



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Columbia Township Joint Economic Development Zone
Hamilton County
5903 Hawthorne Avenue
Fairfax, Ohio 45227

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Columbia Township Joint Economic Development Zone's (the Zone) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Zone. The Zone is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Zone.

The Board of Trustees and the management of the Zone have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Zone's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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. Village of Fairfax is custodian for the Zone's deposits, and therefore the Village's deposit and investment pool holds the Zone's assets. We compared the Zone's fund balances reported on its December 31, 2023 General Ledger to the balances reported in Village of Fairfax's accounting records. The amounts agreed.

We agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balance for the opinion unit recorded in the General Ledger Report to the December 31, 2021 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2023 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the General Ledger Report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the General Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.

Columbia Township Joint Economic Development Zone
Hamilton County
Independent Accountant's Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
Page 2

Income Taxes

1. We confirmed 10 income tax amounts paid to the Zone during 2023 and 2022. We found no exceptions.
 - a. We inspected the General Ledger Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the General Ledger Report to determine the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. The prior audit documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2021.
2. We inquired of management and inspected the General Ledger Report for evidence of debt issued during 2023 or 2022 or debt payment activity during 2023 or 2022. We identified no new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2023 or 2022.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the General Ledger Report for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 10 from the year ended 2022 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 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.

Compliance – Bylaws

We confirmed JEDZ income taxes collected were disbursed 90% to Township and 10% to the Village as required by section 9 of the JEDZ by-laws. We found no exceptions.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Zone'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 inquired with Zone management and determined that the Zone did not have any completed public records requests during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Zone 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 Zone management and determined that the Zone 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).

Columbia Township Joint Economic Development Zone
Hamilton County
Independent Accountant's Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
Page 3

6. We observed that the Zone's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Zone as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
7. We selected one application submitted to the Records Commission for one-time disposal of obsolete records, and management's review of the schedules of records retention and dispositions for the engagement period. We inspected the approval by the Records Commission for the one selected and the review of the schedules. This was required by Ohio Rev. Code §715.70. We found no exceptions.
8. We inquired with Zone management and determined that the Zone 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 Zone 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 zones 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 Zone 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, 2023 and 2022 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.

We were engaged by the Zone 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 Zone's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed

Columbia Township Joint Economic Development Zone
Hamilton County
Independent Accountant's Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
Page 4

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 Zone 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

August 13, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE

HAMILTON 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 8/29/2024

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