



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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BASIC AUDIT REPORT

Barnesville-Warren Joint Economic Development District
Belmont County
132 N. Arch Street
P.O. Box 190
Barnesville, Ohio 43713

We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the Barnesville-Warren Joint Economic Development District, Belmont County, Ohio (the District), for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Our procedures were designed solely to satisfy the audit requirements of Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.11(A). Because our procedures were not designed to opine on the District's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the District's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The District's management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents. Our responsibility under Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.11(A) is to examine, analyze and inspect these records and documents.

Based on the results of our procedures, we found the following significant compliance or accounting issues to report.

Current Year Observations

1. **Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38** provides that entities filing on a cash-basis must file annual reports with the Auditor of State within 60 days of the fiscal year-end. The Auditor of State may prescribe by rule or guidelines the forms for these reports. However, if the Auditor of State has not prescribed a reporting form, the public office shall submit its report on the form used by the public office. We noted the annual report for the year ending December 31, 2022 was filed March 8, 2023, which is not within the prescribed time.
2. **Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2)** provides that every public office must have a policy in place for responding to public records requests. Generally, a public records policy cannot: (1) limit the number of public records the office will make available to a single person; (2) limit the number of public records the office will make available during a fixed period of time; and (3) establish a fixed period of time before the office will respond to a request for inspection/copying of public records unless that period is less than eight hours.

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) further requires all public offices take certain actions with regard to their public record policy. Public offices must distribute their Public Records Policy to the employee who is the records custodian/manager or otherwise has custody of the records of that office and have that employee acknowledge receipt of the Public Records Policy; create and display in a conspicuous place in all locations where the public office has branch offices a poster describing the public records policy; and, if the public office has a manual or handbook of its general policies and procedures for all employees, include the public records policy in that manual or handbook.

Current Year Observations (Continued)

2. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) (Continued)

We examined the Public Records Policy and determined that it limits the amount of requests within a specific period of time. The record custodian does not have written receipt of acknowledgement of receiving the public records policy. Also, the District does not have their public records policy displayed for public viewing.

The policy should not limit public records requests. The Policy shall be distributed to the records custodian/manager, and the District should have a written acknowledgement of receipt from the records custodian/manager. In addition, a poster describing the public records policy must be conspicuously displayed in all of the District's branch offices.

- 3. Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-02 (A)** states that all local public offices shall maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets (and liabilities, if generally accepted accounting principles apply), document compliance with finance-related legal and contractual requirements, and prepare financial statements required by rule 117-2-03 of the Administrative Code.

While the District maintained accounting records on the Village of Barnesville's accounting system, there was no separate fund to account for the District's activity.

The District should establish a separate fund in order to distinguish between their own activity and that of the Village of Barnesville.

- 4. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements.** This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs A14 & .A16.

In 2022, revenues and expenditures were both understated by \$190.

To help ensure the District's financial statements and notes to the financial statements are complete and accurate, the District should adopt policies and procedures to identify and correct errors and omissions. In addition, the District should review the financial statements and notes prior to submission for audit.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 11, 2024

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BARNESVILLE-WARREN JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

BELMONT 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 9/24/2024

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
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