



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Freedom Township
Wood County
525 East Front St.
Pemberville, Ohio 43450

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Freedom Township, Wood 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. 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, 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 Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the prior documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2024 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2023 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2024 and 2023 Bank Reconciliation adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 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.

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4. We confirmed the December 31, 2024 bank account balances with the Township's financial institution and the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected 5 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We traced two of the five debits to the subsequent January bank statement. We noted three of the five outstanding debits are still outstanding as of the date of this report.
 - 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 inspected investments held at December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023 to determine that they:
 - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 135.13, 135.14, 135.144 or 135.145. We found no exceptions.
 - b. Mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code § 135.13 or 135.14. We found no exceptions.

Property Taxes, Intergovernmental, and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of 5 receipts from the Wood County *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the Wood County Auditor Detail Expense Transaction Ledger 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 Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register 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 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 2 real estate tax receipts for 2024 and 2023. The Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.
3. We confirmed the individual amounts paid from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Troy Township, and the Federal Government to the Township during 2024 with the supporting document. We also confirmed the individual amounts paid from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Webster Township to the Township during 2023 with the supporting documentation. We found no exceptions.
 - a. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund(s). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Emergency Medical Service Receipts

We selected 5 receipts recorded in the cash receipts records from the year ended December 31, 2024 and 5 from the year ended December 31, 2023 from the Receipt Register Report and:

- a. Agreed the cash to the credit on the bank statement.
- b. Agreed the receipt amount to the billed amount billed on Health Services Integration's Deposit log, the service organization that performs the emergency medical billings but does not collect the receipts for the District. We found no exceptions.

- c. Inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
- d. Inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. From the prior documentation, we observed loans and finance purchases were outstanding as of December 31, 2022. These outstanding balances are 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 Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2024 or 2023 or debt payment activity during 2024 or 2023. We included the newly issued debt for 2023 in the Summary Debt table below.
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 schedules to debt service fund payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report and included the total principal payments for both years in the table below. We found no exceptions.
 - 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 balances to debt amortization schedule and included the outstanding balances in the summary table below. We found no exceptions.
 - d. For any outstanding debt listed in the table below, we obtained the debt agreements and confirmed the Township was in compliance with its debt covenants. We found no exceptions.

Summary Debt Table				
Debt Issued	Carry Forward Balance 1/1/2023	New Issue 2023	Total Principal Payments 2023/2024	Outstanding Balance 12/31/2024
Plow Truck Lease	\$88,451.45	\$ -	\$57,974.08	\$30,477.37
Fire Truck Lease	\$295,000.00	\$ -	\$86,462.87	\$208,537.13
OPWC Issue 1	\$173,315.76	\$ -	\$21,664.44	\$151,651.32
Office & Maintenance Building Bonds	\$ -	\$1,200,000.00	\$432,500.00	\$767,500.00

4. For any new debt identified in procedure 2 and added to the table in procedures 3, we agreed the amount of debt proceeds received for 2023 from the debt documents to amounts recorded in the permanent improvement capital projects fund per the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed and the Township properly recorded the proceeds in a bond fund (i.e. capital projects fund) as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.09(E).

5. For new debt issued during 2023, we inspected the debt legislation and resolution, which stated the Township must use the proceeds to construct an office and maintenance building. We inspected the Payment Register Detail Report and observed the Township made payments for the construction of an office and maintenance building in March of 2023 through November of 2023. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 1 payroll check for 5 employees from 2024 and 1 payroll check for 5 employees from 2023 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 approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the fund and account codes to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employees' duties as documented in the employees' personnel files. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 3 new employees from 2024 and 3 employees from 2023 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 Employee General Information Report. We found two instances of employees with amounts withheld but no withholding authorization. We found one instance of an employee with withholdings, but the Township did not maintain their personnel file.
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 30, 2024	\$2,209.54	\$2,209.54
State income taxes	January 15, 2025	January 14, 2025	\$489.41	\$489.41
Village of Pemberville income tax	April 15, 2025	January 14, 2025	\$296.14	\$296.14
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2025	January 14, 2025	\$1,835.19	\$1,835.19
School Income Tax	January 15, 2025	January 14, 2025	\$287.95	\$287.95

We found no exceptions.

4. For the pay periods ended August 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023, we
 - a. Recomputed the allocation of the Fiscal Officer's and Boards of Trustees' salary to the General, Road and Bridge, and Fire and EMS Fund per the Wage Detail Report.
 - b. Traced the Fiscal Officer's and Board of Trustees' 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 trustees for 2024 and 2023 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. We found in 2024 the Fiscal Officer was overcompensated in the amount of \$322.22, two trustees were overcompensated in the amount of \$165.33, and one trustee was overcompensated in the amount of \$165.43. We noted in 2023 the Fiscal Officer was undercompensated in the amount of \$527.60 and each of the trustees were undercompensated in the amount of \$428.26. These errors resulted in a net underpayment for the audit period of \$994.07.

Name	2023 underpayment	2024 overpayment	Net Underpayment
Julie Getz (Fiscal Officer)	\$527.60	(\$322.22)	\$205.38
Kent Schuerman (Trustee)	\$428.26	(\$165.43)	\$262.83
Richard Rahe (Trustee)	\$428.26	(\$165.33)	\$262.93
David Bruning (Trustee)	\$428.26	(\$165.33)	\$262.93
Total	\$1,812.38	(\$818.31)	\$994.07

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

We selected 10 disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report 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 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 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, Road and Bridge and Fire Protection fund as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the interfund transfer from the 2023 Revenue Status Report and Appropriation Status Reports for compliance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.14 - .16. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner.
3. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 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 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 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. Township provided an explanation for the denied request which included the legal authority to the requester as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(3). We found no exceptions.
 - 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 noted that the Township did not have written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by the Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
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. The Township did not have the Public Records policy displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Township as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
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.

Contract Compliance:

1. We inspected the Appropriation Ledger and identified the Township had expenditures subject to competitive bidding. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 1 contract subject to competitive bidding requirements for 2024 and 1 for 2023 and
 - a. We inspected the contract and other bids for the contracted expenditure and determined:
 - i. The Township did not maintain the completed sheets to rank the qualifications of the design build firms; therefore, we are unable to determine if the design build firm was the most qualified. The Township was not in compliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 153.65 through 153.71 for design build services. We determined the Township selected the lowest bidder, but due to the exception noted did not meet the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 5575.02 for standard contracts subject to competitive bidding.
 - ii. No bid splitting occurred
 - iii. No deliberate attempts to evade bid limitations occurred, such as successive contracts just under the bid amount, occurred.
 - 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, 2024 and 2023 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.
2. We 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. Fiscal Officer obtained the required training.

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.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

September 26, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

WOOD 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 11/6/2025

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