

BEARFIELD TOWNSHIP
PERRY COUNTY, OHIO
AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023





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Board of Trustees
Bearfield Township
1795 Township Road 320
Crooksville, OH 43731

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of Bearfield Township, Perry County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. 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. Bearfield Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany L Ridenbaugh".

Tiffany L Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

July 08, 2025

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**BEARFIELD TOWNSHIP
PERRY COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Bearfield Township
Perry County
1795 Township Road 320
Crooksville, OH 43731

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Bearfield Township, Perry County, Ohio's (the Township) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 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, 2024 and 2023 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, 2024 and 2023, 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, 2024 and December 31, 2023 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2023 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Cash Journal to the December 31, 2022 balances in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures documentation. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2024 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Cash Journal to the December 31, 2023 balances in the Cash Journal. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2024 and 2023 Bank Reconciliation Balances as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Cash Journal and the financial statements filed by the Township in the Hinkle System. We noted a difference in the Hinkle System of \$49,649 in 2024 and \$101,857 in 2023 due to incorrect beginning balances on the Hinkle report.

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4. We confirmed the December 31, 2024 bank account balance with the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We noted a variance of \$14. We also agreed the confirmed balance to the amount appearing in the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation with a variance of \$14. This variance was corrected in January 2025.
5. We selected 5 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2024 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 5 receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the Perry County Auditor's Distribution Transaction Lists for 2024 and a total of 5 from 2023:
 - a. We compared the amount from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the Receipts Journal. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipts Journal 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 Receipts Journal 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 Receipts Journal to determine whether it included 2 real estate tax receipts for 2024 and 2023. The Receipts Journal 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 a bond was outstanding as of December 31, 2022. This outstanding balance is included in the "Summary Debt Table - Carry Forward Balance" column in the summary chart in procedure 3.
2. We inquired of management and inspected the Receipt Journal and Cash Journal for evidence of debt issued during 2024 or 2023 or debt payment activity during 2024 or 2023. All debt payment activity agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
3. From the summary of outstanding debt for 2024 and 2023 below:
 - a. We agreed the principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedule to Gasoline Tax fund payments reported in the Cash Journal and included the total principal payments for both years in the table below. We noted payments were recorded as general government payments instead of principal and interest payments.
 - b. We compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. We found no exceptions.
 - c. Based on the principal payments made, we agreed the outstanding balance to debt amortization schedule and included the outstanding balance in the summary table below. We found no exceptions.
 - d. The Township did not have any debt covenants that would result in modification of terms or cancellation of the debt.

| Summary Debt Table | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Debt Issued | Carry Forward Balance 1/1/2023 | New Issue 2023 | New Issue 2024 | Total Principal Payments 2023/2024 | Outstanding Balance 12/31/2024 |
| Grader | \$194,193 | \$0 | \$0 | \$37,219 | \$156,974 |

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 1 payroll check for 5 employees from 2024 and 1 payroll check for the only 3 employees from 2023 from the Cash Journal and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Cash Journal to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We recomputed gross and net pay and agreed it to the amount recorded in the Cash Journal. We found no exceptions.
 - c. 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' personnel files and/or minute records. We found no exceptions.
 - d. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 3 new employees from 2024 and:
 - a. We inspected the employees' personnel files for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
 - b. We agreed the items in a above to the Pay Roll Record Report.

We found no exceptions.
3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2024 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 2024. 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, 2025 | December 27, 2024 | \$768.00 | \$768.00 |
| State income taxes | January 31, 2025 | December 27, 2024 | \$870.95 | \$870.95 |
| OPERS retirement | January 30, 2025 | December 27, 2024 | \$2,087.96 | \$2,087.96 |

We found no exceptions.

4. We compared total gross pay for the fiscal officer and each board of trustee for 2024 and 2023 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. Their pay did not exceed the Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24 permitted amounts.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. From the Appropriations Ledger Report, we re-footed checks recorded as General Fund disbursements for general government, and checks recorded as Public Safety in the Fire Fund for 2024. We found no exceptions.

2. We selected 10 disbursements from the Cash Journal for the year ended December 31, 2024 and 10 from the year ended December 31, 2023 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 Cash Journal 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 1 instance 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 contract 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, 2024 and 2023 for the General, Cemetery, and Gasoline Tax fund as recorded in the Cash Journal. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the Cash Journal for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 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. 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 inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have any completed, denied, or redacted public records requests 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's management and determined 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 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 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 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. The 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 the Auditor of State established policy, within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 in the Hinkle system. We found the Township filed their financial information late on April 1, 2025 for 2024 and April 5, 2024 for 2023.
2. We inquired of the fiscal officer and inspected the Fiscal Integrity Act Portal (<http://www.ohioauditor.gov/fiscalintegrity/default.html>) to determine whether the fiscal officer obtained the training required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.12 and 733.81. The Fiscal Officer obtained the required training.

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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.

Charles E. Harris & Associates

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

April 14, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BEARFIELD TOWNSHIP

PERRY 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 7/22/2025

65 East State 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