



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Ashtabula Township
Ashtabula County
2718 North Ridge Road East
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Ashtabula Township's (the Township) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 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, 2022 and 2021 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, 2022 and 2021, 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, 2022 and December 31, 2021 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We 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 prior year documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2021 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.

3. We agreed the 2022 and 2021 Bank Reconciliation adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 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 for the year ended December 31, 2022, however, we noted for the year ended December 31, 2021 the bank reconciliation showed a balance of \$17 in the secondary account while the bank statement showed a balance of (\$3) due to a service fee. We noted this account was closed on February 15, 2022 and corrected for the year ended December 31, 2022.
4. We observed the year-end bank balances on the financial institution's website. The balances agreed. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2022 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2022 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.

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 2022 and a total of five from 2021:
 - a. We compared the amounts from the above named reports to the amounts 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 receipts were recorded in the proper year. The receipts were 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 2022 and 2021. The included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

Other Receipts

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2022 and 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2021 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amounts 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 receipts were posted to the proper fund and were recorded in the proper year. We found one receipt in the amount of \$1,511 for the year ended December 31, 2022 recorded in the Coronavirus Relief fund that should have been recorded in the Miscellaneous Special Revenue fund. We brought this to management's attention and the Fiscal Officer corrected the amount on May 21, 2023. However, because we did not inspect all receipts, our report provides no assurance regarding whether or not other similar errors occurred.

Debt

1. From the prior agreed-upon procedures documentation, we observed the following lease was outstanding as of December 31, 2020.
 - a. This amount agreed to the Township's January 1, 2021 balance on the summary we used in procedure 3.
 - b. We inspected the lease purchase agreement for all outstanding debt, and we confirmed the Township does not have any debt covenants.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2020:
Fire Truck Lease	\$129,283

2. We inquired of management and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2022 or 2021 or debt payment activity during 2022 or 2021. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
3. We obtained a summary of lease debt activity for 2022 and 2021 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedule to Fire District 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 five employees from 2022 and one payroll check for five employees from 2021 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). We found one instance where an employee was paid \$69 less than the legislatively-approved salary in 2021. We brought this to management's attention, and they added this amount to a subsequent payment for this employee on June 20, 2023. Because we did not compare all timecards, our report provides no assurance whether or not other similar errors occurred.
 - 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 minute record. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected three new employees from 2022 and three employees from 2021 and:
 - a. We inspected the employees' personnel files for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
 - b. We agreed the items in a above to the Employee General Information Report.
We found no exceptions.
3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2022 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 2022.

We observed the following:

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, 2023	December 23, 2022	\$3,132.53	\$3,132.53
State income taxes	January 15, 2023	December 23, 2022	\$8,590.76	\$8,590.76
Local income tax	January 15, 2023	December 23, 2022	\$120.35	\$120.35
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2023	January 19, 2023	\$10,837.86	\$10,837.86
OP&F retirement	January 31, 2023	January 19, 2023	\$26,644.53	\$26,644.53

We found no exceptions.

4. For the pay periods ended October 31, 2022 and March 31, 2021, we
 - a. Recomputed the allocation of the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' salary amounts and employer shares withholding to the General, Road and Bridge, Cemetery and Fire District fund per the Wage Detail Report.
 - b. Traced the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' pay for time or services performed to supporting certifications the Revised Code requires.
 We found the Fiscal Officer and all three Trustees had a yearly certification sheet for the pay period ending October 31, 2022 and March 31, 2021, however no monthly certification sheet was completed.
5. We compared total gross pay for the fiscal officer and each board of trustee for 2022 and 2021 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. Their pay did not exceed the Ohio Revised Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24 permitted amounts.
6. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 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, 2022 and 10 from the year ended December 31, 2021 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, 2022 and 2021 for the General, Gasoline Tax and Coronavirus Relief fund as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the Appropriation Ledger Report for the Private Purpose Trust Fund. Not more than 5% of non-spendable monies were released, spent, or otherwise modified during the engagement period.
3. We inspected the one interfund transfer from the 2022 Revenue Status Report and Appropriation Status Report 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, 2022 and 2021 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 have public records requests during the engagement period, however, the Township did not have any method for tracking public records therefore we could not determine compliance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7)(c).
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.
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.

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 over \$45,000 for 2022 and one for 2021 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 §5705.01.
 - 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, 2022 and 2021 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 and 733.81. The Fiscal Officer obtained 0 of the required 12 hours of training for the current term.

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

July 5, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP

ASHTABULA 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 7/18/2023

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov