



Dave Yost • Auditor of State



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Brighton Township
Lorain County
19996 Baird Road
Wellington, Ohio 44090

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees and the management of Brighton Township (the Township), on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Townships cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 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, 2016 and 2015 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, 2016 and December 31, 2015 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2015 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2014 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2016 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2015 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, 2016 and 2015 fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Reports. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2016 bank account balances with the Township's financial institution. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2016 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 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 2016 and one from 2015:
 - a. We traced the gross receipts from the *Statement* to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report 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 Receipt Register Report to confirm whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year.
2. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2016 and 2015. The Receipts Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.
3. We haphazardly selected five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2016 and five from 2015. We also haphazardly selected five receipts from the County Auditor's check register from 2016 and five from 2015.
 - a. We compared the amount from the above reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found one exception. A 2015 Distribution Transaction List (DTL) homestead and rollback reimbursement receipt totaling \$8,468 was allocated to the General Fund, only. However, the reimbursement receipt should have been allocated to the General Fund, Road and Bridge Fund, and the Road Improvement Levy Fund. As a result of the incorrect receipt allocation, the General Fund was overstated by \$3,981, and the Road and Bridge Fund and the Road Improvement Levy Fund were understated by \$2,541 and \$1,440, respectively. We recommend the Fiscal Officer allocate homestead and rollback reimbursement receipts to the General Fund, Road and Bridge Fund, and the Road Improvement Levy Fund based on the related *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*.
 - c. We inspected the Receipts Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. The prior audit documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2014.
2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2016 or 2015 or debt payment activity during 2016 or 2015. There were no new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2016 or 2015.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We haphazardly selected one payroll check for five employees from 2016 and one payroll check for five employees from 2015 from the Employee Wage Detail Report and:

- a. We compared the hours and pay rate or salary recorded in the Employee Wage Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found one instance where an employee was paid for 5 hours of holiday pay. However, the Board of Trustees minute records indicate the employee should receive no holiday pay. We brought this to the Fiscal Officer's attention and recommended the Township reduce this amount from a subsequent pay to this employee. Because we did not compare all timecards, our report provides no assurance whether or not other similar errors occurred.
 - b. We inspected the fund and account codes to which the check was posted to determine the posting was reasonable based on the employees' duties as documented in the minute records or as required by statute. We also confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions except for the Cemetery Maintenance employee and the Assistant Road Superintendent/Cemetery Sexton. The Cemetery Maintenance employees' wages were charged to the Gasoline Tax Fund which is not reasonable based on her duties. The Assistant Road Superintendent/Cemetery Sexton wages were charged solely to the Gasoline Tax fund, however the time spent performing Cemetery Sexton duties would not be a reasonable charge to the Gasoline Tax fund. We recommend management stop charging the Gasoline Tax Fund for cemetery related duties and carefully review Ohio Rev. Code § 5735.27 for the appropriate use of Gasoline Tax monies.
2. For any new employees selected in step 1 we inspected the employees' personnel files and minute records for the following information and compared it with the information used to compute gross and net pay related to this check:
- a. Name
 - b. Authorized salary or pay rate
 - c. Department(s) and fund(s) to which the check should be charged
 - d. Retirement system participation and payroll withholding
 - e. Federal, State and School District income tax withholding authorization and withholding
 - f. Any other deduction authorizations (deferred compensation, etc.)

We found no exceptions related to steps a. – f.

3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2016 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 2016. 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 31, 2017 | December 27, 2016 | \$1,680.09 | \$1,680.09 |
| State income taxes | January 15, 2017 | December 26, 2016 | \$ 248.59 | \$ 248.59 |
| School district income tax | January 17, 2017 | December 26, 2016 | \$ 87.88 | \$ 87.88 |
| OPERS retirement | January 30, 2017 | December 26, 2016 | \$ 2,502.35 | \$ 2,502.35 |

4. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 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, 2016 and ten from the year ended 2015 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 no exceptions.

Compliance – Budgetary

1. We compared the total estimated receipts from the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources (*Certificate*), required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(1), to the amounts recorded in the Revenue Status Report for the General Fund, Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund and Gasoline Tax Fund for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. The amounts on the *Certificate* agreed to the amount recorded in the accounting system, except for the General Fund. The Revenue Status Report recorded budgeted (i.e. certified) resources for the General Fund of \$96,661, for 2015. However, the *Certificate* reflected \$96,859. 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 2016 and 2015 to determine whether, for the General, Motor Vehicle License Tax and Gasoline Tax 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.
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 2016 and 2015 for the following funds: General, Motor Vehicle License Tax and Gasoline Tax funds. 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, Motor Vehicle License Tax and Gasoline Tax funds for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. 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, 2016 and 2015 for the General, Motor Vehicle License Tax and Gasoline Tax funds, as recorded in the Appropriation Status 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 Receipt Register Report for evidence of new restricted receipts requiring a new fund during December 31, 2016 and 2015. 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, we inspected the fund activity to determine whether the fund is still being used for the statutorily approved purpose and that all of the required funds were established. All of the required funds were established and no funds for which the statutorily approved purpose was no longer valid were included on the accounting records, except for the Permanent Improvement Fund. The Fiscal Officer stated the Permanent Improvement Fund was established over twenty-five years ago; however, a resolution establishing the fund could not be located. The Permanent Improvement Fund was set up to accumulate estate tax revenue for any Township permanent improvement in the future, such as a possible new Township hall or a new Township garage. The Board of Trustees may always specify, for management purposes, how they want specific resources spent. However, absent any statutory restrictions on such resources, an internal purpose restriction does not justify the creation of a separate fund. We recommend the Township return these funds back to its originating fund; the General Fund.
8. We inspected the 2016 and 2015 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for evidence of interfund transfers which Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.14 - .16 restrict. We found no evidence of transfers.
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, 2016 and 2015 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

We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 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. We confirmed the Township filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007, within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 in the Hinkle system. There were no exceptions.

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 for the use of the Township to assist in evaluating its receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

August 25, 2017



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BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP

LORAIN 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
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**