



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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BASIC AUDIT REPORT

Malta Union Cemetery
Morgan County
1660 W. Coler Road, NW
Malta, Ohio 43758

We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the Malta Union Cemetery, Morgan County, Ohio (the Cemetery) for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

Our procedures were designed solely to satisfy the audit requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A). Because our procedures were not designed to opine on the Cemetery's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the Cemetery's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

The Cemetery's management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents. Our responsibility under Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A) is to examine, analyze and inspect these records and documents.

Based on the results of our procedures, we found the following significant compliance or accounting issues to report.

Current Year Observations

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F) provides that every public body to, by rule, establish a reasonable method whereby any person may determine the time and place of all regularly scheduled meetings and the time, place, and purpose of all special meetings. The Cemetery did not notify the public or news media of its public meetings due to an oversight by management. Failure to properly notify the public hinders transparency and could result in questions as to the validity of any actions taken during such meetings. The Cemetery management should take appropriate action to ensure that proper notification is made for all meetings of the Cemetery.
2. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2) provides that the Cemetery should have an approved records retention schedule which is readily available to the public. The Board did not approve a formal records retention schedule. This could lead to improper destruction of records. The Board should approve the required record retention schedule.
3. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) requires public offices to adopt a public records policy. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7)(c) provides guidance for a required public records policy to be approved by the Board. The approved public records policy should 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. The Ohio Attorney General developed a model public records policy for responding to public records requests in compliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 in order to provide guidance to public offices in developing their own public record policies. This model policy is available at [Model Public Records Request Policy \(ohioattorneygeneral.gov\)](https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov).

Current Year Observations (Continued)

The Board did not approve a formal public records policy. This can result in improper treatment of public records requests. The Board should approve a formal public records policy containing all the required elements. The policy should be included in Cemetery's policy manual and displayed in all the branches of the Cemetery as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).

Current Status of Matters Reported in our Prior Engagement

1. The prior audit included noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) relating to the lack of a formal public records policy. This was repeated in Current Year Observation 3 above.
2. The prior audit included noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2) relating to the lack of a formal records retention schedule. This was repeated in Current Year Observation 2 above.
3. The prior audit included noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F) relating to the failure to notify the public or news media of its public meetings. This was repeated in Current Year Observation 1 above.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 12, 2023

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MALTA UNION CEMETERY

MORGAN 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 9/26/2023

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
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