



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER





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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Goshen Township
Belmont County
PO Box 10
Bethesda, Ohio 43719

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Goshen Township's, Belmont County, Ohio (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

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 Summary by Fund to the December 31, 2022 balances in the 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 Cash Summary by Fund to the December 31, 2023 balances in the Cash Summary by Fund. 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 Cash Summary by Fund and the financial statements filed by the Township in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.

Cash (Continued)

4. We confirmed the December 31, 2024 bank account balance with the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balance to the amount appearing in the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected all 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, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of 5 receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the Belmont County Auditor Check Detail Report 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 Wesbanco to the Township for interest earned during 2024 and 2023 to Wesbanco Savings Account bank statements. We found no exceptions.
 - a. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found the Township did not properly allocate interest receipts to the required funds. Furthermore, we inspected the Revenue Ledger and bank statements and identified additional errors in the allocation of interest receipts. We brought these errors to management's attention. The Township recorded an adjustment to their accounting records decreasing the General Fund by \$40,575, increasing the Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund by \$730, increasing the Gasoline Tax Fund by \$40,031, increasing the Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund by \$4,550 and decreasing the Building Contractor Bond Fund by \$4,736. Because we did not inspect all receipts for proper fund allocation, our report provides no assurance whether or not additional similar errors occurred.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
4. We confirmed the individual amounts paid from T.J. Jefferies Construction LLC to the Township during 2023 to the supporting contract on file with the Township. We found no exceptions.
 - a. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipt was allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. The prior agreed-upon procedures workpaper documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2022.
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 road and bridge fund payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report and included the total principal payments for both years in the table below. We noted the Township improperly classified repayment as Capital Outlay rather than Principal Retirement and Interest and Fiscal Charges. We also noted the Township failed to establish the required debt service fund for repayment.
 - 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 the debt amortization schedule and included the outstanding balances 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
Township Maintenance Building Bonds, Series 2023	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$51,981	\$198,019

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 2023 Building Bond Capital Projects fund per the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed. 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 for the construction of a Maintenance Building. We inspected the Payment Register Detail Report and observed the Township made payments beginning in September 2023 for the construction of a maintenance building. We found no exceptions. The Township had unspent debt proceeds of \$11,407 as of December 31, 2024.

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 approved rate). We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)

- 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 and minute record. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 1 new employee from 2023 and:
 - a. We inspected the employee's personnel file and minute record 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, 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	January 6, 2025	\$700	\$700
State income taxes	January 15, 2025	January 7, 2025	\$159	\$159
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2025	January 22, 2025	\$2663	\$2663

We found no exceptions.

4. 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. Their pay did not exceed the Ohio Rev. Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24 permitted amounts.

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 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 a disbursement for UAN fees and ACH bank fees posted entirely to the Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund. We brought these errors to management's attention and they have posted an adjustment to their accounting system increasing the Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund and decreasing the General Fund by \$772. However, because we did not inspect all disbursements for proper fund posting, our report provides no assurance regarding whether or not similar errors occurred.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)

- 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 3 instances in 2024 and 1 instance in 2023 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, Road and Bridge, and Fire District funds 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, 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 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 to determine the following:
 - a. The Township did not have any completed public records requests during the engagement period.
 - 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 inquired with Township management and determined 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 noted 1 Trustee whose term ended in 2023, did not attend the required Public Records Training as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 109.43(B).
9. We inquired with Township management regarding 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 Minutes and 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 2023 and
 - a. We inspected the contract and other bids for the contracted expenditure and determined:
 - i. The Township accepted the lowest bid and met the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code §5549.21.
 - 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.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. 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. Financial information for 2024 was filed on April 14, 2025 which was not within the allotted timeframe. No other exceptions noted.
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. The Fiscal Officer obtained the required training.

Related Party Transactions

1. We inquired with management and scanned the disbursement ledgers and identified the following related party transactions:
 - a. Belmont Mills is a vendor the Township routinely purchases Township supplies from. Trustee Shawn Thompson is employed by Belmont Mills. During the engagement period, the Township's purchases to Belmont Mills totaled \$33,464 and \$49,960 for the years ending December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Trustee Thompson approved to enter into a contract with Belmont Mills for the purchase of road salt. Additionally, Trustee Thompson approved payment on invoices to Belmont Mills. Ohio Rev. Code § 511.13 prohibits a member of the Board of Township Trustees from having an interest in any contract entered into by such board. This matter will be referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission.
2. We confirmed the transactions with supporting documentation provided by the Township. We found no exceptions.
3. We obtained supporting evidence for the Related Party Transactions identified in Procedure 1. 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.

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Belmont County
Independent Accountant's Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
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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

July 10, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



GOSHEN TOWNSHIP

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 7/22/2025

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