



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

Village of South Amherst  
Lorain County  
103 West Main Street  
South Amherst, Ohio 44001

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Village of South Amherst's (the Village) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 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, 2022 and 2021 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, 2022 and 2021, 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 and Investments

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2021 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2020 balances noted in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2021 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.

3. We agreed the 2022 and 2021 bank reconciliation adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 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 December 31, 2022 bank account balances with the Village's financial institution; and observed year-end bank balances on the financial institution's website. The balances agreed. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2022 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2022 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.
6. We selected all reconciling credits (such as deposits in transit) from the December 31, 2022 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced each credit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We agreed the credit amounts to the Receipts Register and determined they were dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
7. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 to determine that they:
  - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 135.13, 135.14, 135.144 or 135.145. We found no exceptions.
  - b. Mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code § 135.13 or 135.14. We found no exceptions.

#### **Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts**

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes, State Distribution Transaction Listing (DTL), County General Ledger Expenditure Report for 2022 and a total of five from 2021:
  - 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-.06 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 two real estate tax receipts for 2022 and 2021. The Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.
3. We confirmed the individual amounts paid from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) to the Village during 2021. We found no exceptions.
  - a. We inspected the Receipt Export Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

### **Income Tax Receipts**

1. We obtained the December 31, 2021 Income Tax Receipt Summary report submitted by Peck and Gambish CPA. We additionally obtained the November and December 2022 Distributions Summary reports submitted by the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). These agencies were responsible for collecting income taxes on behalf of the Village. We agreed the total gross income taxes distributed to the Village's Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed for 2022. We noted a \$25.21 processing variance, due to timing, for 2021.
2. We obtained the Village of South Amherst Codified Ordinance Section 182.012 which set the income tax rate and effective period. The ordinance was dated 11/23/2015. We determined there were no additional (council or voter) approved amendments to this ordinance during the engagement period. We agreed the most recent approved rate to the rate on RITA's supporting documentation. We found no exceptions.

### **Other Receipts**

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2022 and 10 other receipts from the year ended 2021 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 (if applicable). We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds(s) and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions

### **Water and Storm Water Fund**

1. We selected 10 Water and Storm Water Fund collection cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2022 and 10 Water and Storm Water Fund collection cash receipts from the year ended 2021 recorded in the Cash Receipts Journal and determined whether the:
  - a. Receipt amount per the Cash Receipts Journal agreed to the amount recorded to the credit of the customer's account in the Ohio Software Monthly Deposit Report. The amounts agreed.
  - b. Amount charged for the related billing period:
    - i. Agreed with the debit to accounts receivable in the Ohio Software Monthly Deposit Report for the billing period. We found no exceptions.
    - ii. Complied with rates in force during the engagement period multiplied by the consumption amount recorded for the billing period, plus any applicable late penalties, plus unpaid prior billings. We found no exceptions.
  - c. Receipt was posted to the proper funds and was recorded in the year received. We found no exceptions.
2. We observed the Village of South Amherst Delinquent Report.
  - a. This report listed \$13,455 and \$4,505 of accounts receivable as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.
  - b. Of the total receivables reported in the preceding procedure, none were recorded as more than 90 days delinquent.
3. We inquired if the Village has a method to track its non-cash accounts receivable adjustments and noted that it does not track non-cash adjustments.

## Debt

1. From the prior agreed-upon procedures documentation, we observed the following loans and leases were outstanding as of December 31, 2020:
  - a. Village did not maintain the Schedule of Outstanding Debt module in UAN for December 31, 2020 and 2021. Summary of debt provided by the Village for December 31, 2020 and 2021, was not correct.
  - b. We inspected the debt's initial offering documents for all outstanding debt, and we confirmed the Village did not have any debt covenants as of December 31, 2020.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2020:
OWDA Loan 4578	\$85,104
OWDA Loan 6433	\$147,296
OWDA Loan 8202	\$139,476
OWDA Loan 9078	\$914
OPWC CI02S: Quarry Road Phase II	\$40,504
OPWC CI08N: North Lake Street Phase III	\$15,856
OPWC CI19R: Quarry Road Phase I	\$44,336
OPWC CI23M: North Lake Street Phase I	\$1,620
OPWC CI24Q: Buckeye Street Phase I	\$40,626
OPWC CT29N: North Lake Street Phase IV	\$24,967
OPWC CT45M: North Lake Street Phase II	\$15,608
OPWC CT60Q: Buckeye Street Phase II	\$50,900
OPWC CI48T Russia Road Resurfacing Phase I	\$53,202
OPWC CI45U Russia Road Resurfacing Phase II	\$81,842
OPWC CI14V Leonard Street/ Quarry Road Rehab	\$87,115
OPWC CI20W Annis Road Rehabilitation	\$113,800
Water Meter Lease	\$174,957

2. We inquired of management and inspected the Receipt Export Report and Payment Export Report for evidence of debt issued during 2022 or 2021 or debt payment activity during 2022 or 2021. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
3. We obtained a summary of loan and lease debt activity for 2022 and 2021 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related invoices and debt amortization schedules to Street Construction, Capital Project and Water Improvement Fund payments reported in the Payment Export Report. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Village made the payments. We found no exceptions.
4. We agreed the amount of debt proceeds received for 2022 and 2021 from the debt documents to amounts recorded in the Annis Road North Phase II Capital Project Fund and the Water Improvement Enterprise Fund per the Receipt Export Report. The amounts agreed.
5. For new debt issued during 2022 and 2021, we inspected the debt legislation, which stated the Village will enter into a loan with the OPWC for the rehabilitation of a road; and to enter into lease purchase and financing agreements for a fire engine and a dump truck. The dump truck was financed through Buckeye Bank. They require the Village to carry insurance to cover the dump truck. We inspected that the dump truck was covered by insurance. We also inspected the Payment Register Detail Report and observed the Village made payments for the lease-purchase of a fire

engine and payments to OPWC for the rehabilitation of Annis Road during the engagement period. In 2023, the Village began payments towards the lease purchase of the dump truck. We found no exceptions.

### Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2022 and one payroll check for five employees from 2021 from the Wage Withholdings Detail Report and:
  - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Withholdings Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, sign-in sheet, legislatively or statutorily 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 three new employees and Council Members from 2022 and three new employees and Council Members from 2021 and:
  - a. We inspected the employees'/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.
3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2022 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 2022. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Due	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes & Medicare	January 31, 2023	January 6, 2023	\$4,021	\$4,021
State income taxes	January 15, 2023	January 6, 2023	\$797	\$797
Regional Income Tax Agency	January 31, 2023	January 6, 2023	\$508	\$508
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2023	January 6, 2023	\$7,359	\$7,359

We found no exceptions.

### Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2022 and 10 from the year ended 2021 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 § 5705.41(D). We found no exceptions.

### **Mayor's Court Transactions and Cash Balances**

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We compared the reconciled cash totals as of December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 to the Mayor's Court Fund balance reported in the Fund Status Reports. The balances agreed.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of December 31, 2022 and 2021 listing of unpaid distributions as of each December 31. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2022 bank account balance(s) with the Mayor's Court financial institution. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2022 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five cases from the court cash book and agreed the payee and amount posted to the:
  - a. Duplicate receipt book.
  - b. Docket, including comparing the total fine paid to the judgment issued by the judge (i.e. mayor)
  - c. Case file.

The amounts recorded in the cash book, receipts book, docket and case file agreed.

6. From the cash book, we selected one month from the year ended December 31, 2022 and one month from the year ended 2021 and determined whether:
  - a. The monthly sum of fines and costs collected for those months agreed to the amounts reported as remitted to the Village, State, or other applicable government in the following month. We found no exceptions.
  - b. The totals remitted for these two months per the cash book agreed to the returned canceled checks. 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 cash book.

### **Compliance – Budgetary**

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) 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, 2022 and 2021 for the General, Fire Levy and American Rescue Plan funds as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the only interfund transfer from 2022 Interfund Transfer Listing Reports for compliance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.14 - .16. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which Section 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner.



3. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 for negative cash fund balance. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(l) 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**

1. 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.
2. We selected five public records requests from the engagement period and inspected each request to determine the following:
  - a. The Village was compliant and responded to the request in accordance with their adopted policy as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1). We found no exceptions
  - b. The Village did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
  - c. Village did not have any public records requests with redactions 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 inspected the Village's policy manual and determined the public records policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
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 training certificates 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 exceptions where elected officials did not attend training before their terms ended in 2021.
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.

#### **HB 481 / HB 614 Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Compliance**

1. We inquired of management and those charged with governance and documented how the Village decided to spend their CRF allocations and how the Village documented their compliance with the CARES Act three-prong test. We then selected five transactions including payroll and non-payroll, and determined the Village:
- a. Spent the CRF money in accordance with use of funds requirements and
  - b. Maintained appropriate supporting documentation.

#### **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, 2022 and 2021 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions
2. We inquired of the fiscal officer and 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 §§ 507.12 and 733.81. The Fiscal Officer 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith Faber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

May 13, 2025

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**VILLAGE OF SOUTH AMHERST**

**LORAIN 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 5/27/2025**

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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)