



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**







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

Brown Township  
Carroll County  
200 Grant Street. P.O. Box 378  
Malvern, Ohio 44644

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Brown Township's (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 and Investments**

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 fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2019 balances in the prior year statements. We found no exceptions. 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 no exceptions.

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. In 2021, there was a variance of \$1,563 due to an other adjusting factor relating to taxes. In 2020, the amounts agreed.
4. We observed the December 31, 2021 bank account balances on the Ohio Pooled Collateral System's website. The balances agreed. 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 noted there was an other adjusting factor that included three reconciling debits relating to differences for various withholding payments from September to October 2021 which had not cleared the reconciliation by March 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 inspected investments held at December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020 to determine that they:
  - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code § 135.13, 135.14 or 135.144. We found no exceptions.
  - b. Mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code § 135.13 or 135.14. We found no exceptions.

### **Property Taxes and Intergovernmental Receipts**

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the Carroll County Cross Reference Report 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 Register Report. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Register 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 Register 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. We noted one receipt in 2020 for Road Grant levy for \$29,239.35 and two receipts in 2020 for Homestead and Rollback totaling \$21,419.31 were misposted to property tax revenue rather than intergovernmental revenue.

### **Debt**

1. The prior agreed-upon procedures 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. The two debt issuances of \$105,086 for the Dura-Patcher and \$57,014.86 for the Bobcat in 2020 were not recorded in the accounting system.

3. We obtained a summary of bonds and loans debt activity for 2021 and 2020 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to Road and Bridge fund payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. We found no exceptions.
4. We compared the amount for debt proceeds from the debt documents to amounts recorded on the Receipt Register Report. Per review of the financial statements and the Receipt Register Report the Township did not record loan proceeds for the Dura-Patcher and Bobcat.
5. For new debt issued during 2021 and 2020, we inspected the debt legislation, which stated the Township must use the proceeds to purchase a Dura-Patcher and Bobcat. The Township did not record the capital outlay expenditures for purchasing either in 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 Withholdings 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 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 employees' personnel files and/or minute record 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:

<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 (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2022	January 3, 2022	\$1,662.70	\$1,662.70
State income taxes	January 15, 2022	January 11, 2022	\$317.92	\$317.92
Local income tax	January 15, 2022	December 31, 2021	\$121.98	\$121.98
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	\$2,982.99	\$2,982.99

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 all three trustees and the fiscal officers were underpaid in 2020 and 2021. Trustees Burton and Rotondo were underpaid \$2,828.13 and Trustee McCort was underpaid \$2,958.08. Fiscal Officer Grimm was underpaid \$2,498.31 during her time in office for 2020 and 2021 and Fiscal Officer Conner was underpaid \$2,464.50 in 2021. The underpayments happened since the Fiscal Officer did not pay in accordance with the Township budget.

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**

1. 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 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 Payment Register Detail Report 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 § 5705.41(D). We found five instances in fiscal year 2020 and two instances in fiscal year 2021 where the certification date was after the vendor invoice date, and there was also 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. 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 years ended December 31, 2021 for the General, Cemetery and American Rescue Plan Funds and 2020 for the General, Road and Bridge and Cemetery funds as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the Appropriation Ledger Report for the Cemetery 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 2021 and 2020 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.
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 balances.

### Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have a public records policy during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
2. We selected three public records requests from the engagement period and inspected each request to determine the following:
  - a. The Township was compliant and responded to the request in accordance with their adopted policy as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1). We found no exceptions.
  - b. The Township did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
  - c. 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 inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have a public records policy during the engagement period and therefore could not provide it to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
5. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have a public records policy during the engagement period; therefore, it could not be included in a policy manual as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
6. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have a public records policy during the engagement period; therefore, it could not be displayed in all the branches of the Township as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
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 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). Two trustees did not attend, nor did their designee attend, the required public records training during their term of office.
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.

#### **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. Financial information was filed on March 21, 2022 which was not within the allotted timeframe for 2021. We found no exceptions in 2020.
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 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.

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

October 7, 2022

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**BROWN TOWNSHIP**

**CARROLL 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 11/29/2022**

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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)