



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Freeport Township
Harrison County
77515 Freeport-Tippecanoe Road
Freeport, Ohio 43973

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Freeport Township, Harrison County's, Ohio (the Township), receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 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, 2021 and 2020 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, 2021 and 2020, 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, 2021 and December 31, 2020 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2020 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2019 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2021 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2020 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2021 and 2020 Bank Reconciliation adjusted UAN Balances and Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report and the financial statements filed by the Township in the Hinkle System. For 2021, the amounts agreed without exception; however, for 2020, there was a variance of \$10 between the bank reconciliation balance and the fund cash balances reported in the Hinkle System financial statements.

Cash and Investments (Continued)

4. We confirmed the December 31, 2021 bank account balances with the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2021 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2021 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.
6. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020 to determine that they:
 - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code § 135.13, 135.14 or 135.144. 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 and Intergovernmental Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the County Auditor's Cross Reference Report by Vendor Number for 2021 and a total of five from 2020:
 - a. We compared the amount from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the Receipts Report. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the Receipts Report to determine these receipts were allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.05-.06 and 5705.10. We noted an exception in 2020. One homestead and rollback receipt was posted 100% to the General Fund in the amount of \$4,066; however, should have been allocated in the amounts of \$1,182, \$828, \$1,192, and \$864, to the General, Road and Bridge, Fire District and Cemetery Funds' respectively. We brought this to management's attention. They corrected the funds noted above fund balances for this item. However, because we did not inspect all receipts, our report provides no assurance regarding whether or not other similar errors occurred.
 - c. We inspected the Receipts 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 Receipts Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2021 and 2020. The Receipts Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.

Other Receipts

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2021 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount recorded in the Receipts Report to supporting documentation. The amounts agreed.
- b. Inspected the Receipts Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds, and was recorded in the proper year. We noted one exception. A homestead and rollback receipt was posted 100% to the General Fund in the amount of \$4,956; however, should have been allocated in the amounts of \$1,460, \$1,099, \$1,390, and \$1,007, to the General, Road and Bridge, Fire District and Cemetery Funds' respectively. We brought this to management's attention. They corrected the funds noted above fund balances for this item. However, because we did not inspect all receipts, our report provides no assurance regarding whether or not other similar errors occurred.

Debt

1. From the prior audit documentation, we observed the following bonds were outstanding as of December 31, 2019. These amounts agreed to the Townships January 1, 2020 balances on the summary we used in procedure 3.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2019:
USDA General Obligation Bonds	\$18,600
Township Building General Obligation Bond	\$185,000

2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipts Report and Payments Report for evidence of debt issued during 2021 or 2020 or debt payment activity during 2021 or 2020. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3
3. We obtained a summary of bonds debt activity for 2021 and 2020 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to General and Gas Excise Tax Fund payments reported in the Payments Report. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2021 and one payroll check for five employees from 2020 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).
 - i. We inspected the employees' personnel files for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
 - ii. We agreed these items to the information used to compute gross and net pay related to this check.
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 and minute record and as required by statute. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2021 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 2021. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Due	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes & Medicare	January 31, 2022	January 17, 2022	\$782.69	\$782.69
State income taxes	January 15, 2022	January 17, 2022	\$291.50	\$291.50
OPERS retirement	January 31, 2022	January 17, 2022	\$1,538.38	\$1,538.38

We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)

3. For the pay periods ended August 31, 2021 and July 31, 2020, we
 - a. Recomputed the allocation of the Boards' salary amounts to the General and Gasoline Tax Funds per the Wage Detail Report.
 - b. Traced the Boards' pay for time or services performed to payroll certifications the Revised Code requires.We found no exceptions.
4. We compared total gross pay for the fiscal officer and each board member for 2021 and 2020 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code §§ 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. We found exceptions in 2020 and 2021. During 2021 and 2020, Trustee Bardall was underpaid \$319 and \$870, respectively, totaling \$1,189 underpayment for two years. During 2021 and 2020, Trustees Cunningham and Hershman were both overpaid \$171 and underpaid \$522, respectively, totaling \$351 underpayment for two years. During 2021 and 2020, Fiscal Officer Doane was underpaid \$2,532 and \$1,983, totaling \$4,515 underpayment for two years.
5. We inquired of management and inspected the Payments Report for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 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 10 disbursements from the Payments Report for the year ended December 31, 2021 and 10 from the year ended 2020 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 Payments 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 five instances in 2021 and eight instances in 2020 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 certified commitments) 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, 2021 and 2020 for the General, Cemetery 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, 2021 and 2020 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 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.
 - a. We inquired with Township management and determined that 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 inspected the Township's policy manual and determined the public records policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
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 inquired of management and determined whether each elected official in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(1) or a 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 determined that the Fiscal Officer nor did any Trustees attend the three-hour Public Records Training for the terms that ended during the period.
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.

Sunshine Law Compliance (Continued)

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. 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, 2021 and 2020 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. The Fiscal Officer obtained 9.5 of the required 12 hours of 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
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 11, 2022

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



FREERPORT TOWNSHIP

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 8/2/2022

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov