



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Vernon Township  
Trumbull County  
6915 B St Rt 88  
Kinsman, Ohio 44428

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Vernon Township's (the Township) 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 Township. The Township 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 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, 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. We recalculated the December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund 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 Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2023 and 2022 Bank Reconciliation adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 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, 2023 bank account balances with the Township's financial institution and Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected 5 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January and March bank statements. 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.
6. We selected 1 reconciling credit (such as deposits in transit) from the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced the credit to the subsequent May bank statement. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We agreed the credit amounts to the Payment Register Detail Report, as the reconciling credit was a check that was cashed twice by the bank, and determined it was dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
7. We traced interbank account transfers occurring in December of 2023 and 2022 to the accounting records and bank statements to determine if they were properly recorded. We found no exceptions.

#### **Property Taxes, Intergovernmental Receipts**

1. We selected a total of 5 receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the Trumbull County Auditor Vendor Invoice Listings for 2023 and a total of 5 from 2022:
  - a. We compared the amount from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Detail Report. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Detail Report to determine these receipts were allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.05 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Receipt Detail 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 Revenue Receipt Register Report to determine whether it included 2 real estate tax receipts for 2023 and 2022. The Revenue Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

#### **Other Receipts**

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2023 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount recorded in the Receipt Detail Report 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 Receipt Detail Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds and was 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 Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2023 or 2022 or debt payment activity during 2023 or 2022. There were no new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2023 or 2022.

**Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected 1 payroll check for 2 employees from 2023 and 1 payroll check for 3 employees from 2022 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 to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employees' duties as documented in the employees' time sheets 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 selected 2 new employees and Board of Trustees from 2022 and:
  - a. We inspected the employees'/Board of Trustees' personnel files for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
  - b. We agreed the items in a above to the Employee General Information Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2023 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 2023. We observed the following:

<b>Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
Federal income taxes & Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2024	January 8, 2024	\$539.37	\$539.37
State income taxes	January 15, 2024	January 9, 2024	\$112.94	\$112.94
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2024	January 9, 2024	\$2,049.16	\$2,049.12

We found no exceptions.

4. For the pay periods ended May 31, 2023 and September 30, 2022, we
  - a. Recomputed the allocation of the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' salary amounts and employer shares withholdings to the General Fund, Gasoline Tax Fund, Fire Fund and Fire and Rescue Ambulance and EMS Fund as applicable to each person per the Wage Detail Report.
  - b. Traced the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' pay for time or services performed to supporting certifications the Revised Code requires. We found no exceptions.

5. We compared total gross pay for the Fiscal Officer and each Board of Trustee for 2023 and 2022 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24, respectively.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, we found Fiscal Officer Emrick was overcompensated by \$441 and all three Trustees were overcompensated by \$76.

In accordance with the foregoing facts and pursuant to **Ohio Rev. Code § 117.28**, a Finding for Recovery for public monies illegally expended is hereby issued against Fiscal Officer Emrick in the amount of \$441; Trustee Emrick in the amount of \$76; Trustee Horodyski in the amount of \$76; and Trustee Lindus in the amount of \$76, and in favor of the Vernon Township General Fund in the amount of \$241; the Gasoline Tax fund in the amount of \$253; the Fire District fund in the amount of \$129; and the Fire and Rescue Ambulance fund in the amount of \$44. Fiscal Officer Emrick repaid the above amounts back to the Township on October 4, 2024. This finding is considered repaid under audit.

### **Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the Payment Register Detail 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 returned, canceled check or bank statement debit for EFT'S 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 § 5705.41(D). We found no exceptions.

### **Compliance – Budgetary**

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments including outstanding encumbrances) 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, 2023 and 2022 for the General, Road and Bridge, and Fire District fund as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 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. No funds had a negative cash fund balance.

### **Sunshine Law Compliance**

1. We obtained and inspected the Township'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 selected 5 public records requests from the engagement period and inspected each request to determine the following:

- a. The Township was compliant and responded to the request in accordance with their adopted policy as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1). We found no exceptions.

<b>Date Request Received</b>	<b>Date Request Fulfilled</b>	<b>Policy Response Time (in Business days)</b>	<b>Actual Response Time (in Business days)</b>
8/16/22	9/9/22	Not specified	18
4/12/23	4/23/23	Not specified	7
6/14/23	6/14/23	Not specified	0
9/13/23	9/19/23	Not specified	4
11/15/23	11/19/23	Not specified	2

- b. The Township did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
- c. The Township did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Township 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 Township management and determined that the Township 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 Township's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Township as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
7. We inquired with Township 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 proof of attendance and determined whether each elected official in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(1) (or his/her designee) successfully attended a certified three-hour Public Records Training for each term of office as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 109.43(B). We found that two out of three Trustees did not attend public records training during their term of office that was applicable for the audit period.
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 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:
- Prepared – a file is created following the date of the meeting
  - 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.

### **Contract Compliance**

1. We inspected the Minutes and Payment Register Detail Report and identified the Township had an expenditure subject to competitive bidding in 2023. This expenditure for a fire truck purchase was not bid. We did not identify any expenditures subject to competitive bidding in 2022. We found no exceptions for 2022
2. We selected 1 contract subject to competitive bidding requirements for 2023 and
  - a. We inspected the contract for the contracted expenditure and determined:
    - i. The Township did not put the purchase out for bid
    - ii. No bid splitting occurred, as the purchase was not put out for bid
    - iii. No deliberate attempts to evade bid limitations occurred, such as successive contracts just under the bid amount occurred, as the purchase was not put out for bid.
    - iv. No apparent interest in the contract by a public official occurred.

### **Other Compliance**

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 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 the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

November 6, 2024

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**VERNON TOWNSHIP**

**TRUMBULL 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 12/17/2024**

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)