



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Conference Center, Suite 154
6000 Frank Ave. NW
North Canton, OH 44720
EastRegion@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 443-9272

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Sandy Creek Joint Fire District
Stark County
505 East Lincoln Way
Minerva, Ohio 44657

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Sandy Creek Joint Fire District's (the District) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the District. The District is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the District.

The Board of Trustees and the management of the District have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the District's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, 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, 2020 and December 31, 2019 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2019 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2018 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2020 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2019 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, 2020 and 2019 fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report and the financial statements filed by the District in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.

4. We observed the year-end bank balances on the Ohio Pooled Collateral System website. The balances agreed. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2020 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2020 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. There were no exceptions.
6. We traced interbank account transfers occurring in December of 2020 and 2019 to the accounting records and bank statements to determine if they were properly recorded. We found no exceptions.

Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of five receipt from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes and State Grant Funding* from 2020 and a total of five from 2019:
 - a. We compared the amount from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts did not agree for two property tax receipts in 2019 due to posting net instead of gross amounts, resulting in a total variance of \$4,715.90.
 - 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 proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year. No found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2020 and 2019. The Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.

Charges for Services

1. We confirmed the amounts paid from Ohio Billing, the service organization that performs the emergency medical billings, to the District during 2019 and 2020 with the Yearly Credit Report.
 - a. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We were unable to confirm amounts from Ohio Billing for 2019 and 2020 noting a \$5,663.86 and \$3,918.06 variance, respectively.

Debt

1. The prior audit documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2018.
2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2020 or 2019 or debt payment activity during 2020 or 2019. There were no new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2020 or 2019.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2020 and one payroll check for five employees from 2019 from the Wage 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 statutorily-approved rate or salary).
 - i. We inspected the employees' personnel for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
 - ii. We agreed these items to the information used to compute gross and net pay related to this check.
We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the fund and account code 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 inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2020 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 2020. 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, 2021	December 24, 2020	\$6,269.78	\$6269.78
State income taxes	January 15, 2021	December 24, 2020	\$1,393.91	\$1,393.91
Village of Minerva	January 15, 2021	December 24, 2020	\$977.67	\$977.67
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2021	December 24, 2020	\$332.30	\$332.3
OP&F retirement	January 31, 2021	December 24, 2020	\$13,124.69	\$13,124.69

3. We inspected the appropriation ledger and meeting minutes to determine the District properly credited the paid leave costs against the tax obligations and / or deferred the tax obligations to future periods. 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, 2020 and 10 from the year ended 2019 and determined whether:
 - a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions for 2020. We found one exception for 2019 where the Fire District paid \$21 in sales tax.
 - 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 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 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, 2020 and 2019 for the General fund. We observed no fund for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
2. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 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. There were no funds having negative cash fund balances.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the District's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and . 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 three public records requests from the engagement period and inspected each request to determine whether:
 - a. The District responded to the request in accordance with their adopted policy as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1). For the three records requests selected for testing we were unable to determine if the District responded to the request in accordance with their adopted policy. See the table below.

Date Request Received	Date Request Fulfilled	Policy Response Time (in Business days)	Actual Response Time (in Business days)
6/15/2020	6/22/2020	3	Could not be determined
8/2/2020	8/15/2020	3	Could not be determined
11/13/2020	11/20/2020	3	Could not be determined

- b. The District did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
 - c. The District did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the District 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 inquired with District management whether the public records policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). There was no written evidence the Fire Chief (record custodian) received the District's Public Records Policy.
5. We inquired with District management and determined that the District 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 District's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the District as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

7. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any elected officials subject to the Public Records Training requirements during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(1) and 109.43(B).
9. We inquired with District Management whether public notices were provided for the public meetings held during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). The District could not provide proof of notice of meetings for 2019 or 2020.
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 Districts 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 District 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, 2020 and 2019 in the Hinkle system. There were no exceptions.
2. For all credit card accounts we obtained:
 - copies of existing internal control policies,
 - a list(s) of authorized users, and
 - a list of all credit card account transactions.
 - a. We inspected the established policy obtained above and determined it is:
 - i. in compliance with the HB 312 statutory requirements, and
 - ii. implemented by the entity.The District has not passed a resolution for authorized users of the Staples credit card and therefore, we were not able to test that the transaction was in accordance with the District's credit card policy.

- b. We selected 1 credit card transaction from each credit card account for testing. For selected transactions we inspected documentation to determine that:
 - i. Use was by an authorized user within the guidelines established in the policy, and
 - ii. Each transaction was supported with original invoices and for a proper public purpose.

We found no exceptions.

- c. We selected 3 credit card statements from each credit card account for testing. For selected statements we inspected documentation to determine that:
 - i. No unpaid beginning balance was carried forward to the current billing cycle,
 - ii. Ending statement balance was paid in full, and
 - iii. Statement contained no interest or late fees.

We found no exceptions.

We were engaged by the District 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 District'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 District 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

September 8, 2021

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



SANDY CREEK JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

STARK 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 11/4/2021

88 East Broad 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