- The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
- The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check or EFT/ACH 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 exception.
- 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.
- The fiscal officer certified disbursements requiring certification or issued a *Then and Now Certificate*, as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D). We found no exceptions.

Compliance – Budgetary

- Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments including outstanding encumbrances) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total approved appropriations (Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.38 and 5705.40) plus any carryover appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2024 for the General, Cemetery, and Permissive Motor Vehicle License Fund and December 31, 2023 for the General, Cemetery, and Permissive Motor Vehicle License Fund as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
- We inspected the 5 largest interfund transfers from 2024 and the 5 largest from 2023 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for compliance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.14-.16. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner.

Paxton Township
Ross County
Independent Accountant's Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
Page 5

3. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10 (l) 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 balances.

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.
 - a. The Township did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
 - b. The Township did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have a records retention schedule during the engagement period and therefore could not make it readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2).
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 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 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 Township did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inspected individual proof of attendance 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.

Paxton Township
Ross County
Independent Accountant's Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
Page 6

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 § 121.22(G).
 - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.

We found no exceptions.

Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 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, 2024 and 2023 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired of the fiscal officer and inspected the Fiscal Integrity Act Portal to determine whether the fiscal officer obtained the training required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.12 and 733.81. Fiscal Officer obtained the required training.

We were engaged by the Township to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with the attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, 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.

We are required to be independent of the Township and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.

J. L. Uhrig and Associates, Inc.

J. L. UHRIG AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
Chillicothe, Ohio

April 14, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



PAXTON TOWNSHIP

ROSS 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 8/19/2025

65 East State 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