



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER

65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Malaga Township
Monroe County
51149 Moore Ridge Road
Jerusalem, Ohio 43747

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Malaga Township's (the Township) 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 Township. The Township 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 Township.

The Board of Trustees 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 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 opinion unit 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.
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 Township in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.

Cash (Continued)

4. We confirmed the December 31, 2024 bank account balance with the Township's financial institution. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balance to the amount appearing in the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected 5 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2024 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.

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 Lists (DTL), and the Monroe County DITA Expense Report 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.

Debt

1. The prior audit report disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2022.
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, nor any debt payment activity during 2024 or 2023.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 1 payroll check for all employees from 2024 and 1 payroll check for all employees from 2023 from the Wage Withholdings 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 approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
 - b. 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 employees' 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 the new Fiscal Officer from 2024 and:
 - a. We inspected the Fiscal Officer's 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 the Fiscal Officer's federal withholding authorization had an extra \$150 to be withheld per pay period; however, the General Information Report had \$50 to be withheld per pay period.

Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)

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 of 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 31, 2025	December 27, 2024	\$1,105	\$1,105
State income taxes	January 31, 2025	January 30, 2025	\$470	\$1,482
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2025	December 27, 2024	\$2,121	\$2,121

We found the January 2025 state income tax payment of \$1,482 included the fourth quarter of 2024 withholdings of \$470, the second quarter of 2024 withholdings of \$514 and the third quarter of 2024 withholdings of \$498. Late payments could cause penalties and late fees to be assessed. Payments related to late fees and penalties may not be considered a proper public purpose.

4. For the pay periods ended October 31, 2024 and March 31, 2023, we
 - a. Recomputed the allocation of the Boards of Trustees' salary and employer share withholding to the General and Gasoline Tax Funds per the Wage Detail Report.
 - b. Traced the Board of Trustees' pay for time or services performed to supporting certifications the Revised Code requires.

We found no exceptions.

5. We compared total gross pay for the Fiscal Officer and each Board of Trustees for 2024 and 2023 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 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:

- 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/EFT 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 payment number 25-2023 had no supporting documentation for two charges on the Township credit card. We also found the Township has not adopted a credit card policy. House Bill 312 (132 GA) requires political subdivisions (not including counties or colleges/universities) to follow procedures for the use of credit card accounts, including adopting a policy, conducting a periodic review, and in some cases providing itemized receipts to the political subdivision. The statute establishes two separate internal control models for credit card usage by political subdivisions: the custody and control model and the compliance officer model. Not later than February 2, 2019, the legislative authority of a political subdivision that holds a credit card account must adopt one of these written policies for the use of credit card accounts. Otherwise, a legislative authority must adopt a written policy before the use of a card account.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)

- c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the restricted purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found real estate fees in the amount of \$3,526 were not allocated correctly. These fees were posted to the General Fund in the amount of \$779, and to the Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund in the amount of \$2,747 instead of the General Fund in the amount of \$1,024, the Road and Bridge Fund in the amount of \$1,171, and the Special Levey Fund in the amount of \$1,331. We brought this to management's attention. They corrected the General, Motor Vehicle License Tax, Road and Bridge, and Special Levy funds' balances for this item. Because we did not inspect all disbursements, our report provides no assurance regarding whether or not other similar errors occurred.
- 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 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, Motor Vehicle License Tax, and Gasoline Tax Funds as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 for negative cash fund balances. 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. No funds had 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:
 - a. The Township did not have any completed public records requests during the engagement period.
 - b. The Township did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
 - c. The Township did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Township 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 the records retention schedule has not been sent to the Ohio Historical Connection for review and upon completion of that review, the Ohio Historical Connection shall forward the schedule of records retention to the Auditor of State for the Auditor of State's approval or disapproval.
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.

Sunshine Law Compliance (Continued)

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 found the Township did not display a poster describing their Public Records Policy in all branches of the Township as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
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 found one Trustee did not successfully attend a certified three-hour Public Records Training for his term of office ended December 31, 2023, as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 109.43(B).
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the Township notified the general public of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F) by posting the notices on the Township's door. We found posting the public notices on the Township's door does not meet the standard of "reasonable notice" and does not notify the news media of when and where Township meetings will be held.
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. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open 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.

Contract Compliance

1. We inspected the Minutes and Appropriation Ledger and identified the Township had expenditures subject to competitive bidding. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 1 contract subject to competitive bidding requirements for 2023 and
 - a. We inspected the contract and other bids for the contracted expenditure and determined:
 - i. The Township accepted the lowest bid and met the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 5549.21.
 - ii. No bid splitting occurred.
 - iii. No deliberate attempts to evade bid limitations occurred, such as successive contracts just under the bid amount, occurred.
 - iv. No apparent interest in the contract by a public official occurred.We found the Township did not perform competitive bidding for the contract.

Other Compliance

1. 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 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 inspected the Fiscal Integrity Act Portal (<http://www.ohioauditor.gov/fiscalintegrity/default.html>) to determine whether the fiscal officer obtained the training required by Ohio Rev. Code § 733.81. We found the Fiscal Officer did not complete the required two hours of ethics training for her term ended March 31, 2024.
3. The Township provided out-of-pocket insurance reimbursements in lieu of providing coverage to all employees.
 - a. We inspected the resolution authorizing reimbursements and determined it met the following documentation requirements for Ohio Rev. Code § 505.601.
 1. The Township has not chosen to procure a health plan,
 2. The Township has chosen to reimburse its officers and employees for each out-of-pocket premium,
 3. It provides for a maximum uniform monthly or yearly payment amount for each officer and employee, and
 4. It lists only the specific benefits allowed under Ohio Rev. Code § 505.60A that will be reimbursed.We found no exceptions.

Related Party Transactions

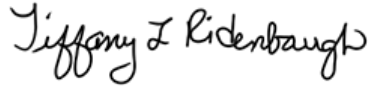
1. We inquired with management in order to identify any related party transactions and confirm if the required elected officials abstained from voting. We identified the following:
 - a. Angie Cline, wife of Trustee Ben Cline, was awarded the bid for mowing the Township cemeteries in 2023 and 2024. Trustee Cline abstained from voting on the mowing bid in 2023 and 2024.We found no exceptions.
2. We confirmed the transactions with the Township's payment ledgers and bank statements. We found no exceptions.
3. We obtained supporting evidence for the Related Party Transactions identified in procedure 1. We found no exceptions.

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.

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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
Ohio Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

August 18, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



MALAGA TOWNSHIP

MONROE 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 8/28/2025

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