

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY**

AGREED UPON PROCEDURES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

**Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc.
1100 Brandywine Blvd. Building G
Zanesville, Ohio 43701**

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
IPAReport@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees
Hopewell Township
9427 Poplar Forks Road SE
Newark, Ohio 43056-9451

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of Hopewell Township, Licking County, prepared by Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc., 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. Hopewell Township 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

September 22, 2023

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**WILSON, PHILLIPS & AGIN, CPA'S, INC.
1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD. BUILDING G
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Hopewell Township
Licking County
9427 Poplar Forks Road SE
Newark, Ohio 43056-9451

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Hopewell Township's (the Township), 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 Township. The Township 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 transaction 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, 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 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 recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2020 balances in the documentation in the prior years Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers.. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balances 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 Township in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2022 bank account balances with the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. 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 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, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were 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 Lists (DTL), and five from the County Auditor's Excel Spreadsheets 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 that these receipts were 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 Receipts 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 Receipts Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. From the prior agreed-upon procedures documentation, we observed the following bonds were outstanding as of December 31, 2020:

	December 31, 2020
Equipment Bonds	\$ 48,596

2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail 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 debt activity for 2022 and 2021 and agreed principal and interest payments from the Gasoline Tax Fund debt service payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. 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 Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the fund and account code(s) to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employee's duties as documented in the minute record, timesheets or as required by statute. 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)	Due Date	Date Paid	Amount W/H	Amount	
Federal Income Taxes	January 31, 2023	December 27, 2022	\$ 1,243.80	\$ 1,243.80	
State Income Taxes	January 15, 2023	December 27, 2022	196.85	196.85	
School District Tax	January 15, 2023	December 27, 2022	35.13	35.13	
OPERS Retirement	January 30, 2023	December 27, 2022	2,602.88	2,602.88	

3. For the pay periods ending August 24, 2021, we
 - a. Recomputed the allocation of the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' salaries to the General Fund and Road & Bridge Fund per the Wage Detail Report.
 - b. Traced the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' pay for time or services performed to time or activity sheets the Revised Code requires

We found no exceptions.
4. We compared total gross pay for the fiscal officer and each board member for 2022 and 2021 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code Sections 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. We found no exceptions.
5. We inquired of management and inspected the Wage Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 to determine if township employees and/or Trustees were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. Insurance reimbursements made were in compliance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 505.60, 505.601, 505.602 and 505.603 and federal regulations.

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 Section 5705.41(D). We found three instances 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 Section 5705.41(D) requires certifying at the time 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 Revised Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total approved appropriations (Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38 and 5705.40) plus any carryover appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 for the General Fund, Gasoline Tax Fund and Road & Bridge Fund. There were no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
2. We inspected the 2022 and 2021 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for evidence of interfund transfers exceeding \$5,000 which Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.14 - .16 restrict. 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 balances. Ohio Revised Code Section 5701.10(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.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Township's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with ORC Sections 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 all public records requests from the engagement period and inspected each request to determine the following:
 - a. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have any competed public records request during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Township has a records retention policy, and observed that it is readily available to the public as required by ORC Section 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 ORC Section 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
5. We inspected the Township's policy manual and determined the public records policy was included as required by ORC Section 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
6. We observed the Township's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Township as required by ORC Section 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
7. We inquired with the Township's 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 inspected individual training certificates and determined whether each elected official in accordance with ORC Section 149.32(E)(1) (or his/her designee) successfully attended a certified three-hour Public Records Training for each term of office. We found no exceptions.

9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the Township notified the general public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period are to be held as required by ORC Section 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with ORC Section 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 inspections – available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with ORC Section 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 (where applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code Section 121.22(G).
 - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

Coronavirus Relief Fund

1. We inquired of management and those charged with governance and documented how the Township decided to spend their CFR allocations and how the Township documented their compliance with the CARES Act three-prong test. We then selected five transactions including payroll, non-payroll, and subgrant/subloan transactions and determined the Township:
 - i. Spent the CRF money in accordance with use of funds requirements and
 - ii. Maintained appropriate supporting documentation.We found no exceptions.

Other Compliance

1. Ohio Revised 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. 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 years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 in the Hinkle system. 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.

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.

Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc.
Zanesville, Ohio
July 5, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

LICKING 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 10/5/2023

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