



**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY  
Agreed-Upon Procedures  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018**

313 Second St.  
Marietta, OH 45750  
740 373 0056

1907 Grand Central Ave.  
Vienna, WV 26105  
304 422 2203

150 W. Main St., #A  
St. Clairsville, OH 43950  
740 695 1569

1310 Market St., #300  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304 232 1358

749 Wheeling Ave., #300  
Cambridge, OH 43725  
740 435 3417

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
KEITH FABER



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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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(800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees  
Benton Township  
23514 St. Rt. 56  
South Bloomingville, OH 43152

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of Benton Township, Hocking County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Benton Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

June 10, 2020

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BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY

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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

May 22, 2020

Benton Township  
Hocking County  
23514 St. Rt. 56  
South Bloomingville, OH 43152

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees and the management of **Benton Township**, Hocking County (the Township), and the Auditor of State, on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Townships cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 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, 2019 and 2018 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Township. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

This report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

### Cash and Investments

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2018 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2018 beginning fund balances recorded in the Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances to the December 31, 2017 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2019 beginning fund balances recorded in the Combined and Combining Statements of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances to the December 31, 2018 balances in the Combined and Combining Statements of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances. We noted that the December 31, 2018 balances for the General Fund did not agree to the January 1, 2019 balances due to a disbursement that was posted incorrectly in 2018. The Township corrected the error with a \$270 Fund Balance Adjustment in 2019.

Tax - Accounting - Audit - Review - Compilation - Agreed Upon Procedure - Consultation - Bookkeeping - Payroll - Litigation Support - Financial Investigations  
Members: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

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**Cash and Investments (Continued)**

3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2019 and 2018 fund cash balances reported in the Cash Summary by Fund Report and the financial statements filed by the Township in the Hinkle System. We noted a variance of \$56.78 when comparing the 2018 Bank Reconciliation to the Cash Summary by Fund Report and to the 2018 Hinkle Filing. No other exceptions noted.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2019 bank account balances with the Township's financial institutions. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2019 bank reconciliation. We found no exceptions.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2019 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.

**Property Taxes and Intergovernmental Receipts**

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the Vendor Detail-Hocking County Report for 2019 and a total of five from 2018.
  - a. We compared the amount from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the Revenue Ledger. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Revenue Ledger to confirm these receipts were allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.05-.06 and 5705.10. In 2018, we noted a receipt for cigarette tax received from the County was improperly posted as Licenses, Permits, and Fee revenue instead of Intergovernmental revenue. We also noted a property tax settlement that was incorrectly allocated to the General Fund that should have been posted to the Road and Bridge Fund. We proposed an adjustment to correct the error, and the Township has posted the adjustment to their accounting system. In 2019, we noted a receipt for cigarette tax received from the County was improperly posted as Licenses, Permits, and Fee revenue instead of Intergovernmental revenue. We found no other exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Revenue Ledger 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 Revenue Ledger to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2019 and 2018. The Revenue Ledger included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.

**Debt**

1. From the prior audit documentation, we observed the following loan was outstanding as of December 31, 2017. This amount agreed to the Township's January 1, 2018 balance on the summary we used in procedure 3.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2017:
First National Bank-Fire Truck	\$35,000

2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Revenue Ledger and Appropriation Ledger for evidence of debt issued during 2019 or 2018 or debt payment activity during 2019 or 2018. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.

**Debt (Continued)**

3. We obtained a summary of loan debt activity for 2019 and 2018 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedule to General Fund payments reported in the Appropriation Ledger. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Township made the payments. We found exceptions.

**Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2019 and one payroll check for five employees from 2018 from the Wage Detail and:
  - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the fund and account codes to which the check was posted to determine the posting was reasonable based on the employees' duties as documented in the minute record or as required by state statute. We also 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, 2019 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 2019. We observed the following:

<b>Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
Federal income taxes & Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2020	December 27, 2019	\$1,095.87	\$1,095.87
State income taxes	January 31, 2020	December 31, 2019	\$571.28	\$571.28
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2019	December 30, 2019	\$1,894.84	\$1,894.84

3. For the pay periods ended January 31, 2019 and April 30, 2018, we
  - a. Recomputed the allocation of the Board's salaries to the General and Gasoline Tax Fund per the Wage Detail Report
  - b. Traced the Board's salary for time or services performed to supporting certifications the Revised Code requires.
We found no exceptions.
4. We compared total gross pay for the fiscal officer and each board member for 2019 and 2018 to the compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code Sections 507.09 and 505.24, respectively. We found no exceptions.
5. We inquired of management and inspected the Wage Detail Report and Appropriation Ledger for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 to determine if township employees and/or trustees were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. No such reimbursements occurred.

### **Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the Appropriation Ledger for the year ended December 31, 2019 and 10 from the year ended 2018 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 Appropriation Ledger and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
  - c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the restricted purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.
  - d. The fiscal officer certified disbursements requiring certification or issued a *Then and Now Certificate*, as required by Ohio Rev Code Section 5705.41(D). We found no exceptions.

### **Compliance – Budgetary**

1. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total approved appropriations (Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38 and 5705.40) plus any carryover appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 for the General, Gasoline Tax, and Road and Bridge Funds. There were no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
2. We inspected the 2019 and 2018 Revenue Ledger and Appropriation Status Reports for evidence of interfund transfers exceeding \$1,000 which Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.14 - .16 restrict. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which Section 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner.
3. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.10 (I) provides that money paid into a fund must be used for the purposes for which such fund is established. As a result, a negative fund cash balance indicates that money from one fund was used to cover the expenses of another. No funds had a negative cash fund balance.

### **Sunshine Law Compliance**

1. We obtained and inspected the Township's Public Records Policy to determine the policy did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have any completed public records requests during the engagement period.
3. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
4. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
5. We inquired with Township management and determined that Township did not have a records retention policy during the engagement period and therefore could not make it readily available to the public.

### **Sunshine Law Compliance (Continued)**

6. We inspected written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager. We found no exceptions.
7. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did not have a policy manual during the engagement period therefore the public records policy could not be included.
8. We inquired with Township management and determined that the Township did have a public records policy during the engagement period, but it was not displayed in all the branches of the Township.
9. 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.
10. We inspected Public Records Training Certificates and determined whether each elected official (or his/her designee) successfully attended a certified three-hour Public Records Training for each term of office. We found no exceptions.
11. 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 are to be held. We found no exceptions.
12. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period 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.
13. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period 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 Section 121.22(G).
  - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

### **Other Compliance**

1. Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.38 requires townships to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. Auditor of State established policies regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the Township filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and Auditor of State established policy, within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 in the Hinkle system. There were no exceptions.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants attestation standards and applicable attestation engagement standards included in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the Township's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is to provide assistance in the evaluation of the Township's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.



**Perry and Associates**  
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.  
Marietta, Ohio

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**



**BENTON TOWNSHIP**

**HOCKING COUNTY**

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

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

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
JUNE 23, 2020**