



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Norwalk Township
Huron County
P.O. Box 765
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-0765

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Norwalk Township, Huron County, Ohio's (the Township) 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 Township. The Township 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 Township.

The Board of Trustees (the Board) and the management of the Township have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Township's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in its 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 Adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report and the financial statements filed by the Township in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.

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4. We confirmed the December 31, 2023 bank account balances with the Township's financial institutions 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 five 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 and Intergovernmental Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) and the Huron County Local Government Confirmation for 2023 and a total of five from 2022:
 - a. We compared the amount from the above-named reports to the amount recorded in the Receipts Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipts 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 Receipts 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 Receipts Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2023 and 2022. The Receipts Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

Other Receipts

We selected ten other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2023 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount recorded in the Receipts Report to supporting documentation. The amounts agreed.
- b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period, where applicable. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the Receipts Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds and was recorded in the proper year. We found one receipt for the sale of permanent improvements recorded in the General Fund in the amount of \$713 and two receipts for the sale of permanent improvements recorded in the Gasoline Tax Fund in the amount of \$35,013 that should have been recorded in a capital projects fund. We brought this to management's attention. They corrected the General Fund, Gasoline Tax Fund, and Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund balances for these items. However, because we did not inspect all receipts, our report provides no assurance regarding whether or not other similar errors occurred.

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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 Receipts Report and Payments 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 one payroll check for five employees from 2023 and one payroll check for five 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 code to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employee's duties as documented in the employee's personnel files and/or minute record. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected one new employee from 2023 and:
 - a. We inspected the employee's personnel file and/or minute record for the retirement system and, federal, state and local income tax withholding authorization.
 - b. We agreed the items in *Procedure 2.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 and Medicare	January 31, 2024	December 28, 2023	\$474	\$474
State income taxes	January 15, 2024	December 28, 2023	82	82
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2024	December 28, 2023	1,322	1,322
School district income tax	January 31, 2024	December 28, 2023	47	47

We found no exceptions.

4. We compared total gross pay for the Fiscal Officer and each Board member for 2023 and 2022 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. Their pay did not exceed the Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24 permitted amounts.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

We selected ten disbursements from the Payments Report for the year ended December 31, 2023 and ten 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 or EFT/ACH agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the 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 § 5705.41(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, Road and Bridge, and Permissive Motor Vehicle License funds as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected interfund transfers from 2023 and 2022 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for compliance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.14 - .16. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner.
3. We inspected the Fund Status Report for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 for negative cash fund balances. 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. We noted no funds having a negative cash fund balance.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Township'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 Township management and determined that the Township did not have any public records requests (completed, denied, or redacted) during the engagement period.
3. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have a records retention schedule during the engagement period and therefore could not make it readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2).
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 Township management and determined that the Township 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 Township's poster describing its Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Township as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
7. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township 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 Township 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, when applicable:
 - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
 - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session 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

Ohio Rev. Code § 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 regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the Township filed its 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.

Related Party Transactions

1. We inquired with management and identified a Related Party Transaction. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Township had related party transactions with Patrick Riley Trucking in the amount of \$49,926. We found no exceptions.
2. We confirmed the transactions with the other party. We found no exceptions.
3. We obtained supporting evidence for the Related Party Transactions identified in *Procedure 1*. We found no exceptions.

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We were engaged by the Township 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 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.

We are required to be independent of the Township 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.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 12, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



NORWALK TOWNSHIP

HURON 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 8/6/2024

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov