



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER





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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Freedom Township
Wood County
P.O. Box 796
198 Water Street
Pemberville, OH 43450

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees and the management of Freedom Township, Wood County (the Township), on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Townships cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 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, 2018 and 2017 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Township. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in this 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.

This report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

Cash

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2017 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2016 balances in the prior year documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2018 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2017 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2018 and 2017 fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report. The amounts agreed.
4. We observed the year-end bank balances on the financial institution's website. The balances agreed, except for the State Bank balance, which could not be confirmed to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2018 bank reconciliation, as this account is not included on the bank reconciliation. The Township should include all bank accounts on the bank reconciliation.

The Fiscal Officer posted a \$30,000 adjustment to the December 31, 2018 financial statements to account for the State Bank balance. We verified with the Fiscal Officer and obtained supporting documentation of the subsequent closeout of the State Bank account.

5. We selected a sample (agreed upon) of five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2018 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, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.
6. We selected all reconciling credits (such as deposits in transit) from the December 31, 2018 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We noted 15 deposits in transit totaling \$16,767 that cleared bank statements throughout 2017 and 64 deposits in transit totaling \$65,950 that cleared bank statements throughout 2018. The Fiscal Officer failed to clear these receipts with what cleared the Township's secondary account at State Bank. The Fiscal Officer should clear receipts on UAN when completing monthly bank reconciliations when they clear bank accounts.

This was corrected by the Fiscal Officer. We verified the Fiscal Officer removed the deposits in transit from UAN. Once the deposits in transit were removed/corrected, the Fiscal Officer also adjusted the December 31, 2018 financial statements \$30,000 (see Cash 4) to account for the reconciled State Bank balance.

Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a property tax receipt from one *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes* (the Statement) for 2018 and one from 2017:
 - a. We traced the gross receipts from the *Statement* to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to confirm the receipt was allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.05-.06 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to confirm whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year.
2. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2018 and 2017. The Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.
3. We selected a sample (agreed upon) of five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2018 and five from 2017. We also selected a sample (agreed upon) of five receipts from the County Auditor's Vendor Appropriation History Report from 2018 and five from 2017.
 - a. We compared the amount from the above reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper fund(s). We found no exceptions.
 - c. 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 amounts paid from Webster Township to the Township during 2018 and 2017 with Webster's Township's UAN Payment Report. 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.

Debt

1. From the prior agreed-upon procedures documentation, we observed the following loans were outstanding as of December 31, 2016. These amounts agreed to the Townships January 1, 2017 balances on the summary we used in procedure 3.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2016:
Commercial Loan – F550	\$14,453
Commercial Loan – F350	28,961
Commercial Loan – Tractor	3,200
Commercial Loan – Fire Truck	65,893

2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2018 or 2017 or debt payment activity during 2018 or 2017. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
3. We obtained a summary of loan debt activity for 2018 and 2017 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to debt service fund payments reported in the Payment Register Detail Report. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. We found no exceptions.
4. We agreed the amount of debt proceeds from the debt documents to amounts recorded in the Road and Bridge fund and the Fire and Ambulance fund per the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
5. For new debt issued during 2018 and 2017, we inspected the debt legislation, which stated the Township must use the proceeds to repair roads and purchase turnout gear. We inspected the Payment Register Detail Report and observed the Township repaired roads in October of 2017 and purchased turnout gear in April of 2017.

In 2017, the Township obtained a commercial loan with a local bank to finance road repairs in the amount of \$275,500 and another commercial loan with a local bank to purchase turnout gear in the amount of \$75,932. Additionally, the Township entered into four commercial loans dated prior to December 31, 2016. This type of debt is not authorized in Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 133. The Township has no statutory authority to incur debt through either installment loans or promissory notes with any banking institutions. Without a statutory provision authorizing this method of incurring debt, the Township was not permitted to use such a method. Inadequate policies and procedures related to debt issuance can result in illegal expenditures by the Township. The Township should consult with legal counsel before incurring debt to determine if the debt is authorized by statute.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2018 and one payroll check for five employees from 2017 from the Wage 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(s) to which the check was posted to determine the posting was reasonable based on the employees' duties as documented in minute record or as required by statute. We also confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. For any new employees selected in procedure 1 we inspected the employees' personnel files and minute record for the following information and compared it with the information used to compute gross and net pay related to this check:
- a. Name
 - b. Authorized salary or pay rate
 - c. Department(s) and fund(s) to which the check should be charged
 - d. Retirement system participation and payroll withholding
 - e. Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization and withholding
 - f. Any other deduction authorizations (deferred compensation, etc.)

We found no exceptions related to procedures a. – f. above.

3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2018 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 2018. 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, 2019	January 8, 2019	\$3,166.27	\$3,166.27
State income taxes	January 15, 2019	January 8, 2019	\$327.59	\$327.59
Local income tax	January 15, 2019	January 8, 2019	\$551.19	\$551.19
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2019	January 8, 2019	\$1,857.91	\$1,857.91

4. For the pay periods ended March 27, 2018 and July 25, 2017, we recomputed the allocation of the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' salaries to the General, Road and Bridge, and Fire and EMS funds per the Wage Detail Report. We found no exceptions.
5. For the pay periods described in the preceding procedure, we traced the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' salary for time or services performed to supporting certifications the Revised Code requires. We found no exceptions.
6. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 to determine if township employees and/or trustees were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. No such reimbursements occurred.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

We selected a sample (agreed upon) of ten disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2018 and ten from the year ended December 31, 2017 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 Section 5705.41(D). We found no exceptions.

Compliance – Budgetary

1. We compared the total estimated receipts from the *Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources*, required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(1), to the amounts recorded in the Revenue Status Report for the General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge funds for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. The amounts agreed.
2. We inspected the appropriation measures adopted for 2018 and 2017 to determine whether, for the General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge funds, the Trustees appropriated separately for "each office, department, and division, and within each, the amount appropriated for personal services," as is required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38(C). We found no exceptions.
3. We compared total appropriations required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.38 and 5705.40, to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report for 2018 and 2017 for the following funds: General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge funds. The amounts on the appropriation resolutions agreed to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report.
4. Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.36(A)(5) and 5705.39 prohibits appropriations from exceeding the certified resources. We compared total appropriations to total certified resources for the General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge funds for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. There were no funds for which appropriations exceeded certified resources.
5. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 for the General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge funds, as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. There were no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
6. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 requires establishing separate funds to segregate externally-restricted resources. We inspected the Receipt Register Report for evidence of new restricted receipts requiring a new fund during December 31, 2018 and 2017. We also inquired of management regarding whether the Township received new restricted receipts. We observed no evidence of new restricted receipts for which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 would require the Township to establish a new fund.

7. For funds existing in prior years, we inspected the fund activity to determine whether the fund is still being used for the statutorily approved purpose and that all the required funds were established. All the required funds were established and no funds for which the statutorily approved purpose was no longer valid were included on the accounting records.
8. We inquired of management and inspected the Appropriation Status Reports to determine whether the Township elected to establish reserve accounts permitted by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.13. The Township did not establish these reserves.
9. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code Section 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.

Compliance – Contracts & Expenditures

We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 to determine if the township proceeded by force account (i.e. used its own employees) to maintain or repair roads (cost of project \$15,000-\$45,000) or to construct or reconstruct township roads (cost of project \$5,000-\$15,000/per mile) for which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5575.01 requires the county engineer to complete a force account project assessment form (i.e., cost estimate). We identified no projects requiring the county engineer to complete a force account cost estimate.

Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code Section 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, 2018 and 2017 in the Hinkle system. There were 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 Section 507.12 and 733.81. The Fiscal Officer obtained 8 of the required 12 hours of training.
3. For all credit card accounts we obtained:
 - copies of existing internal control policies, and
 - a list of all credit card account transactions.
 - a. We selected 3 credit card transactions for testing. For selected transactions we inspected documentation to determine that:
 - i. Each transaction was supported with original invoices and for a proper public purpose.We found no exceptions.

Freedom Township
Wood County
Independent Accountants' Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
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This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants attestation standards and applicable attestation engagement standards included in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review, 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.

This report is to provide 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, 2018 and 2017, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.

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

September 6, 2019

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

WOOD COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**