



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Belpre Township  
Washington County  
2041 State Route 555  
Little Hocking, Ohio 45742

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Belpre Township, Washington County, Ohio (the Township), receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 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, 2021 and 2020 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, 2021 and 2020, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. 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

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2020 beginning fund balances for each opinion unit recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2019 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found Special Revenue Fund in the prior year audited statements exceeded fund balances in the Fund Ledger Report by \$99 due to corrections made by the Township to the Road and Bridge Fund, Fire District Fund, and Fire and Rescue, Ambulance, and EMS Fund. We also agreed the January 1, 2021 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2020 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found the January 1, 2021 beginning fund balance recorded in the Fund Ledger Report for the Fire and Rescue, Ambulance, and EMS Fund exceeded the December 31, 2020 balance in the Fund Ledger Report by \$200 due to a voided check.

### **Cash (Continued)**

3. We agreed the 2021 and 2020 Bank Reconciliation adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report and the financial statements filed by the Township in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2021 bank account balance through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2021 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2021 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found check 24491 for \$1,200 to Haessly Harwood Lumber dated 11/04/2021 was still outstanding as of February 28, 2022.
  - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register, and determined the debits were dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
6. We selected the reconciling credit (deposit in transit) from the December 31, 2021 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced the credit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exception.
  - b. We agreed the credit amount to the Receipts Register and determined it was dated prior to December 31. We found no exception.
7. We inspected the Fund Balance Adjustment Listing to determine whether the Finding For Adjustment identified in the prior audit report, due from the Road and Bridge Fund, payable to the Motor Vehicle License tax Fund and Gasoline Tax Fund, was properly posted to the ledgers and reflected in the fund balances in Procedure 2. We found 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 Washington County Expense Audit Trail for 2021 and a total of five from 2020:
  - 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-.06 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 Register Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2021 and 2020. The Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

### **Emergency Medical Service Receipts**

We confirmed the amounts paid from Medical Claims Assistance, the service organization that performs the emergency medical billings, to the Township during 2021 with Medical Claims Assistance. We found the amount on the Medical Claims Assistance confirmation exceeded the receipts posted by the Township in the Receipts Export Report by \$62.

### **Emergency Medical Service Receipts (Continued)**

- a. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
- b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

### **Other Receipts**

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2020 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report to supporting documentation. 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. The prior audit documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2019.
2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2021 or 2020 or debt payment activity during 2021 or 2020. There were no new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2021 or 2020.

### **Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2021 and one payroll check for five employees from 2020 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).
    - i. We inspected the employees' personnel files and/or minute record for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
    - ii. We agreed these items to the information used to compute gross and net pay related to this check.

We found the Township did not retain a state withholding authorization form on file for any employee tested despite withholding state taxes. In addition, the Township did not retain an Ohio Public Employee Retirement System withholding form on file for two employees despite withholding retirement amounts. We brought this to management's attention.
  - 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 employees' personnel files and/or minute record or as required by statute. We found no exceptions.
  - 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, 2021 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 2021. We observed the following:

**Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)**

<b>Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
Federal income taxes & Medicare	01/31/2022	12/31/2021	\$1,391	\$1,391
State income taxes	01/15/2022	12/31/2021	\$313	\$313
OPERS retirement	01/30/2022	12/31/2021	\$3,527	\$3,527

We found no exceptions.

3. We compared total gross pay for the Fiscal Officer and each board member for 2021 and 2020 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. We found the Fiscal Officer was over compensated by \$192 in 2020. The Fiscal Officer was paid the total annual salary calculated for the Township's budget range in 2020; however, this new rate was not available to her until her new term in office began in April 2020. As such, her first three months should have been paid at the 2018 rates and the remainder of the year prorated for the new rate.
4. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 to determine if township employees and/or trustees were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. No such reimbursements occurred.

**Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

We selected 10 disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2021 and 10 from the year ended 2020 and determined whether:

- a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found check #23983 dated February 1, 2021 for \$66 included \$11 in late fees which are not considered a proper public purpose.
- 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 the check recorded as #23293 in the Payment Register Detail Report was actually printed as check #23292.
- 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 § 5705.41(D). We found three 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 in 2021. We found one instance where the certification date was after the vendor invoice date, and there was also no evidence that a *Then and Now Certificate* was issued in 2020. Ohio Rev. Code § 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. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) 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 year ended December 31, 2021 for the General Fund, American Rescue Plan Fund, and Miscellaneous Special

### **Compliance – Budgetary (Continued)**

Revenue LHRFP Fund and for the year ended 2020 for the General Fund, Cemetery Fund, and Miscellaneous Special Revenue LHRFP Fund as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. General Fund expenditures for 2021 exceeded total appropriations by \$805, contrary to Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B).

2. We inspected the Appropriation Ledger Report for the Parker, Lewis, Botte, Williams, Lockwood, and LHRFP funds. Not more than 5% of non-spendable monies were released, spent, or otherwise modified during the engagement period.
3. We inspected the interfund transfers from the 2021 and 2020 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for compliance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.14 - .16. We found the Township transferred \$19,347 and \$9,413 from the Miscellaneous Special Revenue- FEMA 2/18 and Miscellaneous Special Revenue- FEMA 2019 funds, respectively, to the Road and Bridge Fund in May of 2021 which is not an allowable transfer. However, the transfer was made to reimburse the Road and Bridge Fund for expenditures related to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) projects. Such reimbursements are allowable. As such, no adjustment to fund balance was required.
4. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code § 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 policy manual and determined the public records policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

### **Sunshine Law Compliance (Compliance)**

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.
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.

### **HB 481 / HB 614 Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Compliance**

1. We inquired of management and those charged with governance and documented how the Township decided to spend their CRF allocations and how the Township documented their compliance with the CARES Act three-prong test. We then selected five transactions including payroll, non-payroll, and subgrant/subloan transactions, and determined the Township:
  - a. Spent the CRF money (including additional distributions or redistributions) in accordance with use of funds requirements and
  - b. Maintained appropriate supporting documentation.We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired with management and inspected the Appropriation Ledgers Report to determine the local government did not have an unencumbered balance of money to pay back to the county treasurer. We found no exceptions.



### Contract Compliance

1. We inspected the minutes and identified the Township had expenditures subject to competitive bidding. We found no exceptions.
  2. We selected one contract \$45,000 for 2021 and one for 2020 and:
    - a. We inspected the contract and other bids for the contracted expenditure and determined:
      - i. The Township accepted the lowest bid and met the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 5575.01.
      - ii. No bid splitting occurred
      - iii. No deliberate attempts to evade bid limitations occurred, such as successive contracts just under the bid amount, occurred.
      - iv. No apparent interest in the contract by a public official occurred.
- 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, 2021 and 2020 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the Fiscal Integrity Act Portal (<http://www.ohioauditor.gov/fiscalintegrity/default.html>) to determine whether the Fiscal Officer obtained the training required by Ohio Rev. Code § 507.12. The 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.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

October 19, 2022

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**BELPRE TOWNSHIP**

**WASHINGTON 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 11/10/2022**

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)