



Dave Yost • Auditor of State



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Board of Directors
Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Ashtabula County
1850 Austinburg Road
Austinburg, Ohio 44010

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees and the management of the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau (the Bureau) on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Bureau's cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Bureau. The Bureau is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Bureau. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in this 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.

This report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

Cash

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2016 beginning fund balances recorded in the General Ledger to the December 31, 2015 balances in the documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2017 beginning fund balances recorded in the General Ledger to the December 31, 2016 balances in the General Ledger. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2017 and 2016 fund cash balances reported in the General Ledger. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2017 bank account balances with the Bureau's financial institutions. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2017 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected all reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2017 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January and February bank statements. We found all agreed except for two duplicate entries for \$25 and \$150. The accountant has corrected the error in the accounting system.
 - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.

Cash (Continued)

6. We selected all reconciling credits (such as deposits in transit) from the December 31, 2017 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We agreed the credit amounts to the Receipts Register. No credit was recorded as a December receipt for the same amount recorded in the reconciliation. We found \$755 that was a long standing reconciliation adjustment for 3 deposit items from 2011 to 2015 that had not been marked as cleared. Two items appeared to be duplicates and one was written off as uncollectable but not removed from the deposit records. The accountant has corrected the error in the accounting system.

Cash Receipts

1. We confirmed with Ashtabula County the lodging taxes it paid to the Bureau during the years ending December 31, 2017 and 2016. The County confirmed the following amounts:

Year Ended	Amount
December 31, 2017	\$525,336
December 31, 2016	\$508,752

2. We compared the amounts from step 1 to amounts recorded as lodging tax receipts on the Bureau's Cash Reports Journal. We found no exceptions.

Cash Disbursements

1. We inquired of management regarding sources describing allowable purposes or restrictions related to the Bureau's disbursements of lodging taxes. We listed these sources and summarized significant related restrictions below:

Source of Restrictions

- a. The Bureau's Articles of Incorporation
- b. The Bureau's 501(c)(6) Tax Exemption
- c. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5739.09(A)(2)

The Bureau's tax exemption prohibits it from disbursements supporting a candidate's election.

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5739.09(A)(2) restricts the Bureau to spending lodging tax "specifically for promotion, advertising, and marketing of the region in which the county is located."

Auditor of State Bulletin 2003-005 deems any disbursement of public funds (e.g. lodging taxes) for alcohol to be improper.

2. We haphazardly selected forty disbursements of lodging taxes from the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 in addition to all disbursements equal to or greater than \$4,000, and compared the purpose for these disbursements as documented on vendor invoices or other supporting documentation to the sources of restrictions listed in *Cash Disbursements Step 1* above. We found no instances where the purpose described on the invoice or other supporting documentation described a violation of the restrictions listed above.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' attestation standards and applicable attestation engagement standards included in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not examine or review the Bureau's lodging tax receipts and disbursements for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the objective of which would have been to opine on lodging tax receipts and disbursements or provide a conclusion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that we would have reported to you.

This report is to provide assistance in the evaluation of the Bureau's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 9, 2018

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ASHTABULA COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

ASHTABULA COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JULY 24, 2018**