



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER





BASIC AUDIT REPORT

Knox Township
Guernsey County
69216 Boden Road
New Concord, Ohio 43762

We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the Knox Township, Guernsey County (the Township), for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Our procedures were designed solely to satisfy the audit requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A). Because our procedures were not designed to opine on the Township's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the Township's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023.

The Township's management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents. Our responsibility under Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A) is to examine, analyze and inspect these records and documents.

Based on the results of our procedures, we found the following significant compliance or accounting issues to report.

Current Year Observation

We noted Trustee Mouler is a part-time employee for T. Oliver Trucking which the Township paid \$22,821 for hauling cinders in 2024. We noted Trustee Mouler did not abstain from the approval of the check in the minutes. Ohio Revised Code § 2921.42(A)(1) provides that no public official shall knowingly "authorize or employ the authority or influence of" the official's office to secure authorization of the employment of a family member. Ohio Revised Code § 2921.42(A)(4) provides that no public official shall "have an interest in the profits or benefits of a public contract entered into by or for the use of the political subdivision or governmental agency or instrumentality with which the public official is connected." Ohio Revised Code § 102.03(D) prohibits a public official or employee from using or authorizing the "authority or influence of office or employment to secure anything of value or the promise or offer of anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon the public official or employee with respect to that person's duties". Ohio Rev. Code § 2921.42(C)(4) provides that this section does not apply to a public contract in which a public official, member of a public official's family, or one of a public official's business associates has an interest, when all of the following apply:

- a. The subject of the public contract is necessary supplies or services for the political subdivision or governmental agency or instrumentality involved;
- b. The supplies or services are unobtainable elsewhere for the same or lower cost, or are being furnished to the political subdivision or governmental agency or instrumentality as part of a continuing course of dealing established prior to the public official's becoming associated with the political subdivision or governmental agency or instrumentality involved;

Current Year Observation (Continued)

- c. The treatment accorded the political subdivision or governmental agency or instrumentality is either preferential to or the same as that accorded other customers or clients in similar transactions;
- d. The entire transaction is conducted at arm's length, with full knowledge by the political subdivision or governmental agency or instrumentality involved, of the interest of the public official, member of the public official's family, or business associate, and the public official takes no part in the deliberations or decision of the political subdivision or governmental agency or instrumentality with respect to the public contract.

To avoid related party transactions the Township should ensure that all of the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 2921.42(C)(4) are met. The potential ethics violations will be referred to the Ethics Commission.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

August 11, 2025

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KNOX TOWNSHIP

GUERNSEY 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 8/26/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

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