



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER





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BASIC AUDIT REPORT

Village of Yankee Lake
Trumbull County
1800 State Route 7
Brookfield, Ohio 44403

We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the Village of Yankee Lake, Trumbull County, (the Village) 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 Village's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the Village's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

The Village'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 Observations

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 733.18 states a newly elected or appointed fiscal official shall complete at least six hours of initial education programs before commencing, or during the first year of office. An additional eighteen hours of continuing education must be completed within the elected official's first term. Twelve hours of training shall be completed for each subsequent term. Elected officials must register and create a personal username and password for the Auditor of State's Fiscal Integrity site for reporting purposes. Training is then reported by choosing the training courses and dates attended. Fiscal officers are required to self-report their hours, otherwise they will not receive credit for the training. Elected Officials can access and print their certificates via the Fiscal Integrity Act portal available at <https://www.ohioauditor.gov/fiscalintegrity/default.html>.

During review of the Fiscal Integrity Act Portal and inquiry with the Treasurer, the previous Village Treasurer in 2023 did not receive the required training during the engagement period. Failure to obtain the required training could result in removal from office. The current Treasurer in 2024 has met initial training education requirements for current term and still has time to complete total hours requirement for the remainder of term.

2. The Village did not file their 2024 annual report timely. Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.38 provides that each public office, other than a state agency, shall file a financial report for each fiscal year. The report shall be certified by the proper officer or board and filed with the auditor of state within sixty days after the close of the fiscal year. The filed report should also be complete including financial statement and corresponding notes to the financial statements.

The Village's 2024 financial report was due on March 3, 2025, however, the report was filed March 31, 2025. Failure to file by the required date could result in penalties of \$25 per day up to a maximum of \$750.

3. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) provides that every public office must have a policy in place for responding to public records requests. Generally, a public records policy cannot: (1) limit the number of public records the office will make available to a single person; (2) limit the number of public records the office will make available during a fixed period of time; and (3) establish a fixed period of time before the office will respond to a request for inspection/copying of public records unless that period is less than eight hours. However, pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7)(c), the policy may limit the number of public records the public office will physically deliver by U.S. Mail or other delivery service to ten per month unless the person certifies to the office in writing that the person does not intend to use or forward the requested records, or the information contained in them, for commercial purposes. "Commercial" is narrowly construed and does not include reporting or gathering news, reporting or gathering information to assist citizen oversight or understanding of the operation or activities of government, or nonprofit educational research.

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) further requires all public offices take certain actions with regard to their public record policy. Public offices must distribute their Public Records Policy to the employee who is the records custodian/manager or otherwise has custody of the records of that office and have that employee acknowledge receipt of the Public Records Policy; create and display in a conspicuous place in all locations where the public office has branch offices a poster describing the public records policy; and, if the public office has a manual or handbook of its general policies and procedures for all employees, include the public records policy in that manual or handbook.

The Village has no formal written policy that would demonstrate compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. This could result in records requests not being fulfilled in accordance with Ohio law.

4. Ohio Rev. Code §149.43(B)(2) states that a public office shall have available a copy of its current records retention schedule at a location readily available to the public. The Village has not developed and approved a records retention schedule.
5. Ohio Rev. Code §109.43(B) and 149.43(E)(1) require all state and local elected officials, or their designees, to attend 3 hours of training on Ohio's Public Records Laws during each term of office. The training received must be certified by the Ohio Attorney General. Proof of completion of training must include documentation either from the Attorney General's Office or from another entity certified by the Attorney General to provide the training to the elected official or his/her designee. Attendees who successfully complete the training will receive a certificate to serve as proof of training.

None of the Village's elected officials have attended the required Certified Public Records Training or have an appropriate designee attend a training, due to deficiencies in internal controls over public record laws training procedures and monitoring. This could result in improper education of public officers regarding the offices' duties related to public records requests as well as improper withholding of information from stakeholders.

The elected officials, or their designee(s), should, during their term of office, attend public records training and maintain proof of completion of the training.

6. Ohio Rev. Code § 9.38 provides in part, all public monies received shall be deposited with the treasurer of the public office or designated depository on the business day next following the day of receipt, if the total amount of such monies received exceeds \$1,000. If the total amount of public moneys so received does not exceed \$1,000, the person shall deposit the moneys on the business day next following the day of receipt, unless the public office adopts a policy permitting a different time period, not to exceed three business days next following the day of receipt, for making such deposits, and the person is able to safeguard the moneys until such time as the moneys are deposited. The policy shall include provisions and procedures to safeguard the public monies until they are deposited.

To date the Village has not approved a policy to extend the time between collections and deposit beyond one business day.

Per review of the Village's revenue ledgers for 2023 and 2024, we noted the Treasurer did not deposit some receipts until more than a month after occurrence. Delays of this nature resulting from deficiencies in internal control procedures could cause receipts to be lost, misplaced, or stolen without being detected in a timely manner.

The Village should draft, approve, and implement policies and procedures to help ensure timely depositing of public monies in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 9.38.

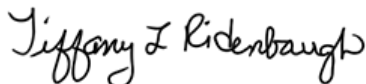
7. Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22 (C) provides that all meetings of any public body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times. A member of a public body shall be present in person at a meeting open to the public to be considered present or to vote at the meeting and for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting. In addition, the minutes of a regular or special meeting of any public body shall be promptly prepared, filed, and maintained and shall be open to public inspection. The minutes need only reflect the general subject matter of discussions in executive sessions authorized under division (G) or (J) of this section.

The Village could not provide a complete record of the meeting minutes for 2023. The Village should prepare, file, and maintain meeting minutes of all open public meetings.

Current Status of Matters Reported in our Prior Engagement

8. In addition to items 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 reported above, the prior basic audit for December 31, 2022 and 2021, had Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(D) violation for inappropriately recording Motor Vehicle License Tax (MVLT) revenue in the General Fund. Given the source of the revenue, monies should have been recorded in the Street Construction and Maintenance Fund and State Highway Fund. The Village properly recorded MVLT for fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

November 26, 2025

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VILLAGE OF YANKEE LAKE

TRUMBULL 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 12/9/2025

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
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