



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Village of Westfield Center
Medina County
6701 Greenwich Road
P.O. Box 750
Westfield Center, Ohio 44251

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Village of Westfield Center's (the Village) 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 those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Village. The Village 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 Village.

The Village Council, Mayor and the management of the Village have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Village'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 Cash Summary by Fund Report to the December 31, 2021 balances in the 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 Cash Summary by Fund Report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the Cash Summary by Fund Report. We found no exceptions.

3. We agreed the 2023 and 2022 bank reconciliation Adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances 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 Village in the HINKLE System. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2023 bank account balances with the Village's financial institution and 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 5 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2023 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 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.

Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of 5 receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes* and State Distribution Transaction Listing (DTL) for 2023 and a total of 5 from 2022:
 - 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 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 2 real estate tax receipts for 2023 and 2022. The Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.
3. We confirmed the individual amounts paid from the Ohio Public Works Commission and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to the Village during 2023. We found no exceptions.
 - a. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Income Tax Receipts

1. We selected 5 income tax returns filed during 2023 and 5 from 2022.
 - a. We compared the payment amount recorded on the tax return to the amount recorded on the duplicate Receipt or Pay-In Voucher and the Payment Journal. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We compared the duplicate Receipt or Pay-In Voucher and the Payment Journal total from procedure a. to the amount recorded as income tax receipts in the Receipt Register Report for that date. The amounts agreed.

- c. We compared the date of the receipts to the date the receipts was posted in the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the year received. We found no exceptions.
 - d. We obtained the original income tax ordinance which set the rate and effective period. The original ordinance was dated December 7, 1999. The latest (council or voter) approved amendment for the engagement period was dated December 1, 2015. We agreed the most recent approved rate to the rate used on the income tax return. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 5 income tax refunds from 2023 and 5 from 2022.
 - a. We compared the refund paid from Payment Register Detail Report to the refund amount requested in the tax return. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We observed the approval by Fiscal Officer on each of the refunds. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We observed the refunds were paid from the General Fund as is required.

Sewer Fund

1. We selected 10 Sewer Fund collection cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2023 and 10 Sewer Fund collection cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2022 recorded in the Receipt Register Report and determined whether the:
 - a. Receipt amount per the Receipt Register Report agreed to the amount recorded to the credit of the customer's account in the Pre-Billing Journal and Billing Journal Reports. The amounts agreed.
 - b. Amount charged for the related billing period:
 - i. Agreed with the debit to accounts receivable in the Pre Billing Journal and Billing Journal reports for the billing period. We found no exceptions.
 - ii. Complied with rates in force during the engagement period per the 2021 Sewer Rate Chart. We found no exceptions.
 - c. Receipt was posted to the proper fund and was recorded in the year received. We found no exceptions.
2. We observed the Customer Balance Report.
 - a. This report listed \$1,627 and \$16,499 of accounts receivable as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.
 - b. Of the total receivables reported in the preceding procedure, \$5 and \$0 were recorded as more than 90 days delinquent.
3. We observed the Daily Cash Receipts Journal – Batch #.
 - a. This report listed a total of \$729 and \$2,211 non-cash receipts adjustments for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.
 - b. We selected 5 non-cash adjustments from 2023 and 5 non-cash adjustments from 2022 and observed that the Fiscal Officer and/or the Board of Public Affairs approved each adjustments.

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 Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report 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 5 employees from 2023 and 1 payroll check for 5 employees from 2022 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). 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 Village of Westfield Center Job Description documentation. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.

2. We selected 3 new employees from 2023 and 1 new Council Member from 2022 and:
 - a. We inspected the employees'/Council Members' 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, 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 during 2023. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	<u>Date Due</u>	<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Federal income taxes & Medicare	January 31, 2024	December 1, 2023	\$1,674.05	\$1,674.05
(and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2024	December 15, 2023	1,730.79	1,730.79
	January 31, 2024	December 29, 2023	1,629.27	1,629.27
	January 31, 2024	December 29, 2023	2,556.20	2,556.20
State income taxes	January 15, 2024	December 29, 2023	1,388.78	1,388.78
Village of Westfield Center income tax	January 31, 2024	December 29, 2023	620.58	620.58
Wadsworth City Income Tax	February 28, 2024	December 29, 2023	22.46	22.46
Cloverleaf School Income Tax	January 15, 2024	December 29, 2023	146.29	146.29
Northwestern District Income Tax	January 15, 2024	December 29, 2023	271.79	271.79
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2024	December 29, 2023	11,232.26	11,232.26
OP&F retirement	January 31, 2024	December 29, 2023	4,192.18	4,192.18

We found no exceptions.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 10 from the year ended December 31, 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 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.

Mayor's Court Transactions and Cash Balances

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We compared the reconciled cash totals as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 to the Mayor's Court Fund balance reported in the Fund Status Reports. The balances agreed.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of December 31, 2023 and balance held on account as of each December 31. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2023 bank account balance with the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balance to the amount appearing in the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected 5 cases from the court cash book and agreed the payee and amount posted to the:
 - a. Duplicate receipt book.
 - b. Docket, including comparing the total fine paid to the judgment issued by the judge (i.e. mayor)
 - c. Case file.

The amounts recorded in the cash book, receipts book, docket and case file agreed.

6. From the cash book, we selected 1 month from the year ended December 31, 2023 and determined whether:
 - a. The monthly sum of fines and costs collected for this month agreed to the amounts reported as remitted to the Village, State, or other applicable government in the following month. We found no exceptions.
 - b. The total remitted for this month per the cash book agreed to the returned canceled checks. 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 cash book.

Compliance – Budgetary

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 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 Fund, Coronavirus Relief (ARPA) Fund and Police Continuing Professional Training Fund as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.

2. We inspected the only interfund transfer from 2023 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 Section 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner.
3. 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(l) 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 Village'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 selected total population of public records requests from the engagement period and inspected each request to determine the following:
 - a. The Village was compliant and responded to the request in accordance with their adopted policy as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1). For one of the five public records requests selected, the Village did not acknowledge receipt of the request in accordance with their adopted policy. See the table below..

<u>Date Request Received</u>	<u>Date Request Acknowledged and Fulfilled</u>	<u>Policy Acknowledgement of Receipt Response Time (in Business days)</u>	<u>Actual Acknowledgement of Receipt and Response Time (in Business days)</u>
April 25, 2023	May 9, 2023	3	9

- b. The Village did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
 - c. The Village did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Village 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 Village management and determined that the Village 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 Village's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Village as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

7. We inquired with Village management and determined that the Village 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 Village 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 villages 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 Village 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 Village 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 Village'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 Village 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

November 20, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VILLAGE OF WESTFIELD CENTER

MEDINA 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 12/5/2024

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