



Dave Yost • Auditor of State





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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Rome Township  
Ashtabula County  
PO Box 5057  
Rome, Ohio 44085

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees and the management of Rome Township (the Township) on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Townships 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 Township. The Township 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 Township. 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 and Investments

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 Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2015 documentation in the prior year agreed upon procedures. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2017 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2016 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. 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 Fund Status Report. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2017 bank account balances with the Township'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 five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) haphazardly from the December 31, 2017 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, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.

**Cash and Investments (Continued)**

6. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 to determine that they:
  - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 135.13, 135.14 or 135.144. We found no exceptions
  - b. Mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code Section 135.13 or 135.14. We noted no exceptions.

**Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts**

1. We haphazardly selected a property tax receipt from one *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes* (the Statement) for 2017 and one from 2016:
  - a. We traced the gross receipts from the *Statement* to the amount recorded in the Revenue Ledger. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Revenue Ledger to confirm the receipt was allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.05-.06 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Revenue Ledger to confirm whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year.
2. We inspected the Revenue Ledger to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2017 and 2016. The Revenue Ledger included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.
3. We haphazardly selected five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2017 and five from 2016. We also haphazardly selected five receipts from the County Auditor's Payment Register from 2017 and five from 2016.
  - a. We compared the amount from the above reports to the amount recorded in the Revenue Ledger. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Revenue Ledger to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper fund(s). We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Revenue Ledger to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

**Debt**

1. From the prior agreed-upon procedures documentation, we observed the following lease was outstanding as of December 31, 2015. These amounts agreed to the Townships January 1, 2016 balances on the summary we used in procedure 3.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2015:
Mini Excavator Lease	\$70,385

2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Revenue Ledger and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2017 or 2016 or debt payment activity during 2017 or 2016. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
3. We obtained a summary of leases debt activity for 2017 and 2016 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedule to Road & Bridge 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 haphazardly selected one payroll check for five employees from 2017 and one payroll check for five employees from 2016 from the Employee Wage Base Detail Report and:
  - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Employee Wage Base Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary We found the Fiscal Officer was undercompensated in the amount of \$3,120 in 2017 and is entitled to receive said compensation.

**Improper Compensation of Fiscal Officer**

Ohio Rev. Code § 507.09(A)(4), effective on September 29, 2015, provides that, in calendar year 2016; in a Township having a budget of more than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) but not more than one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000), the annual compensation of the Township fiscal officer shall be \$17,826 for 2016. Section (B) provides a 5% increase of salary listed in Section (A)(4) of \$891 (\$17,826 x 5%) for a total calendar year compensation of \$18,717 for 2017.

The Township's Certificate of Estimated Resources, as approved by the County Budget Commission, was \$774,770 in fiscal year 2017, from January 1 through December 31.

The payroll records for Jeanette Gage, Fiscal Officer, indicate that she was paid \$15,597 during calendar year 2017 instead of \$18,717, below her authorized annual salary by \$3,120. Fiscal Officer Jeanette Gage is due \$3,120 from the Township's General fund.

Township officials should obtain the most current elected officials compensation charts, available online at [www.ohiotownships.org](http://www.ohiotownships.org), to ensure officials are compensated in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

- b. We inspected the fund and account code(s) to which the check was posted to determine the posting was reasonable based on the employees' duties as documented in the minute record or as required by statute. We also confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2017 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 2017. We observed the following:

<b>Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
Federal income taxes & Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2018	January 12, 2018	\$1,344.93	\$1,344.93
State income taxes	January 31, 2018	January 17, 2018	\$2,369.07	\$2,369.07
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2018	January 11, 2018	\$1,962.98	\$1,962.98

3. For the pay periods ended September 30, 2017 and June 30, 2016, we recomputed the allocation of the Fiscal Officer's salary to the General and Fire Fund per the Wage Earnings Report. We found no exceptions.

### **Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)**

4. For the pay periods described in the preceding procedure, we traced the Fiscal Officer's salary for time or services performed to supporting certifications the Revised Code requires. We found no exceptions.
5. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 to determine if township employees and/or trustees were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. No such reimbursements occurred.

### **Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We haphazardly selected ten disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2017 and ten from the year ended 2016 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 Section 5705.41(D). We found two instances where the certification date was after the vendor invoice date, and there was also no evidence that a *Then and Now Certificate* was issued. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) requires certifying at the time of a commitment, which should be on or before the invoice date, unless a *Then and Now Certificate* is used. Because we did not inspect all disbursements requiring certification, our report provides no assurance whether or not additional similar errors occurred.

### **Compliance – Budgetary**

1. We compared the total estimated receipts from the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources, required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(1), to the amounts recorded in the Revenue Status Report for the General, Road & Bridge and Fire Funds for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. The amounts on the Certificate did not agree to any of the amounts recorded in the accounting system. The Revenue Status Report recorded budgeted (i.e. certified) resources for the General, Road & Bridge, and Fire Funds of \$70,062, \$97,000, and \$499,466, respectively, for 2017. However, the final Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources reflected \$75,000, \$97,054, and \$505,620, respectively. The Revenue Status Report recorded budgeted (i.e. certified) resources for the General, Road & Bridge, and Fire Funds of \$70,562, \$91,000, and \$320,158, respectively, for 2016. However, the final Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources reflected \$74,100, \$96,900, and \$152,440, respectively. The fiscal officer should periodically compare amounts recorded in the Revenue Status Report to amounts recorded on the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to assure they agree. If the amounts do not agree, the Trustees may be using inaccurate information for budgeting and monitoring purposes.
2. We inspected the appropriation measures adopted for 2017 and 2016 to determine whether, for the General, Road & Bridge and Fire Funds, the Trustees appropriated separately for "each office, department, and division, and within each, the amount appropriated for personal services," as is required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38(C). We found no exceptions.

**Compliance – Budgetary (Continued)**

3. We compared total appropriations required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.38 and 5705.40, to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report for 2017 and 2016 for the following funds: General, Road & Bridge, and Fire. Except for the General Fund in 2017 for which the Appropriation Status exceeded the appropriation resolution by \$90 the amounts on the appropriation resolutions agreed to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report.
4. Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.36(A)(5) and 5705.39 prohibits appropriations from exceeding the certified resources. We compared total appropriations to total certified resources for the General, Road & Bridge and Fire Funds for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. There were no funds for which appropriations exceeded certified resources.
5. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 for the General, Road & Bridge and Fire Fund, as recorded in the Comparison of Disbursements and Encumbrances with Expenditure Authority Report. There were no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
6. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 requires establishing separate funds to segregate externally-restricted resources. We inspected the Revenue Ledger for evidence of new restricted receipts requiring a new fund during December 31, 2017 and 2016. We also inquired of management regarding whether the Township received new restricted receipts. We observed no evidence of new restricted receipts for which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 would require the Township to establish a new fund.
7. For funds existing in prior years, inspect the fund activity to determine whether the fund is still being used for the statutorily approved purpose and that all the required funds were established. The Township established a Debt Service and Capital Projects (OPWC) fund. Neither fund had any activity in 2017 or 2016; however, the Debt Service has an unused restricted balance of \$1,634. In addition, the Township had a Lighting Fund with no activity or balances in 2017 or 2016. We recommend the Township seek court approval to have debt service unused balance be placed in General fund and close the unused lighting fund in UAN system.
8. We inspected the 2017 and 2016 Reconciliation of Interfund Transactions Report for evidence of interfund transfers exceeding \$500 which Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.14 - .16 restrict. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which Section 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner or Court of Common Pleas.
9. We inquired of management and inspected the Appropriation Status Reports to determine whether the Township elected to establish reserve accounts permitted by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.13. The Township did not establish these reserves.
10. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code Section 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 balances.

### Compliance – Contracts & Expenditures

1. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 to determine if the township proceeded by force account (i.e. used its own employees) to maintain or repair roads (cost of project \$15,000-\$45,000) or to construct or reconstruct township roads (cost of project \$5,000-\$15,000/per mile) for which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5575.01 requires the county engineer to complete a force account project assessment form (i.e., cost estimate). We identified no projects requiring the county engineer to complete a force account cost estimate.

### Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code Section 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, in addition to filing extensions granted for extenuating circumstances, allow for refiling complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System for December 31, 2017 and 2016 fiscal year ends included in 2015-2016 or 2016-2017 agreed up on procedure engagements, subsequent to the Township's deadline where the initial filing was filed on time but incomplete. 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, 2017 and 2016 in the Hinkle system. There were no exceptions.
2. We inquired of the fiscal officer and 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 Section 507.12 and 733.81. The Fiscal Officer has not updated the FIA Portal or provided training certificates for her current term of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2020.

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 conduct an examination or review, 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.

This report is to provide 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, 2017 and 2016, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.



**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

September 19, 2018





# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

ROME TOWNSHIP

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  
OCTOBER 11, 2018