



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
KEITH FABER





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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Village of Van Buren  
Hancock County  
103 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 275  
Van Buren, Ohio 45889-0275

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Village of Van Buren, Hancock County, Ohio's (the Village) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 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, 2024 and 2023 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, 2024 and 2023, 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

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We 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 prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2024 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2023 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.

Village of Van Buren  
Hancock County  
Independent Accountant's Report on  
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures  
Page 2

3. We agreed the 2024 and 2023 bank reconciliation adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 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, 2024 bank account balances with Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected 3 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January and February bank statements. We found one check that was still outstanding.
  - 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.

#### **Property Taxes and Intergovernmental Cash Receipts**

1. We selected a total of 5 receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Listing (DTL), and the County Auditor Vendor Invoice List for 2024 and a total of 5 from 2023:
  - 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 2024 and 2023. The Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

#### **Other Receipts**

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2024 and 10 other receipts from the year ended 2023 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report to supporting documentation. The amounts agreed.
- b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds, and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

#### **Debt**

1. From the prior audit report, we observed loans were outstanding as of December 31, 2022. These outstanding balances are included in the "Summary Debt Table - Carry Forward Balance" column in the summary chart in procedure 3.

Village of Van Buren  
 Hancock County  
 Independent Accountant's Report on  
 Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures  
 Page 3

2. We inquired of management and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2024 or 2023 or debt payment activity during 2024 or 2023. There were no new debt issuances.
3. From the summary of outstanding debt for 2024 and 2023 below:
  - a. We agreed the principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to debt service fund payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report and included the total principal payments for both years in the table below. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Village made the payments. We found no exceptions.
  - c. Based on the principal payments made, we agreed the outstanding balances to debt amortization schedule and included the outstanding balances in the summary table below. We found no exceptions.
  - d. For any outstanding debt listed in the table below, we obtained the debt agreements and confirmed the Village was in compliance with its debt covenants. We found no exceptions.

<b>Summary Debt Table</b>					
<b>Debt Issued</b>	<b>Carry Forward Balance 1/1/2023</b>	<b>New Issue 2023</b>	<b>New Issue 2024</b>	<b>Total Principal Payments 2023/2024</b>	<b>Outstanding Balance 12/31/2024</b>
OWDA 2896	\$258,018	\$0	\$0	\$170,287	\$87,731
OWDA 4308	59,013	0	0	7,228	51,785
OWDA 9942	733,017	0	0	65,435	667,582
OWDA 9943	314,580	0	0	28,081	286,499
OPWC CM25V	10,053	0	0	1,149	8,904
OPWC CM31T	10,817	0	0	816	10,001

### **Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected 1 payroll check for 5 employees from 2024 and 1 payroll check for 5 employees from 2023 from the Wage Detail Report and:
  - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Detail Report or Payment Register Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
  - b. We recomputed gross and net pay and agreed it to the amount recorded in the payroll register. We found no exceptions.
  - c. 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 minute record. We found no exceptions.
  - d. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 1 new Council Member from 2024 and 1 new Council Member from 2023 and:
  - a. We inspected the 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.

Village of Van Buren  
 Hancock County  
 Independent Accountant's Report on  
 Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures  
 Page 4

3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2024 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 2024. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Due	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes & Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 15, 2025	December 13, 2024	\$534	\$534
State income taxes	January 31, 2025	December 16, 2024	54	54
OPERS retirement	January 31, 2025	December 13, 2024	272	272

We found no exceptions.

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

We selected 10 disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2024 and 10 from the year ended 2023 and determined whether:

- The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
- The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the canceled check and bank statement 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.
- 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.
- The clerk treasurer 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**

- Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus contract 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, 2024 and 2023 for the General, General Obligation Waterline, and Other Capital Projects/Sewer fund as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
- We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 for negative cash fund balance. Ohio Rev. Code § 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. There were no funds having negative cash fund balances.

### **Sunshine Law Compliance**

- 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.

Village of Van Buren  
Hancock County  
Independent Accountant's Report on  
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures  
Page 5

2. We inquired with Village management and determined that the Village did not have any completed, denied, or redacted public records requests 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, 2024 and 2023 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired of the clerk treasurer to determine whether the clerk treasurer obtained the training required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.12 and 733.81. Clerk Treasurer obtained the required training.

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.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

June 3, 2025

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VILLAGE OF VAN BUREN

HANCOCK 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 6/24/2025

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)