



**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 - 2021**

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Board of Trustees
Big Walnut Joint Fire District
4600 State Route 229
Marengo, Ohio 43334

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of the Big Walnut Joint Fire District, Morrow County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Big Walnut Joint Fire District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

November 27, 2023

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**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Big Walnut Joint Fire District
Morrow County
4600 State Route 229
Marengo, Ohio 43334

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Big Walnut Joint Fire District, Morrow County's (the District) 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 District. The District 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 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, 2022 and 2021, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. 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, 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 Trial Balance to the December 31, 2020 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found a variance of \$90 due to the Beginning Fund Balance in 2021 being transposed as \$13,675 instead of \$13,765. We found no other exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Trial Balance to the December 31, 2021 balances in the Trial Balance. We found no exceptions.

Cash (Continued)

3. We agreed the 2022 and 2021 bank reconciliation as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Trial Balance and the financial statements filed by the District in the Hinkle System. In 2021, we noted that the fund balance of the 2021 Hinkle Filing was overstated by \$335 when compared to the 2021 Trial Balance. This was due to (\$180) in revenue that was incorrectly recorded in 2021 instead of 2022, (\$246) of additional expenditures that were not included on the Hinkle Filing for Principal Retirement, \$90 due to the Beginning Fund Balance on the Hinkle Filing in 2021 being transposed as \$13,675 instead of \$13,765, and \$1 for rounding purposes. In 2022, we noted that the fund balance of the 2022 Hinkle Filing was understated by \$845 when compared to the 2022 Trial Balance. This was due to \$335 from the 2021 variances discussed in the preceding sentence, \$180 of revenue that was posted to 2021 instead of 2022, and \$1,000 from the Beginning Fund Balance unintentionally being recorded as \$1,000 less than it should have been. We did not propose any adjustments for these variances.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2022 bank account balances with the District's 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 all 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.

Property Taxes and Intergovernmental Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) and the Morrow County Auditor Detailed Transaction Listing from 2022 and a total of five from 2021:
 - a. We compared the amount from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the General Ledger. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the General Ledger 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 General Ledger to determine whether the receipt was recorded proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the General Ledger to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2022 and 2021. The General Ledger included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

Other Receipts

1. 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 General Ledger to supporting documentation. The amounts agreed.
 - b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period. We found no exceptions.
 - c. Inspected the General Ledger to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds, and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. From the prior audit documentation, we observed the following loan was outstanding as of December 31, 2020.

Debt (Continued)

- a. These amounts agreed to the District's January 1, 2021 balances on the summary we used in procedure 3.
- b. We inspected the debt's final offering documents for all outstanding debt, and we confirmed the District does not have any debt covenants.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2020:
Fire Engine Loan	\$42,999

2. We inquired of management and inspected the General Ledger 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 the loan debt activity for 2021 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to debt service fund payments reported in the General Ledger. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the District made the payments. We noted that the Principal and Interest payments did not agree to the amortization schedule. We also noted that the Principal amount paid was \$246 more than the amount recorded on the financial statements. We did not propose adjustments for these exceptions due to the loan being paid off in 2021.

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 Payroll Journal and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Payroll Journal to supporting documentation (timecard, 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. 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, 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 of 2022. 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, 2023	December 14, 2022	\$1,996.86	\$1,996.86
State income taxes	January 15, 2023	December 30, 2022	\$419.56	\$419.56
Highland Local School District	January 15, 2023	December 30, 2022	\$62.06	\$62.06
Cardington Lincoln Local School District	January 15, 2023	December 30, 2022	\$9.19	\$9.19
Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District	January 15, 2023	December 30, 2022	\$80.23	\$80.23
Buckeye Valley Local School District	January 15, 2023	December 30, 2022	\$40.92	\$40.92
Centerburg Local School District	January 15, 2023	December 30, 2022	\$3.28	\$3.28
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2023	January 3, 2023	\$144.00	\$144.00

We found no exceptions.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the General Ledger 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 canceled check agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the General Ledger 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 noted one instance in 2021 and one instance in 2022 where the certification date was after the vendor invoice date, and there was also no evidence that a Then and Now Certificate was issued. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D) requires certifying at the time of a commitment, which should be on or before the invoice date, unless a Then and Now Certificate is used. Because we did not inspect all disbursements requiring certification, our report provides no assurance whether or not additional similar errors occurred.

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 for the General Fund and 2021 for the General, Cares Act and Capital Project Funds. In 2021, Capital Project Fund expenditures exceeded total appropriations \$20,130 contrary to Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B).
2. We inspected the Trial Balance for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 for negative cash fund balances. 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 District'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.
 - a. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any completed public records requests during the engagement period.
 - 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 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 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).

Sunshine Law Compliance (Continued)

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 inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the District 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.

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, 2022 and 2021 in the Hinkle system. 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.



Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

October 13, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

MORROW 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 12/7/2023

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