



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER





BASIC AUDIT REPORT

Village of Deersville
Harrison County
PO Box 34
Deersville, Ohio 44693

We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the Village of Deersville, Harrison County, Ohio (the Village) for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Our procedures were designed solely to satisfy the audit requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A). Because our procedures were not designed to opine on the Village's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the Village's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

The Village's management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents. Our responsibility under Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A) is to examine, analyze and inspect these records and documents.

Based on the results of our procedures, we found the following significant compliance or accounting issue to report.

Current Year Observation

1. **State ex rel. McClure v. Hagerman 155 Ohio St. 320 (1951)** provides that expenditures made by a governmental entity should serve a public purpose. Typically the determination of "proper public purpose" rests with the governmental entity unless such determination is arbitrary or unreasonable. Even if a purchase is reasonable, Ohio Attorney General Opinion 82-006 indicates that it must be memorialized by a duly enacted ordinance or resolution and may have a prospective effect only.

Auditor of State Bulletin 2003-005 Expenditure of Public Funds/Proper "Public Purpose" states that governmental entities may not make expenditures of public monies unless they are for a valid public purpose. First, the expenditure is required for the general good of all inhabitants and second, the primary objective of the expenditure is to further a public purpose, even if an incidental private end is advanced. Additionally, the bulletin states that the Auditor of State will only question expenditures where the legislative determination of proper public purpose is manifestly arbitrary and incorrect.

The Village paid \$253 for a gift card and gift card holder in 2023 for an employee's retirement gift, which does not meet the criteria to be considered a proper public purpose.

The Village should implement procedures to verify that all Village funds are used for a proper public purpose.

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Tiffany L Ridenbaugh

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

July 24, 2025

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VILLAGE OF DEERSVILLE

HARRISON 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 8/7/2025

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