



Dave Yost • Auditor of State



**BERN TOWNSHIP  
ATHENS COUNTY  
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

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

Bern Township  
Athens County  
17959 Plantsville Road  
Chesterhill, Ohio 43728

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees and the management of Bern Township, Athens County, Ohio (the Township), on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Townships cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 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, 2017 and 2016 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Township. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in this report.

Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

This report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

### Cash

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2016 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2015 balances in the prior year audited statements. The fund balances agreed to the prior audited balances except for the General and Gasoline Tax Funds because of audit adjustments from the 2015-2014 audit. These adjustments are discussed further in step 6. We also agreed the January 1, 2017 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2016 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2017 and 2016 fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2017 bank account balance with the Township's financial institution. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2017 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) haphazardly from the December 31, 2017 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.

### **Cash (Continued)**

6. We inspected the Fund Balance Adjustment Report to determine whether the adjustment identified in the prior audit due from the General Fund, payable to the Gasoline Tax Fund, was properly posted to the report. We found no exceptions.

### **Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts**

1. We haphazardly selected a property tax receipt from one *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes* (the Statement) for 2017 and one from 2016:
  - a. We traced the gross receipts from the *Statement* to the amount recorded in the Receipt Export Report. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Export Report to confirm the receipt was allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.05-.06 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Receipt Export Report to confirm whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year.
2. We inspected the Receipt Export Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2017 and 2016. The Receipt Export Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.
3. We selected all receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2017 and all from 2016. We also haphazardly selected five receipts from the County Auditor's DTLs from 2017 and five from 2016.
  - a. We compared the amount from the above reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Export Report. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Export Report to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Receipt Export Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
4. We confirmed the amounts paid from the Athens County Planning Commission to the Township during 2016 with the Commission. We found no exceptions.
  - a. We inspected the Receipt Detail Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Detail Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
5. We confirmed the on-behalf amounts paid relating to the Community Development Block Grant through Athens County to the Township during 2016 with the County. We found the Township overstated the on-behalf transaction (receipts and related expenditures) by \$4,500 as it included the local match, which was paid by the Township separately, in the total amount recorded on-behalf. This did not affect fund balances. For the \$51,637 that did relate to on-behalf funding:
  - a. We inspected the Receipt Detail Report to determine whether this receipt was allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Detail Report to determine whether this receipt was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

**Debt**

1. The prior audit documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2015.
2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Export Report and Payment Export Report for evidence of debt issued during 2017 or 2016 or debt payment activity during 2017 or 2016. There were neither new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2017 or 2016.

**Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We haphazardly selected one payroll check for five employees from 2017 and one payroll check for five employees from 2016 from the Wage Detail Report and:
  - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the fund and account codes to which the check was posted to determine the posting was reasonable based on the employees' duties as documented in the employees' personnel files and/or minute record or as required by statute. We also confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. For any new employees selected in procedure 1 we inspected the employees' personnel files for the following information and compared it with the information used to compute gross and net pay related to this check:
  - a. Name.
  - b. Authorized salary or pay rate.
  - c. Department(s) and fund(s) to which the check should be charged.
  - d. Retirement system participation and payroll withholding.
  - e. Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization and withholding.
  - f. Any other deduction authorizations (deferred compensation, etc.).

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

3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2017 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 2017. 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	01/31/2018	12/30/2017	\$2,123	\$2,123
State income taxes	01/15/2018	12/30/2017	479	479
OPERS retirement	01/30/2018	01/09/2018	1,927	1,927

4. For the pay periods ended February 28, 2017 and May 31, 2016, we recomputed the allocation of the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' salaries to the General, Gasoline Tax, Road and Bridge, and Cemetery Funds the Wage Detail Report. We found no exceptions
5. For the pay periods described in the preceding procedure, we traced the Fiscal Officer's and Boards' salary for time or services performed to supporting certifications the Revised Code requires. We found no exceptions.

### Payroll Cash Disbursements (Continued)

6. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Export Report for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 to determine if township employees and/or trustees were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. No such reimbursements occurred.

### Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

We haphazardly selected ten disbursements from the Payment Export Report for the year ended December 31, 2017 and ten from the year ended 2016 and determined whether:

- a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
- b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the Payment Export Report and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
- c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the restricted purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.
- d. The Fiscal Officer certified disbursements requiring certification or issued a *Then and Now Certificate*, as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D). We found two instances where the certification date was after the vendor invoice date, and there was also no evidence that a *Then and Now Certificate* was issued. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D) requires certifying at the time of a commitment, which should be on or before the invoice date, unless a *Then and Now Certificate* is used. Because we did not inspect all disbursements requiring certification, our report provides no assurance whether or not additional similar errors occurred.

### Compliance – Budgetary

1. We compared the total estimated receipts from the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources required by Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.36(A)(1), to the amounts recorded in the Revenue Status Report for the General, Road and Bridge and Fire District Funds for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. The amounts agreed.
2. We inspected the appropriation measures adopted for 2017 and 2016 to determine whether, for the General, Road and Bridge and Fire District Funds, the Trustees appropriated separately for "each office, department, and division, and within each, the amount appropriated for personal services," as is required by Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.38(C). We found no exceptions.
3. We compared total appropriations required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.38 and 5705.40, to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report for 2017 and 2016 for the following funds: General, Road and Bridge and Fire District. The amounts on the appropriation resolutions agreed to the amounts recorded in the Appropriation Status Report.
4. Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.36(A)(5) and 5705.39 prohibits appropriations from exceeding the certified resources. We compared total appropriations to total certified resources for the General, Road and Bridge and Fire District Funds for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. Fire District Fund appropriations for 2017 exceeded certified resources by \$2,076, contrary to Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39. General Fund appropriations for 2016 exceeded certified resources by \$5,954, contrary to Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39. The Trustees should not pass appropriations exceeding certified resources. Allowing this to occur could cause the Township to incur fund balance deficits.



### **Compliance – Budgetary (Continued)**

5. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 for the General, Road and Bridge and Fire District Funds as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. There were no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
6. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.09 requires establishing separate funds to segregate externally-restricted resources. We inspected the Receipt Detail Report for evidence of new restricted receipts requiring a new fund during December 31, 2017 and 2016. We also inquired of management regarding whether the Township received new restricted receipts. The Township established the Public Works Commission Fund (4401) and Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund (4901) during 2016 to segregate on behalf grant receipts and disbursements, in compliance with § 5705.09.
7. For funds existing in prior years, we inspect the fund activity to determine whether the fund is still being used for the statutorily approved purpose and that all the required funds were established. All the required funds were established and no funds for which the statutorily approved purpose was no longer valid were included on the accounting records.
8. We inspected the 2017 and 2016 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for evidence of interfund transfers which Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.14 - .16 restrict. We found no evidence of transfers these Sections prohibit, or for which § 5705.16 would require approval by the Tax Commissioner (effective after June 30, 2017) or Court of Common Pleas (effective through June 30, 2017).
9. We inquired of management and inspected the Appropriation Status Reports to determine whether the Township elected to establish reserve accounts permitted by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.13 or 5705.132. The Township did not establish these reserves.
10. We inspected the Fund Ledger for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(l) provides that money paid into a fund must be used for the purposes for which such fund is established. As a result, a negative fund cash balance indicates that money from one fund was used to cover the expenses of another. No funds had a negative cash fund balances.

### **Compliance – Contracts & Expenditures**

We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 to determine if the Township proceeded by force account (i.e., used its own employees) to maintain or repair roads (cost of project \$15,000-\$45,000) or to construct or reconstruct township roads (cost of project \$5,000-\$15,000/per mile) for which Ohio Rev. Code § 5575.01 requires the county engineer to complete a force account project assessment form (i.e., cost estimate). We identified no projects requiring the county engineer to complete a force account cost estimate.

### Other Compliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires townships to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. Auditor of State established policies, in addition to filing extensions granted for extenuating circumstances, allow for refiling complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System for December 31, 2017 and 2016 fiscal year ends included in 2015-2016 or 2016-2017 agreed up on procedure engagements, subsequent to the Township's deadline where the initial filing was filed on time but incomplete. 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, 2017 and 2016 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, 2017 and 2016, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.



**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

April 3, 2018



# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**BERN TOWNSHIP**

**ATHENS 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  
MAY 10, 2018**