



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Jefferson County Port Authority
Jefferson County
500 Market Street
1st Floor, Suite 3
Steubenville, Ohio 43952

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Jefferson County Port Authority's (the Port Authority) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Port Authority. The Port Authority is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Port Authority.

The Board of Trustees and the management of the Port Authority have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Port Authority's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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, 2023 and December 31, 2022 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We 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 prior year documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2023 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.

3. We agreed the 2023 and 2022 bank reconciliation as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report and the financial statements filed by the Port Authority in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2023 bank account balances with the Port Authority's financial institution and the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected the only reconciling credit (such as deposits in transit or cancelled checks) from the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We traced the credit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We agreed the credit amount to the Expenditure Ledger and determined it was dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
6. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 to determine that they:
 - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 135.13, 135.14, 135.144 or 135.145. 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.

Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected all receipts from the County Auditor's Detail Vendor Expenditure Report from 2023 and all from 2022.
 - a. We compared the amount from the above report to the amount recorded in the UAN AWB Receipts Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the UAN AWB Receipts Report to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the UAN AWB Receipts Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We confirmed the individual amounts paid from the City of Steubenville to the Port Authority during 2023 and 2022 with the City. Additionally, we confirmed the individual amounts paid from the Ohio Department of Development to the Port Authority during 2023 and 2022 with supporting documentation received by the Port Authority from the Department. We found no exceptions.
 - a. We inspected the UAN AWB Receipts Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the UAN AWB Receipts Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Charges for Services Receipts

We selected all charges for services receipts from the year ended December 31, 2023:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount to the amount recorded in the UAN AWB Receipt Report. The amounts agreed.
- b. Inspected the UAN AWB Receipt Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper fund, and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. The prior agreed-upon procedures documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2021.
2. We inquired of management and inspected the UAN AWB Payments and Receipts Reports for evidence of debt issued during 2023 or 2022 or debt payment activity during 2023 or 2022. There were no new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2023 or 2022.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 1 payroll check for all employees from 2023 and 1 payroll check for all employees from 2022 from the UAN AWB Payments 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 two instances in 2023 and one instance in 2022 where we were unable to agree employee salary increases to supporting documentation, such as the Port Authority's minute record or a formal resolution. We brought this to management's attention and the importance of formally approving all salary increases in the Port Authority's minute record as it serves as the official record of business for the Port Authority.
 - b. We inspected the fund and account code to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employees' duties as documented in the minute record. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected all new employees from 2022 and:
 - a. We inspected the employee's personnel file 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, 2023 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 2023. 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, 2024	12/27/2023	\$979.54	\$979.54
State income taxes	January 15, 2024	12/27/2023	\$280.00	\$280.00
Local income tax	January 15, 2024	12/27/2023	\$170.34	\$170.34
OPERS retirement	January 31, 2024	1/21/2024	\$2,044.16	\$2,044.16

We found no exceptions.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the UAN AWB Payments Report for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 10 from the year ended 2022 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 or EFT transaction on the Port Authority's bank statement agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the UAN AWB Payments 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 §§ 5705.28(B)(2) and 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments including outstanding encumbrances) 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, 2023 and 2022 for the General, Industrial Park and Miscellaneous Capital Projects funds. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 for negative cash fund balance. 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. There were no funds having negative cash fund balances.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Port Authority'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 Port Authority management and determined that the Port Authority did not have any completed public records requests during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Port Authority 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 with Port Authority management and determined that the Port Authority did not have a policy manual during the engagement period therefore the public records policy could not be included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
6. We observed that the Port Authority's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Port Authority as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

7. We inquired with Port Authority management and determined that the Port Authority did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inquired with Port Authority management and determined that the Port Authority 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).
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the Port Authority 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.

Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires port authorities 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 Port Authority 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, 2023 and 2022 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.

We were engaged by the Port Authority 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 Port Authority'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 Port Authority 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

August 7, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



JEFFERSON COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

JEFFERSON 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 8/27/2024

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