



**Village of Risingsun
Wood County, Ohio
Report on Accounting Methods**

Local Government Services

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

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CERTIFICATION

In compliance with the requirements set forth in section 118.10(A) of the Ohio Revised Code, an assessment of the methods, accuracy, and legality of the accounts, records, files, and reports of the Village of Risingsun, Wood County was conducted. This report on accounting methods states whether there are adequate controls in place to assure confidence in the records. The control deficiencies and instances of non-compliance with State statutes and the Ohio Administrative Code are identified throughout this report. Therefore, pursuant to section 118.10 of the Revised Code, a “Report on Accounting Methods” is hereby submitted and certified to Rick L. Whetsel, Mayor of the Village of Risingsun and John David Dierksheide, President Pro-Tempore of Village Council.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 21, 2022

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Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Purpose

As required by Section 118.10(A) of the Ohio Revised Code, the Auditor of State "...shall issue a preliminary report with respect to the method, accuracy, and legality of the accounts, records, files, and reports of the municipality. Such report shall state whether Chapter 117 of the Revised Code and the requirements of the office of the Auditor of State have been complied with..."

Accordingly, this report centers upon the following: (1) whether the current accounting system fulfills the needs of the Village and (2) whether the current accounting system is in compliance with Chapter 117 of the Revised Code and the requirements of the Auditor of State. Information for this report was obtained by interviewing Village personnel and reviewing pertinent accounting, financial, and budgetary records.

This report is intended solely for the use of the Auditor of State and the Village of Risingsun. We were not engaged to, nor did we, perform an audit, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on the specified elements, accounts, or items. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

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Governance Overview

The Village of Risingsun (the Village) is located in northwest Ohio in Wood County. The Village is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. Operating as a statutory village, Risingsun must comply with all State laws regulating village government. The decision making process is directed by an elected Village Council and Mayor.

The Village Council is the legislative authority of the Village and consists of six members who are elected at large and serve terms of four years. The Village Council elects a President Pro-Tempore to preside over Village Council meetings in the Mayor's absence. The Village Council has the authority to prescribe, by ordinance, the manner in which any power of the Village shall be exercised.

The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the Village and serves a term of four years. The Mayor supervises the administration of the Village and is the President of Village Council. The Mayor makes recommendations to Village Council and has voting rights only in the case of a tie.

Because the Village has chosen to exercise Section 733.262 of the Revised Code, the Mayor, with Village Council approval, appoints a Fiscal Officer who also serves as Clerk for the Village Council. The Clerk attends all Village Council meetings and keeps a record of all proceedings, rules, bylaws, and legislation. In addition, the Fiscal Officer keeps accurate statements of all monies received and expended by the Village, keeps records of all property owned by the Village, and of all taxes and assessments. The Fiscal Officer performs the accounting procedures for the Village necessary to comply with the administrative rules adopted by the Auditor of State.

Village Council contracts with an attorney to handle any legal matters for the Village. The Village Solicitor is the chief legal advisor of the Village.

Services provided by the Village include police and fire protection, street maintenance and repair, maintenance of state highways within the Village, street lighting, and a park.

On June 18, 2020, the Village was declared to be in a state of fiscal emergency by the Auditor of State in accordance with Revised Code Section 118.04. The Village of Risingsun has a population of less than one thousand as of the most recent federal decennial census; therefore, in accordance with Revised Code Section 118.05(L), the Auditor of State serves as financial supervisor of the Village and has all of the powers and responsibilities of a financial planning and supervision commission.

These powers, duties, and functions may include:

1. Review all tax budgets, tax levy ordinances, bond and note resolutions or ordinances, appropriation measures, and certificates of estimated resources to ensure they are consistent with the financial recovery plan;
2. Inspect and secure copies of pertinent documents of the Village;
3. Inspect and secure copies of pertinent documents of the County or State agencies relating to the Village;
4. Review, revise, and approve determinations and certifications affecting the Village made by the County Budget Commission or the County Auditor;
5. Bring civil actions to enforce fiscal emergency provisions;
6. Approve the amount and purpose of any debt obligations;

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Governance Overview

(continued)

7. Implement steps necessary to bring accounting records, accounting systems, and financial procedures and reports into compliance with rules established by the Auditor of State;
8. Make and enter into all contracts necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties;
9. Make recommendations for cost reductions or revenue increases to achieve a balanced budget; and,
10. Annually, before April 1, make a report and recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate on the progress of the Village.

The Village is required to adopt a financial recovery plan which outlines the actions to be taken by the Village to eliminate all fiscal emergency conditions, satisfy any judgements, and past due accounts payable, and all past due and payable payroll and fringe benefits, eliminate deficits in all deficit funds, restore moneys to all funds from which moneys were borrowed or used for purposes not consistent with the fund, balance all budgets and accounts and maintain all current payments due, avoid any fiscal emergency condition in the future, and restore the ability to market long-term general obligation debt. By State statute, the Village must operate within the provisions of the adopted recovery plan.

In accordance with Revised Code Section 118.27, the Village will remain in fiscal emergency until it is determined that:

1. The Village has dissolved under Sections 118.31 of the Revised Code, or
2. Have done all of the following:
 - a. An effective financial accounting and reporting system is in the process of being implemented and is expected to be completed within two years;
 - b. All of the fiscal emergency conditions have been corrected or eliminated and no new emergency conditions have occurred;
 - c. The objectives of the financial recovery plan are being met; and,
 - d. The Village Council has prepared a financial forecast for a five year period and such forecast is, in the Auditor of State's opinion, "nonadverse".

Section 118.31 of the Revised Code provides the procedures for legal action to dissolve a municipal corporation. Upon petition of the financial supervisor, the attorney general shall file a legal action in the court of common pleas on behalf of the State to dissolve a municipal corporation if the municipal corporation has less than five thousand residents as of the most recent federal census, the municipal corporation has been under fiscal emergency for at least four consecutive years, and the implementation of the financial plan cannot be reasonably expected to correct and eliminate all fiscal emergency conditions within five years. If the court of common pleas finds that all of these conditions apply, a receiver is appointed by the court to work with the officers of the municipal corporation to wind up the affairs of and dissolve the municipal corporation.

Once these requirements are satisfied and certified to the Governor, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management, and the County Budget Commission; the fiscal emergency will be terminated.

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Budgetary System

Description of an Effective Budgetary System

The legally adopted annual budget plays a unique and central role in determining the amount and type of financial resources that will be raised and how those financial resources will be spent. Annually, a budget consisting of estimated receipts and disbursements for each fund for the year, other than custodial funds, should be presented to the governing body with sufficient time for review and public input. The budget should identify the major sources of receipts and the programs, activities, and major objects of disbursements. The budget should encompass current operations and maintenance, capital acquisition and replacement, and debt retirement. The budget, once approved by the legislative authority, should be the basis for the appropriation measure. The appropriation measure should identify, by fund, department/activity, and object, the amount of resources authorized to be expended for the various governmental functions and programs. The amount appropriated for each fund should not exceed the estimated resources available in that fund for the year. The estimated revenues and appropriations should be integrated with the accounting system to ensure and demonstrate compliance with the budget and allow for ongoing and timely information on unrealized receipts and balances available for disbursement.

Statutory Requirements

The budgetary process for the Village is prescribed in Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code and entails the preparation of budgetary documents within an established timetable. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriation ordinance.

Tax Budget - The Mayor should prepare an annual tax budget of the estimated receipts and disbursements for all funds of the Village for the period of January 1 to December 31 of the following year. The budget must be filed in the Fiscal Officer's office for public inspection ten days prior to adoption by the Village Council. At least one public hearing must be held for discussion of the budget. Notice of such hearing requires at least one publication in the official publication of the village or in a newspaper having general circulation in the village at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Village Council is required to adopt the budget by July 15 and the budget must be submitted to the Wood County Budget Commission by July 20 of each year.

The County Budget Commission examines the budget to ascertain that all tax levies of the Village are properly authorized. The Budget Commission also revises and adjusts the estimated receipts for property taxes and local government fund allocations. The Budget Commission then prepares and submits to the Village the Resolution Accepting Rates for Village Council's consideration. Village Council must accept or reject the rates outlined in the Resolution and file the Resolution with the Budget Commission. On or about October 1, Village Council must authorize, by resolution, the necessary tax levies and certify them to the County Auditor.

The County Budget Commission may, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Budget Commission, waive the requirement that Village Council adopt a tax budget as provided under Section 5705.281 of the Revised Code but shall require the Village Council to provide such information to the Budget Commission as may be required by the Budget Commission to perform its duties under Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code, including allocating inside millage to each subdivision or taxing unit.

Certificate of Estimated Resources - The Budget Commission issues an official certificate of estimated resources on or about September 1 based upon information provided in the tax budget and other information available to the Budget Commission.

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Budgetary System

(continued)

On or about January 1, the Fiscal Officer certifies the actual year end balances for all funds to the Budget Commission. Upon receipt of the information, the Budget Commission issues an amended official certificate of estimated resources that includes the unencumbered fund balances as of December 31. Further amendments may be made during the year if the Fiscal Officer determines that the revenue to be collected by the Village will be greater than or less than the amount included in the amended official certificate of estimated resources.

Appropriation Ordinance - Section 5705.38 of the Revised Code requires that on or about January 1, the annual appropriation ordinance must be enacted by the Village Council. Prior to the passage of the annual appropriation measure, a temporary appropriation measure may be passed to meet the ordinary expenses of the Village until April 1. The appropriation ordinance, by fund, must be within the estimated resources as certified by the County Budget Commission. Appropriation measures must be classified so as to set forth separately the amounts appropriated for each office, department, and division, and, within each, the amount appropriated for personal services. Any revisions that alter the total of any fund appropriation or alter the levels adopted by Village Council must be approved by Village Council. The Village may pass supplemental appropriations as long as the total appropriations by fund do not exceed the amounts set forth in the most recent amended certificate of estimated resources.

The Clerk of Village Council is required to certify a copy of each appropriation ordinance to the County Budget Commission. As required by Section 5705.39 of the Revised Code, no appropriations are effective until the County Auditor provides a certificate indicating the appropriations, by fund, are within the estimated resources. When the appropriation does not exceed such official estimate, the County Auditor shall give such certificate forthwith upon receiving from the appropriating authority a certified copy of the appropriation measure.

Encumbrances - As part of formal budgetary control, purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the disbursement of monies are encumbered and recorded as the equivalent of disbursements in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation and to maintain legal compliance with the adopted appropriations. Disbursements plus encumbrances may not legally exceed appropriations.

Section 705.19 of the Revised Code provides that no money shall be drawn from the treasury of a municipal corporation, except in pursuance of appropriations made by the legislative authority, and whenever an appropriation is so made, the Fiscal Officer shall forthwith give notice to the Auditor and the Treasurer. Appropriations may be made in furtherance of improvements or other objects or work of the municipal corporation which will not be completed within the current year. At the end of each year, all unexpended balances of appropriations shall revert to the respective funds from which they were appropriated and shall then be subject to future appropriations.

Administrative Code Requirements

Section 117-2-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code requires all local public offices should integrate the budgetary accounts, at the legal level of control or lower, into the financial accounting system. This means designing an accounting system to provide ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts and remaining uncommitted balances of appropriations.

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Budgetary System

(continued)

The legal level of control is the level at which spending in excess of budgeted amounts would be in violation of law. This is established by the level at which the legislative authority appropriates. For all local public offices subject to the provisions of Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code, the minimum legal level of control is described in Section 5705.38 of the Revised Code. The legal level of control is a discretionary decision made by the legislative authority and must meet or exceed the level prescribed in Section 5705.38 of the Revised Code.

Methods Used by the Village

The tax budget is prepared by the Fiscal Officer to be adopted by Village Council and is based on prior year receipts and disbursements, giving consideration to non-recurring activities, as well as other known factors for the upcoming year. The tax budget for 2022 was approved by the Village Council on July 6, 2021, and was filed with the County Auditor on July 7, 2021.

The Budget Commission determines the financial needs and the corresponding tax rates to be charged on behalf of the Village. The Budget Commission then prepares and submits to the Village the Resolution Accepting Rates for Village Council's consideration. Village Council must accept or reject the rates outlined in the Resolution and file the Resolution with the Budget Commission by October 1. The resolution accepting rates for 2022 was approved by Village Council on September 28, 2021, and filed with the County Budget Commission on September 29, 2021.

The Village submits a Certificate of the Total Amount from All Sources Available for Expenditures, and Balances to the County Auditor after year end closing. The Certificate identifies the actual year end fund balances for each fund of the Village. The County Auditor then returns to the Village an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources. The Village submitted the 2021 year end balances to the County and received an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources on January 6, 2022.

The Fiscal Officer prepares the permanent appropriation ordinance based on history, trends, and other known factors. Appropriations are established at the fund, program, activity, and object level of disbursements. Once approved, the appropriation ordinance is submitted to the Budget Commission and appropriations are recorded to the accounting system. The Budget Commission verifies that appropriations, by fund, do not exceed estimated resources and returns a certificate indicating that total appropriations from each fund do not exceed the estimated resources. For 2022, the Village Council approved the permanent appropriation ordinance on December 14, 2021, and filed the ordinance with the County Auditor on January 6, 2022.

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Report on Accounting Methods

Budgetary System

(continued)

Auditor of State Comments

- The Village had deficit fund balances contrary to Section 5705.10 of the Revised Code. The Fiscal Officer, as well as the Village Council, must review the financial and budgetary activity to ensure compliance with Ohio budgetary law. This review should be ongoing and documented.
- Section 5705.39 of the Revised Code requires that the total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total of the estimated resources available for expenditure, as certified by the Budget Commission. The Fiscal Officer should document the comparison of appropriations to estimated resources. This comparison should be presented to the Village Council upon request for supplemental appropriations demonstrating the effect of the supplemental appropriations and compliance with budgetary requirements, if adopted.

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Chart of Fund and Account Codes

Description of an Effective Chart of Fund and Account Codes

Common terminology and classification should be used throughout the budgeting, accounting, and financial reporting activities. The consistent use of fund and account codes is necessary to classify and summarize receipt and disbursement transactions. Fund codes should allow for the classification and identification of fund types and the individual funds. Receipt and disbursement codes should allow the transactions to be summarized by major revenue source or disbursement program. Major object codes for disbursements should be used consistently throughout the various program/activity codes.

The Village should establish and maintain those funds required by law and sound financial administration. Only the minimum number of funds consistent with legal and operating requirements should be established.

Statutory Requirements

The creation of funds is authorized by Section 5705.09 of the Revised Code. Section 5705.13 of the Revised Code allows for the creation of a reserve balance for budget stabilization, for the payment of claims under a self-insurance program, and for the payment of claims under a retrospective workers' compensation plan. This section also allows for a special revenue fund to accumulate resources for the payment of sick and vacation leave. Additionally, it allows for creation of capital projects funds to accumulate resources for up to ten years for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of capital assets. Funds may also be established under Section 5705.12 of the Revised Code with the written approval of the Auditor of State.

Methods Used by the Village

The Village is using the State software known as the Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). This system utilizes a numeric account coding system as outlined in the Village Officers' Handbook.

Auditor of State Comments

None

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Accounting Journals and Ledgers

Description of Effective Accounting Journals and Ledgers

The accounting journals and ledgers of the Village should provide ongoing and timely information on estimated and actual receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances compared to the appropriation authority, and available cash balances for each fund. The information captured for each transaction should allow the transaction to be traced throughout the journals and ledgers and back to the document that originated the transaction.

Administrative Code Requirements

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-02(A) requires that all local public offices maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record, and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets (and liabilities, if generally accepted accounting principles apply), document compliance with finance related legal and contractual requirements, and prepare financial statements required by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03.

Section 117-02-02(C)(1) of the Ohio Administrative Code requires that all local public offices integrate the budgetary accounts, at the legal level of control or lower, into the financial accounting system. This means designing an accounting system to provide ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts and remaining uncommitted balances of appropriations.

Section 117-2-02(D) of the Ohio Administrative Code states that all local public offices may maintain accounting records in a manual or computerized format. The records used should be based on the nature of operations and services the public office provides and should consider the degree of automation and other factors. Such records should include the following:

Cash Journal - The cash journal is the book of original entry for recording all cash receipts and disbursements processed in the Fiscal Officer's office. The cash journal presents receipts deposited to and checks or electronic fund transfers drawn against the Village treasury and the fund to which the receipts and checks or electronic fund transfers were recorded. Entries to the cash journal are posted sequentially by date from source documents, such as pay-in-orders and checks or electronic fund transfers. The related pay-in-order, check number, or electronic fund transfer number, account codes, purchase order number, and date are also recorded for each transaction. At the end of each month, month to date totals and year to date totals are to be recorded.

Receipts Ledger - The receipts ledger is used to summarize receipts by fund and account. In addition, the estimated receipts and uncollected balance is presented for each source of revenue. Estimated receipts are recorded from the detail and/or supplemental information used in the preparation of the tax budget and is adjusted for any amendments to the certificate of estimated resources. Receipt transactions are posted from the cash journal based on the account code. A balance reflecting the estimated amount remaining to be received is maintained. At the end of each month, month to date totals and year to date totals are to be recorded.

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Accounting Journals and Ledgers

(continued)

Appropriation Ledger - The appropriation ledger is used to summarize appropriations, disbursements, and encumbrances by fund and account. In addition, the ledger should reflect the encumbering of obligations of the Village, identify the check issued for the payment of the obligation, and accommodate any adjustments to an appropriation account. The ledger also facilitates budgetary control by enabling the Fiscal Officer to keep the Village's disbursements and encumbrances within the amounts appropriated by Village Council. The unencumbered appropriation balance provides information on the amount available for disbursement. At the end of each month, month to date totals and year to date totals are to be recorded.

Methods Used by the Village

The Village utilizes the Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). All reports required by the administrative code are available through this software.

The Fiscal Officer prints various reports at month end to support the monthly activity. At any time, the Fiscal Officer is able to print reports for any month requested. Up to five years of prior information can be maintained on the UAN system.

On a monthly basis, the Fiscal Officer provides the following reports to the Village Council.

- Fund Status Report
- Cash Summary by Fund Report
- Revenue Status Report
- Revenue Ledger Report
- Appropriations Status Report
- Appropriation Ledger Report
- Payment Listing Report
- Bank Reconciliation Report

The UAN system requires a system backup be performed at a minimum of every thirty days or the system prevents further processing. The Fiscal Officer does a UAN system backup at a minimum of every thirty days or more frequently depending upon the amount of data processed. The system is backed up to a flash drive that is kept in a fire proof safe. Backups for the Mayors' Court system follows a similar process to the UAN system with the exception that those backups are made to a CD and also kept in the fire proof safe.

Auditor of State Comments

None

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

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Receipt Transactions

Description of an Effective Method for Recording Receipts

The receipting process should allow for the consistent classification and identification of each receipt. All receipts should be promptly recorded, safeguarded, and deposited in accordance with State statute. The receipt or pay-in-order form should be a multi-part form that is pre-numbered or system generated and issued consecutively. The receipt should identify the name of the entity and reflect the date received, the payer, the amount, the purpose or nature of the receipt, the account code, and the signature of the person preparing the receipt. Supporting documents should be attached to a copy of the receipt and filed numerically or by payer. Departmental receipts should be summarized and remitted to the finance department daily. The finance department should issue pay-in-orders to those departments depositing daily collections to the finance department and for any payments received from the public. The pay-in-order forms should be a multi-part, pre-numbered or system generated form that bears the name of the entity, the date received, the payer, the amount, the purpose or nature of the receipt, the account code, and the signature or name of the person preparing the pay-in-order. Supporting documents should be attached to a copy of the pay-in-order. All receipts or pay-in-orders should be recorded in the cash journal and receipts ledger in a timely manner. Adequate safeguards should be in place to ensure that one individual does not have total control over the receipting of monies, depositing of monies, posting of receipts, and reconciliation of bank accounts.

Statutory Requirements

Section 9.38 of the Revised Code provides that a person who is a public official, employee, or agent shall deposit all public monies received by that person with the treasurer of the public office or properly designated depository on the business day next following the day of receipt if the total amount of such monies received exceeds one thousand dollars. If the total amount of the public monies so received does not exceed one thousand dollars, the person shall deposit the monies on the business day next following the day of receipt unless the public office of which that person is a public official adopts a policy permitting a different time period, not to exceed three business days next following the day of receipt for making such deposits, and the person is able to safeguard the monies until such time as the monies are deposited. The policy shall include provisions and procedures to safeguard the public monies until they are deposited. If the public office of which the person is a public official is governed by a legislative authority, only the legislative authority may adopt such a policy.

Section 733.40 of the Revised Code requires all fines, forfeitures, and costs in ordinance cases, and all fees that are collected by the Mayor that in any manner come into the Mayor's hands, or that are due the Mayor or a marshal, chief of police, or other officer of the municipal corporation, any other fees and expenses that have been advanced out of the treasury of the municipal corporation, and all monies received by the Mayor for the use of the municipal corporation shall be paid by the Mayor into the treasury of the municipal corporation on the first Monday of each month. At the first regular meeting of the legislative authority each month, the Mayor shall submit a full statement of all monies received, from whom and for what purposes they were received, and when they were paid into the treasury.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Receipt Transactions

(continued)

Administrative Code Requirements

Section 117-2-02(D)(1) of the Ohio Administrative Code requires the date, amount, receipt number, check or electronic fund transfer number, account code, purchase order number, and other information necessary to properly classify the receipt transactions be recorded in the cash journal. Section 117-2-02(D)(2) of the Ohio Administrative Code requires the amount, date, name of the payor, purpose, receipt number, and other information required for the transaction to be recorded in the receipts ledger.

Methods Used by the Village

All receipts are processed by the Fiscal Officer. All receipts from the State and Regional Income Tax Agency are deposited directly into the Village's bank account. Receipts from the County are received by check. Other receipts include permits, park fees, and Mayors' Court. These receipts are all made in person at the municipal building.

Receipts from the County are entered directly into the UAN system upon receipt. The Fiscal Officer reviews the Village's bank account online and/or reviews the monthly bank statement for deposits made directly to the Village's bank account and enters those receipts into the UAN system.

The Village Council has passed an ordinance in accordance with Section 9.38 of the Revised Code which allows for the deposit of public monies within three business days following the day of receipt.

The Fiscal Officer is bonded in accordance with Section 733.69 of the Revised Code.

Summary of Income Tax Receipts - The Village implemented an income tax effective January 1, 2020. All Village residents eighteen and older are required to file an annual income tax return due on April 30. Residents and businesses are taxed at a rate of 1 percent of gross wages on earned income. The Village Council approved the tax rate by ordinance and all income tax revenue is recorded in the General Fund.

The Village contracted with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) for income tax processing and collection. Income tax withholdings, quarterly estimates, and payments filed with the return are sent to RITA. Income tax receipts are deposited electronically by RITA twice a month into the checking account. The amount deposited is net of RITA's administration fee. This fee is based on the amount of taxes collected, approximately three percent of collections. The Village receives a report from RITA within a couple of days after the deposit reflecting the amount of income taxes collected less the collection fee. The Fiscal Officer records the gross amount of income taxes collected into the UAN system as revenue and records the collection fee as an expenditure.

Summary of Mayors' Court Receipts - Traffic tickets issued by officers are entered directly into the court docketing system from a laptop in the patrol units. The court docketing software assigns a case number to each citation.

Citations can be paid online via credit card, by check (either by mail or in person), or in person at the municipal building. For individuals paying in person, the Fiscal Officer records the receipt in a multi-part form receipt book (copy for payor, copy retained in receipt book, copy attached to the deposit).

Receipts are entered daily into the court docketing software as well as the UAN system.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Receipt Transactions

(continued)

At the end of each month, the Fiscal Officer reconciles the Mayors' Court bank account and generates a distribution report for amounts due to the Village, the State of Ohio, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and other state agencies or local governments, etc.

Summary of Other General Receipts - General receipts are generally limited to building permits and rent for use of the park building.

Individuals requesting building permits complete an application and pay the fee to the Fiscal Officer. Receipts are entered into a multi-part form receipt book. A copy of the receipt is attached to the building permit. The building permits are maintained in a file.

Receipts for renting the park building are also recorded in the receipt book. Rent is \$225 per rental with \$75 returned to the renter upon inspection after use. The Fiscal Officer issues a check for returned deposits. The Fiscal Officer maintains a calendar for park building reservations.

Auditor of State Comments

None

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Purchasing Process

Description of an Effective Method for Purchasing

The process of purchasing goods or services should ensure that each transaction is properly authorized, documented, and recorded and that the purchasing process be integrated with the budget. The process should include a justification of need and selection of the vendor with the best price, as well as authorization by an appropriate individual. In addition, authorization must include the Fiscal Officer's certification of the availability of funds and that the amount has been appropriated and is free from previously encumbered obligations. All purchase orders should be in written form clearly indicating the items, quantities, and unit cost. Authorized purchase commitments should be recorded against a budget line item in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation and to determine and maintain legal compliance.

Statutory Requirements

Several State laws govern the purchasing process. The requirements are as follows:

Certification of the Fiscal Officer - Each contract or order for the disbursement of monies must be accompanied by a certificate of the Fiscal Officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the obligation or, in the case of a continuing contract to be performed in whole or in part in an ensuing year, the amount required to meet the obligation in the year in which the contract is made, has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. This certificate need be signed only by the Fiscal Officer.

Blanket Certification of the Availability of Funds - The subdivision may utilize blanket purchase orders for authorizing obligations for a particular purpose that does not extend beyond year end in an amount established by resolution of the Village Council. A general certification of this type may be established for any appropriation line item and need not identify a specific vendor. This type of purchase order is used for routine, recurring type items or for unanticipated emergencies. An itemized statement of obligations incurred and disbursements made under such certificate shall be rendered to the auditor or other chief fiscal officer before another such certificate may be issued, and not more than one such certificate per appropriation line shall be outstanding at a time.

"Super" Blanket Certification of the Availability of Funds - The super blanket certification permits the Fiscal Officer to certify any amount from a specific line item appropriation. The certification is authorized to be outstanding for any period up to the end of the year and more than one certificate is permitted to be outstanding at one time. The certification must identify a specific line item appropriation in a specific fund. The certification may be limited to a specific vendor, if desired. A list of obligations incurred and disbursements made under each certification must be maintained and provided by the Fiscal Officer.

Purchases that may be made through the use of a super blanket certificate are the services of an accountant, architect, attorney at law, physician, professional engineer, construction project manager, consultant, surveyor or appraiser by or on behalf of the subdivision, fuel oil, gasoline, food items, roadway materials, utilities, and any purchase exempt from competitive bidding under Revised Code Section 125.04, and any other specific disbursement that is a recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Purchasing Process

(continued)

Then and Now Certification - It is intended that the Fiscal Officer's certification be secured at the time a purchase order is issued or a contract is executed. If timely certification was not obtained, contracts or purchase orders may be certified at the time of payment but the certification must indicate that, both at the time the order was placed (then) and at the current time (now), a sufficient sum was appropriated for the purpose of such contract and is in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. If the amount exceeds \$3,000, the Village Council has thirty days from the receipt of such certificate to approve payment by resolution. If approval is not made within thirty days, there is no legal liability on the part of the Village.

Authority to Contract - Contracts are made by the Village Council and executed in the name of the Village by the Mayor, except as otherwise specified by State statute.

Bidding - Section 731.14 of the Revised Code requires all contracts made by the legislative authority of a village be executed in the name of the village and signed on its behalf by the mayor and fiscal officer. Except where the contract is for equipment, services, materials, or supplies purchased under division (D) of Section 713.23 or Section 125.04 or 5513.01 of the Revised Code, available from a qualified nonprofit agency pursuant to Sections 4115.31 to 4115.35 of the Revised Code, or required to be purchased from a qualified nonprofit agency under Sections 125.60 to 125.6012 of the Revised Code, or, during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, and rescinded on June 18, 2021, when the purchase is for personal protective equipment necessary to respond to that emergency, when any expenditure, other than the compensation of persons employed in the village, exceeds \$50,000, such contracts shall be in writing and made with the lowest and best bidder after advertising in accordance with Section 731.14 of the Revised Code. Section 731.14 of the Revised Code also requires that bids be opened and publicly read by the village clerk or the village clerk's designee, at the time, date, and place specified in the advertisement to bidders or specifications. Village Council must authorize and direct all such disbursements. Exceptions to the bidding requirements include:

1. The Village Council may, by ordinance according to the requirements of Revised Code Section 735.052(A)-(D), authorize the director of public service, director of public safety, mayor, city manager, board of trustees of public affairs, village administrator, or other duly authorized contracting officer, commission, board, or authority to enter into contracts for the purpose of purchasing used equipment and supplies at a public auction or at a sale where bids are required by all parties wishing to purchase.
2. The Village Council may, by ordinance according to the requirements of Revised Code Section 735.053 (A)-(D), authorize the director of public service, director of public safety, mayor, city manager, board of trustees of public affairs, village administrator, or other duly authorized contracting officer, commission, board, or authority to enter contracts for services or purchases of materials, equipment, or supplies from other political subdivisions or with a regional planning commission pursuant to Revised Code Section 713.23(D).
3. Section 9.312 of the Revised Code allows the village to adopt a lowest responsive and responsible bidder standard for the award of bids. This standard is less restrictive than the lowest and best bidder standard.
4. A Village may have the option of a force account road construction project (which is conducted by the Village using the Village's labor, material, and equipment) instead of competitive bidding if the estimated cost of the project determined by the Village does not exceed certain statutory limits. (Ohio Revised Code Sections 723.52 and 723.53)

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Purchasing Process

(continued)

5. A purchase is required to be made from a qualified nonprofit community agency which operates a community rehabilitation program. (Ohio Revised Code Sections 125.60 thru 125.6012)
6. A non-chartered Village may award a multi-year professional service contract through direct negotiation or requests for proposals or qualifications in lieu of competitive bidding for the engineering, repair, sustainability, water quality management, and maintenance of a water storage tank and appurtenant facilities, as long as the contract complies with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 9.29 (B). (Ohio Revised Code Sections 9.29 and 735.054)

Villages shall not purchase supplies or services by reverse auction if the contract concerns the design, construction, alteration, repair, reconstruction, or demolition of a building, highway, road, street, alley, drainage system, water system, waterworks, ditch, sewer, sewage disposal plant, or any other structure or works of any kind. (Ohio Revised Code Section 9.314)

Findings for Recovery Database - Effective January 1, 2004, State statute (Revised Code Section 9.24) prohibits any State agency or political subdivision from awarding a contract for goods, services, or construction, paid for in whole or in part with State funds, to a person against whom a finding for recovery has been issued by the Auditor of State on or after January 1, 2001, if the finding for recovery is unresolved.

Per Auditor of State Bulletin 2004-006, a contract for purposes of Section 9.24 of the Revised Code is awarded when a written agreement is executed pursuant to a formal competitive contracting procedure that may include competitive bidding, requests for proposals, or invitations to bid. A purchase arrangement that does not involve competitive contracting procedures does not constitute the awarding of a contract and is not subject to Revised Code Section 9.24. For purchases made from the State term schedule, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services engages in a contracting process as described under Attorney General Opinion 2004-014 and, consequently, is required to comply with Revised Code Section 9.24. State agencies and political subdivisions that purchase from the State term schedule do not engage in their own contracting processes and are not subject to the provisions of Revised Code Section 9.24.

Section 9.24 (G)(1)(a) of the Revised Code states that the only contracts subject to the provisions of the statute are those contracts in which the cost of goods, services, or construction exceeds \$25,000. Section 9.24 (G)(1)(b) of the Revised Code provides an exception to this rule and applies the statute to a contract awarded to any person who, in the previous year, received contracts from the State agency or political subdivision, the aggregate of which exceeded \$50,000.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Purchasing Process

(continued)

Delinquent Personal Property Taxes - Section 5719.042 of the Revised Code provides that after the award by a taxing district of any contract let by competitive bid, and prior to the time the contract is entered into, the person making a bid shall submit to the Fiscal Officer a statement affirmed under oath that the person with whom the contract is to be made was not charged, at the time the bid was submitted, with any delinquent personal property taxes on the general tax list of personal property of any county in which the taxing district has territory, or that such person was charged with delinquent personal property taxes on any such tax list, in which case the statement shall also set forth the amount of such due and unpaid delinquent taxes and any due and unpaid penalties and interest thereon. If the statement indicates that the taxpayer was charged with any such taxes, a copy of the statement shall be transmitted by the Fiscal Officer to the County Treasurer within thirty days of the date it is submitted. No payment shall be made with respect to any contract to which this section applies unless that statement has been incorporated into the contract.

Campaign Financing (HB 694) - Section 3517.13 of the Revised Code states any bid or unbid contract, purchase order, or collective bargaining agreement with a value of more than \$500 requires the vendor to certify to the contracting authority that the vendor, as defined by law, has not made a contribution to the contracting authority in an amount that exceeds the limits provided by law.

Administrative Code Requirements

Section 117-2-02(C)(2) of the Ohio Administrative Code states, “purchase orders should be used to approve purchase commitments and to encumber funds against the applicable appropriation account(s) as required by Section 5705.41(D) of the Revised Code. Purchase orders are not effective unless the Fiscal Officer’s certificate is attached. The certificate should be attached at the time a commitment to purchase goods or services are made”.

Methods Used by the Village

The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Police Chief, and Fire Chief may initiate a purchase.

The Fiscal Officer confirms funds are available prior to any purchase being made.

The Village uses regular and blanket purchase orders. The purchase orders include the purchase order number, account code, description, amount, and Fiscal Officer’s certification. Purchase orders are not currently being approved by the Mayor prior to purchase. The Village only uses then and now certificates on rare occasions.

Village Council has not adopted a resolution establishing the maximum amount allowed for blanket purchase orders.

Purchase orders are maintained in a file folder in numerical order. Purchase orders are provided to vendors, if requested.

W-9’s are maintained in a folder.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Purchasing Process

(continued)

The Village has four visa credit cards (Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Police Chief, and Fire Chief). Credit cards are secured in the Fiscal Officer's office and must be signed out for use. Receipts for credit card purchases are submitted to the Fiscal Officer who matches them to the credit card statement monthly. Village Council has approved a credit card policy.

The Village follows Section 5549.21 and 5575.01 of the Revised Code for purchases/projects that must be bid. However, the Village's projects generally fall below the amounts that require a competitive bid. When the Village does award a competitively bid contract, the Village refers to the Findings for Recovery Database.

Auditor of State Comments

- The Village Council has not established, by resolution, an amount for blanket purchase orders.
- Purchase orders should be approved by the Mayor upon certification of available funds by the Fiscal Officer and prior to the purchase being made.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Cash Disbursements

Description of an Effective Method for Cash Disbursements

The processing of invoices should ensure that each payment represents goods or services that were properly authorized and received by the Village. The processing should include a comparison of the invoiced items and quantities to the purchase order and billing slips or receiving copy of the purchase order, a comparison of the prices on the invoice to the purchase order, and the signature of the individual who made the comparisons. All invoices should be recomputed ensuring accurate extensions and totals. A voucher should be prepared reflecting the proper payee, invoice amount, and account codes, and should include a copy of the purchase order, invoice, and receiving report or a signed billing slip. Vouchers should be approved for payment by an appropriate official. A check should be prepared based on the completed voucher, the existence of appropriate vendor information (I.R.S. Form 1099 data), and a properly executed certification by the Fiscal Officer. Checks should be signed by the Fiscal Officer and the Mayor and recorded in the cash journal and appropriation ledger. Vouchers should be filed numerically or by vendor.

Statutory Requirements

State law places the following requirements on the disbursement of funds:

Checks - Disbursements may only be made by a proper check or authorized electronic fund transfer drawn against an appropriate fund. The check must show upon its face the appropriation from which the disbursement is made and the fund which it is drawn upon.

Restrictions - Monies are drawn from the Village treasury only for appropriations enacted by Village Council. Disbursements from each fund may be used only for the purposes of such fund and to the extent that cash exists in the fund.

Certification - If no certificate of the Fiscal Officer is furnished as required, upon receipt by the Village Council of a certificate of the Fiscal Officer stating that there was at the time of the making of such contract or order and at the time of the execution of such certificate a sufficient sum appropriated for the purpose of such contract and in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances, the Village Council may authorize the drawing of a check in payment of amounts due upon such contract, but such resolution shall be passed within thirty days from the receipt of such certificate; provided that, if the amount involved is less than \$3,000, the Fiscal Officer may authorize it to be paid without such affirmation of the Village Council if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

Administrative Code Requirements

Section 117-2-02(C)(3) of the Ohio Administrative Code states “vouchers may be used as a written order authorizing the drawing of a check or an electronic fund transfer in payment of a lawful obligation of the public office. Each voucher shall contain the date, purchase order number, account code, amount, approval, and all other required information”. The public office should also attach supporting documentation to the voucher such as vendor invoices.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Cash Disbursements

(continued)

Methods Used by the Village

The Fiscal Officer receives all mail and reviews all invoices received.

Bills are paid several times a month. The Fiscal Officer creates the checks in the UAN software assigning the appropriate purchase order number. The Fiscal Officer and Mayor sign all checks and the Fiscal Officer mails out the payments. A copy of the check, with a copy of the invoice attached, is filed in check number order. A Payment Listing Report identifying the warrant number, posting date, transaction date, payment type, vendor/payee, amount, and status is provided to Village Council each month.

Electronic payments are made in only in those instance in which electronic payments are required such as Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS), IRS, etc.

The Fiscal Officer issues 1099's, when relevant.

The Fiscal Officer is the only individual that has access to the UAN software.

Auditor of State Comments

None

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Payroll Processing

Description of an Effective Method of Payroll Processing

The processing of payroll should ensure that all employees are compensated on a regular basis for work performed and at the rate approved by the appointing authority. All compensation should be recorded in a permanent record reflecting the hourly rate and hours worked or salary, deductions, and the gross and net compensation for the pay period and the year. Standard deductions such as pension, Medicare, and state and federal taxes should be computed at the applicable rates established by the regulatory agencies. Other deductions permitted by the Village should be authorized by the employee and the authorization should be maintained in a file. Payment of the net compensation should be by a check signed by the appropriate official or by direct deposit to a bank account of the employee. Payment of deductions and the related employer obligations should be made timely and reported in the format prescribed by the regulatory agency. Personnel files should contain relevant employee information and any other information required by state and/or federal laws. Safeguards or compensating controls should be in place to ensure that the same individual does not hire personnel, authorize pay rates, process payroll, generate and distribute paychecks, and reconcile the bank accounts.

Statutory Requirements

The following State statutes apply:

Section 705.13 of the Revised Code requires the legislative authority of a municipal corporation to set, by ordinance, the salary of its members so that each shall be paid in equal monthly installments. For each absence from regular meetings of the legislative authority, unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of all members thereof, there shall be deducted a sum equal to 2 percent of such annual salary. Absence for ten successive regular meetings shall operate to vacate the seat of a member, unless such absence is authorized by the legislative authority.

Section 731.13 of the Revised Code requires the legislative authority of a Village to fix the compensation and bonds of all officers, clerks, and employees of the Village except as otherwise provided by law. The legislative authority must, in the case of elective officers, fix their compensation for the ensuing term of office at a meeting held not later than five days prior to the last day fixed by law for filing as a candidate for such office. All bonds shall be made with sureties subject to the approval of the Mayor. The compensation so fixed shall not be increased or diminished during the term for which any officer is elected or appointed. This section does not prohibit the payment of any increased costs of continuing to provide the identical benefits provided to an officer at the commencement of his/her term of office.

Methods Used by the Village

Employee salaries are established by Village ordinance. The Fiscal Officer maintains a personnel file for all personnel of the Village. Included in the personnel file is the individual's W-4 and any other pertinent forms or files.

The Mayor is paid a salary on a monthly basis. Village Council is paid a salary on a quarterly basis. The Fiscal Officer is paid a salary on a weekly basis. The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, and all police officers pay into OPERS. Village Council members pay into social security.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Payroll Processing

(continued)

The Police Chief is paid a salary on a monthly basis. Police officers prepare time sheets which are reviewed and approved by the Police Chief and submitted to the Fiscal Officer. Police officers are also paid monthly.

The Village has a volunteer fire department. The Fire Chief and all firefighters are paid a salary on a quarterly basis. The Fire Chief and all firefighters pay into social security.

The Village Solicitor is not an employee and is paid in accordance with his contract with the Village for legal services.

The Fiscal Officer creates the payroll in the UAN payroll software. The software calculates the gross pay as well as payroll withholdings to determine the net pay amount. All payroll taxes are calculated by the UAN software. Several reports can be printed from the UAN software that can be sent directly to the agency, such as OPERS. The Village files a Form 941 quarterly.

The Mayor and the Fiscal Officer receive a health insurance reimbursement monthly as established by Village Council. There are no other benefits provided by the Village.

The Fiscal Officer is bonded in accordance with Village ordinance.

Auditor of State Comments

None

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Debt Administration

Description of an Effective Method of Debt Administration

The issuance of debt is strictly controlled by State statute. An ordinance authorizing the issuance of debt must be passed by Village Council. The statute authorizing the issuance should be identified in the ordinance as well as the purpose of the debt, the maturity, the interest rate, and the source of revenue to be used for repayment. Debt proceeds should be recorded in a separate fund and used only for the purpose specified in the authorizing ordinance. Monies to be used for debt payments may be receipted into a separate fund created specifically for debt retirement. Care should be taken to ensure the timely payment of both principal and interest.

Statutory Requirements

General statutory guidelines regarding the issuance of debt are found in Chapters 133 and 5705 of the Revised Code. The statutory requirements vary depending on the nature of the debt being issued.

A municipal corporation shall not incur net indebtedness that exceeds an amount equal to ten and one-half per cent of its tax valuation or incur without a vote of the electors net indebtedness that exceeds an amount equal to five and one-half per cent of that tax valuation.

Methods Used by the Village

Village Council authorizes all debt by ordinance.

The Village’s debt is described below:

<u>Debt Issue</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Issued Date</u>	<u>Issued Amount</u>
Land Purchase and Truck Loan	5.00%	10/30/2014	\$47,898
Firetruck Lease	3.17	10/25/2017	617,585

In October 2014, the Village obtained a loan to purchase land for a park and playground and to purchase a pick-up truck. The loan has an interest rate of 5 percent and is being repaid in monthly installments over ten years.

In October 2017, the Village entered into a lease purchase agreement for a fire truck. The lease has an interest rate of 3.17 percent and is being repaid in semi-annual installments over six years.

The Village is current on all of its principal and interest payments.

Auditor of State Comments

None

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Capital Assets and Supplies Inventory

Description of an Effective Inventory of Capital Assets

Capital assets of the Village should be adequately safeguarded against loss or theft. An inventory describing each item, cost, serial and/or model number, location, and date of purchase should be maintained by the Fiscal Officer. The inventory should be updated periodically for purchases and disposals. Verification of the listed assets should be performed at least annually. The disposal of an asset should be properly authorized and reported to the Fiscal Officer.

A physical inventory of materials and supplies should be performed periodically to ensure that items purchased are on hand or have been used.

Administrative Code Requirements

Section 117-2-02(D)(4)(c) of the Ohio Administrative Code requires that all local public offices maintain capital asset records including such information as the original cost, acquisition date, voucher number, the asset type (land, building, vehicle, etc.), asset description, location, and tag number. Capital assets are tangible assets that normally do not change form with use and should be distinguished from repair parts and supply items.

Methods Used by the Village

The Village's capital asset inventory consists primarily of buildings, equipment, and vehicles that is reviewed annually for insurance purposes. The Village does not have an inventory of land. The Village does not have a capital asset policy.

Auditor of State Comments

- The Village does not include land in its inventory of capital assets. The Village should obtain a listing of all land owned by the Village from the County Auditor to include in its capital assets inventory.
- The Village should adopt policies and procedures to account for capital assets.
- The Village does not have a policy regarding materials and supplies inventory. Inventory records are maintained for some items such as gasoline, medical supplies, ammunition, etc. The Village should determine which departments have significant materials and supplies inventory and establish a policy for items to be inventoried and the frequency in which that inventory should be updated.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Cash Management and Investing

Description of an Effective Method of Cash Management

Cash received by the Village should be deposited in a central bank account. Monies for all funds should be maintained in the account or temporarily used to purchase investments. Idle cash should be invested in interest bearing accounts, certificates of deposit, STAR Ohio, and/or other investments as authorized by State statute. Investment transactions should be conducted in accordance with the policies adopted by Village Council. Deposits of public monies should be insured and/or collateralized to ensure repayment of public monies deposited with a financial institution. Interest allocated should be in accordance with the Ohio Constitution and State statutes.

A reconciliation between the bank and cash journal should be completed for all accounts on a monthly basis. The reconciliation should be completed immediately after the books are closed for the month and upon receipt of the bank statement. Reconciling items should be specifically identified and listed by the Fiscal Officer. Reconciling items such as unrecorded deposits and bank charges should be posted upon completion of the reconciliation.

Statutory Requirements

Section 135.14(O)(1) of the Revised Code states, "Except as otherwise provided in divisions (O)(2) and (3) of this section, no treasurer or governing board shall make an investment or deposit under this section, unless there is on file with the Auditor of State a written investment policy approved by the treasurer or governing board. The policy shall require that all entities conducting investment business with the treasurer or governing board shall sign the investment policy of that subdivision".

Section 135.14(O)(2) of the Revised Code states, "if a written investment policy described in division (O)(1) of this section is not filed on behalf of the subdivision with the Auditor of State, the treasurer or governing board of that subdivision shall invest the subdivision's interim monies only in interim deposits pursuant to division (B)(3) of this section or interim deposits pursuant to section 135.145 of the Revised Code and approved by the Treasurer of State, no-load money market mutual funds pursuant to division (B)(5) of this section, or the Ohio subdivision's fund pursuant to division (B)(6) of this section".

Section 135.14(O)(3) of the Revised Code states, "Divisions (O)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply to a treasurer or governing board of a subdivision whose average annual portfolio of investments held pursuant to this section is one hundred thousand dollars or less, provided that the treasurer or governing board certifies, on a form prescribed by the Auditor of State, that the treasurer or governing board will comply and is in compliance with the provisions of Sections 135.01 to 135.21 of the Revised Code".

Section 135.22 of the Revised Code requires the Fiscal Officer to attend annual training programs of continuing education for treasurers provided by the Treasurer of State. A Fiscal Officer is not subject to this training if the investments are limited as defined by the Revised Code and an exemption form is certified by the Treasurer of State.

Section 135.12 of the Revised Code requires that the designation period for depositories be five years.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Cash Management and Investing

(continued)

In addition to the training required by Section 135.22 regarding investing, Section 733.27 of the Revised Code requires that the Fiscal Officer attend annual training programs of continuing education for village clerks provided by the Auditor of State. This training encompasses a wide variety of topics and may include certain training programs as provided for in this section that are held under Section 117.44 of the Revised Code.

Article XII, Section 5a, of the Ohio Constitution requires all monies derived from fees, excises, or license taxes relating to registration, operation, or use of vehicles on public highways or to fuels used for propelling such vehicles shall be expended for the cost of construction, maintenance, and repair of public roads and bridges.

Federal Requirements

The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA) requires that, in order for a depositor to have a valid claim to assets of a failed financial institution, there must be a security agreement. This agreement must have been:

1. in writing;
2. executed by the financial institution and the depositor making the claim;
3. approved by the board of directors or loan committee of the institution; and
4. an official record of the financial institution continuously from the time of its execution.

Methods Used by the Village

The Village has one general checking account and one Mayors' Court checking account, both at Premier Bank. Neither account earns interest. The Village does not have any investments.

The Village's current depository agreement is valid through December 31, 2022.

The UAN software provides a reconciliation from bank to books which is currently being utilized by the Fiscal Officer for the both the general bank account and Mayors' Court bank account. The reconciliation is printed from the software and includes an outstanding checklist. The bank reconciliation is printed from the UAN software each month.

The Fiscal Officer is exempt from annual investment training provided by the Treasurer of State and has filed an exemption for the current year.

The Fiscal Officer attends seminars provided by the Auditor of State's office annually.

Auditor of State Comments

None

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Financial Reporting

Description of an Effective Method of Financial Reporting

At least monthly, the Fiscal Officer should provide Village Council with a report that identifies year to date receipts, disbursements, outstanding encumbrances, and available fund balances for each fund of the Village. In addition, information concerning the estimated and actual receipts, appropriations, and disbursements plus encumbrances should be presented for Village Council's review. On an annual basis, the Fiscal Officer should prepare and publish financial statements that include required notes to the financial statements. In addition to the published financial statements, the Fiscal Officer should prepare additional required work sheets to be retained for their audit that include budgetary, cash, interfund, debt, and demographic information.

Statutory Requirements

Section 117.38 of the Revised Code requires that the annual financial report be filed with the Auditor of State within sixty days after the close of the year for reports prepared on a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). At the time the report is filed, a notice should be published in the local newspaper that the report is completed and available at the office of the Fiscal Officer.

Section 733.45 of the Revised Code states, "The treasurer of a municipal corporation shall settle and account with the legislative authority, quarterly, and at any other time which it by resolution or ordinance requires. At the first regular meeting of such legislative authority in January, each year, the treasurer shall report to it the condition of the finances of the municipal corporation, the amount received, the sources of such receipts, the disbursements made, and on what account during the year preceding. Such account shall exhibit the balance due on each fund which has come into the treasurer's hands during the year".

Administrative Code Requirements

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 requires that local public offices file their annual financial report electronically with the Auditor of State through the annual financial data reporting system (HINKLE system) via an entity-specific link, unless the entity has been approved by the Auditor of State to submit via a different method. A copy of the report is to be retained by the Fiscal Officer of the public office. Local public offices that use the Uniform Accounting Network may file their annual financial reports in accordance with the guidelines established by the Uniform Accounting Network.

Financial Reporting Requirements - On February 2, 2005, the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts (AICPA) issued an interpretation of one of its auditing standards (i.e., AU Section 623 Special Reports) that affects those governments that prepare financial statements using the cash or modified cash basis of accounting. According to the interpretation, the cash basis financial statements presentation must "look like" a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) presentation (i.e., GASB Statement No. 34); otherwise, the Auditor of State or contracted independent public accounting firm is required to issue an adverse opinion. For entities that are not legally required to prepare their financial statements in accordance with GAAP and elect not to present "look alike" statements (such entities in Ohio include libraries, townships, villages, and special districts), the Auditor of State will render a second opinion at the same time it issues its adverse opinion. Therefore, local governments receive two opinions as part of their audit report if their financial statements do not look like GAAP statements (i.e., GASB Statement No. 34).

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Financial Reporting

(continued)

Methods Used by the Village

On a monthly basis, the Fiscal Officer provides the following reports to the Village Council.

- Fund Status Report
- Cash Summary by Fund Report
- Revenue Status Report
- Revenue Ledger Report
- Appropriations Status Report
- Appropriation Ledger Report
- Payment Listing Report
- Bank Reconciliation Report

The annual financial report for the year ended December 31, 2021, was filed with the Auditor of State as required. A notice of availability was published on February 7, 2022.

Auditor of State Comment

None

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Recording Official Proceedings

Description of an Effective Method of Recording Official Proceedings

The Village Council minutes should reflect full and accurate information to permit the public's understanding and appreciation of the rationale supporting Village Council's decisions. An ordinance, resolution, or bylaw should be limited to one subject, which should be clearly expressed in its title. In the adoption or passage of an ordinance, resolution, or bylaw, the yeas and nays should be entered into the minutes and the ordinance, resolution, or bylaw should be signed by the presiding officer and the Clerk of Council. All Village Council minutes, ordinances, and resolutions should be maintained as a permanent record of the Village.

Statutory Requirements

Section 121.22 of the Revised Code requires the minutes of a regular or special meeting of any public body shall be promptly prepared, filed, and maintained and shall be open to public inspection. The minutes need only reflect the general subject matter of discussion in executive sessions authorized under division (G) or (J) of this section. Further, the Ohio Supreme Court has held that the minutes must be "full and accurate," which means that they must contain sufficient facts and information to permit the public to understand and appreciate the rationale behind the relevant decision. The public not only has a right to know a government body's final decision on a matter, but also the means by which those decisions were reached.

Sections 731.20 through 731.25 of the Revised Code address the passage, style, number of subjects, authentication and recording, and publication requirements of Village Council legislation. In general, no ordinance, resolution, or bylaw shall contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title. The copy of the proposed ordinance must be filed with the Clerk of Council and kept open for public inspection for ten days. Each ordinance, resolution, or bylaw is required to be adopted or passed by separate vote of Village Council and the yeas and nays shall be entered in the minutes. Ordinances, resolutions, and bylaws shall be authenticated by the signature of the presiding officer and clerk. Ordinances and resolutions must be published in an English-speaking newspaper once a week for two consecutive weeks. If no newspaper is published within the Village, copies of the ordinances and resolutions must be posted in no less than the five most public places in the Village for not less than fifteen days prior to the effective date of the ordinances or resolutions or by publication in any newspaper printed in the State and of general circulation in the Village.

Section 149.39 of the Revised Code creates in each municipal corporation, a records commission composed of the chief executive or his appointed representative as chairman, the chief fiscal officer, the chief legal officer, and a citizen appointed by the chief executive. The commission shall appoint a secretary, who may or may not be a member of the commission, and who shall serve at the pleasure of the commission. The commission may employ an archivist to serve under its direction. The commission shall meet at least once every six months and upon call of the chairman. The functions of the commission shall be to provide rules for retention and disposal of records of the municipal corporation, to review applications for one-time records disposal, and schedules of records retention and disposition submitted by municipal offices.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Recording Official Proceedings

(continued)

Methods Used by the Village

Council meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month. The Fiscal Officer takes notes of the meeting and prepares the minutes from her notes. The minutes include the Mayor's report, the Fiscal Officer's report, the zoning report, Council committee reports, and old and new business. Minutes are signed by the Fiscal Officer and the Mayor.

The Village has established a records commission. The Village Council has adopted a records and retention disposal policy as required by Section 149.39 of the Revised Code.

Auditor of State Comments

- The Village's records commission does not meet as required by Section 149.39 of the Revised Code.

Village of Risingsun - Wood County

Report on Accounting Methods

Conclusion

The methods as described by the Village and included in this report are based on our inquiries and discussions with Village personnel and the related procedures documented from the Village's ordinances, administrative rules, and the Revised Code. These methods, in some cases, vary from the actual methods used in performing the daily activities.

It is our opinion that the current methods of accounting and financial reporting of the Village of Risingsun are not completely in compliance with Chapter 117 of the Revised Code and the requirements of the Auditor of State as disclosed throughout this report.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VILLAGE OF RISINGSUN REPORT ON ACCOUNTING METHODS

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 7/21/2022

88 East Broad 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