



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

Brush Creek Township  
Scioto County  
6890 Rocky Fork Road  
Otway, Ohio 45657

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Brush Creek 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

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 recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2019 balances in the prior year audited 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. We noted an exception: There was a \$631.55 adjusting factor on the December 2021 Bank Reconciliation consisting of two items: 1) A utility bill in the amount of \$65.44 was paid twice. The Township's account was credited the amount for the following month (January 2022). 2) \$566.11 was due to an ongoing issue with OPERS payments and the Fiscal Officer has been working on correcting this issue since September 2021.

4. We confirmed the December 31, 2021 bank account balance with the Township's financial institution via the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS) available online. 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 no exceptions.
  - 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 the Fund Status Report to determine whether the Findings For Adjustment identified in the prior audit report due from the General fund, payable to the Gasoline Tax and Cemetery funds, was properly posted to the ledgers and reflected in the fund balances in Procedure 2. We found no exceptions.

**Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable 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 Auditor DTLs 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. The Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

**Debt**

1. From the prior audit documentation, we observed the following loan was outstanding as of December 31, 2019. These amounts agreed to the Townships January 1, 2020 balances on the summary we used in procedure 3.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2019:
Kubota KX1213 Track Hoe	\$15,500.00

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. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
3. We obtained a summary of loan debt activity for 2020 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to debt service 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.

**Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected one payroll check for four 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 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. We noted the following exceptions: Two out of five employees tested, or 40%, did not have a Federal withholding form on file. One out of five employees tested, or 20%, did not have a State withholding form on file. Five out of five, or 100%, did not have Retirement withholding forms in their files.
  - 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. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the third quarter 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 third quarter 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)	November 1, 2021	October 18, 2021	\$1,679.72	\$1,679.72
State income taxes	November 1, 2021	October 18, 2021	\$241.35	\$241.35
OPERS retirement	November 1, 2021	October 18, 2021	\$1,597.98	\$1,597.98

We found no exceptions.

3. For the pay periods ended September 30, 2021 and September 30, 2020 we:
  - a. Recomputed the allocation of the Boards' salary amounts per the Wage Detail Report.
  - b. Traced the Boards' pay for time or services performed to supporting certifications
 We found no exceptions.
4. 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 following exceptions: Trustees Brown and Webb were each underpaid \$446 in 2020 and in 2021, totaling \$892 per employee over the course of the engagement period.
5. 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 no exceptions.

### **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 and 2020 for General, Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax, and Coronavirus Relief Fund HB614 as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations. However, we did note the following exceptions: In 2020, approved Appropriations for General Fund totaled \$61,581 via County records, whereas UAN recorded Appropriations as \$59,336; difference of (\$2,245). In 2020, Approved Appropriations for Coronavirus Relief Fund HB614 totaled \$36,756 via County records, whereas UAN recorded Appropriations as \$37,161; difference of \$405. In 2021, approved Appropriations for General Fund totaled \$57,930 via County records, whereas UAN recorded Appropriations as \$58,083; difference of \$153.
2. 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, no denied public records requests in part or in whole, no public records requests with redactions in part or in whole, 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 inquired regarding 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 inquired with the Fiscal Officer regarding whether 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) and noted that while the Township has a Public Records Policy, it was not displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Township as required by the ORC due to the Township not having its own meeting hall/building. It currently meets in the Otway Village Fire Department building.
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 inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have any elected officials subject to the Public Records Training requirements during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(1) and 109.43(B). The Fiscal Officer, who is also the Trustees' designee, is currently serving the 2020-2024 term and therefore has time after the engagement period, to satisfy the Public Records Training requirement. 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 non-payroll 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 year ended December 31, 2021 in the Hinkle system. Financial information for December 31, 2020 was filed on August 30, 2021 which was not within the allotted timeframe.
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 10.5 hours of the required 12 hours of training for the current term ending in 2024.

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  
August 1, 2022



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP**

**SCIOTO 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 8/23/2022**

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