



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Groton Township  
Erie County  
9414 Portland Road  
Castalia, Ohio 44824

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Trustees (the Board) and the management of Groton Township, Erie County, Ohio (the Township), on the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the Township's cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Township. The Township is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Township. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

This report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

### Cash and Investments

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2017 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to documentation in the prior year agreed-upon procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2018 beginning fund balances recorded in the Fund Ledger Report to the December 31, 2017 balances in the Fund Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the totals per the bank reconciliations to the total of the December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 fund cash balances reported in the Fund Status Report. The amounts agreed.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2018 bank account balances with the Township's financial institution. The checking account balance agreed. We noted the certificate of deposit balance in the system is \$2,093 less than the confirmed balance due to interest not recorded in the accounting system. The Fiscal Officer should post all interest received to the Township's accounting system. The Fiscal Officer recorded an adjustment to the Township's accounting records on April 15, 2019 correcting this error. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2018 bank reconciliation with the exception noted above.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) haphazardly from the December 31, 2018 bank reconciliation:

- a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the Outstanding Payments Report, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.
6. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 to determine that they:
- a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 135.13, 135.14 or 135.144. We found no exceptions.
  - b. Mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code Section 135.13 or 135.14. We noted no exceptions.

### **Property Taxes and Intergovernmental Cash Receipts**

1. We haphazardly selected a property tax receipt from one *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes* (the *Statement*) for 2018 and one from 2017:
  - a. We traced the gross receipts from the *Statement* to the amount recorded in the Revenue Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Revenue Receipt Register Report to confirm the receipt was allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.05-.06 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Revenue Receipt Register Report to confirm whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year.
2. We inspected the Revenue Receipt Register Report to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2018 and 2017. The Revenue Receipt Register Report included the proper number of tax receipts for each year.
3. We haphazardly selected five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2018 and all from 2017. We also haphazardly selected five receipts from the Erie County Local Government Confirmation from 2018 and five from 2017.
  - a. We compared the amount from the above reports to the amount recorded in the Revenue Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Revenue Receipt Register Report to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Revenue Receipt Register Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

### **Over-The-Counter Cash Receipts**

We haphazardly selected ten over-the-counter cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2018 and ten over-the-counter cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2017 recorded in the duplicate cash receipts book and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount to the amount recorded in the Receipt Register Report. The amounts agreed.
- b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period, where applicable. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the Receipt Register Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper fund, and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

#### **Debt**

1. The prior agreed-upon procedures documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2016.
2. We inquired of management, and inspected the Receipt Register Report and Payment Register Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2018 or 2017 or debt payment activity during 2018 or 2017. There were no new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2018 or 2017.

#### **Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We haphazardly selected one payroll check for five employees from 2018 and one payroll check for five employees from 2017 from the Wage Detail Report and:
  - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the fund and account codes to which the check was posted to determine the posting was reasonable based on the employee's duties as documented in the employee's personnel file 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 employee's personnel file 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 and fund to which the check should be charged
  - d. Retirement system participation and payroll withholding
  - e. Federal, State, and Local income tax withholding authorization and withholding
  - f. Any other deduction authorizations (deferred compensation, etc.)

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

3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2018 to confirm remittances were timely paid, and if the amounts paid agreed to the amounts withheld, plus the employer's share where applicable, during the final withholding period of 2018. We observed the following:

| <b>Withholding<br/>(plus employer share,<br/>where applicable)</b>                                    | <b>Date<br/>Due</b> | <b>Date<br/>Paid</b> | <b>Amount<br/>Due</b> | <b>Amount<br/>Paid</b> |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Federal income taxes and Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system) | January 31, 2019    | December 31, 2018    | \$1,328               | \$1,328                |
| State income taxes  | January 15, 2019    | December 31, 2018    | 221                   | 221                    |
| School district income tax  | January 15, 2019    | December 31, 2018    | 17                    | 17                     |
| OPERS retirement  | January 30, 2019    | December 31, 2018    | 2,267                 | 2,267                  |

4. We inquired of management and inspected the Payment Register Detail Report for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 to determine if Township employees and/or Board members were reimbursed for out-of-pocket insurance premiums. No such reimbursements occurred.

**Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

We haphazardly selected ten disbursements from the Payment Register Detail Report for the year ended December 31, 2018 and ten from the year ended December 31, 2017 and determined whether:

- a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
- b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the Payment Register Detail Report and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
- c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the restricted purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.
- d. The Fiscal Officer certified disbursements requiring certification or issued a *Then and Now Certificate*, as required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D). We found no exceptions.

**Compliance – Budgetary**

1. We compared the total estimated receipts from the *Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources*, required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(1), to the amounts recorded in the Comparison of Budgeted and Actual Receipts Report for the General, Motor Vehicle License Tax, and Gasoline Tax funds for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. The amounts agreed.
2. We inspected the appropriation measures adopted for 2018 and 2017 to determine whether, for the General, Motor Vehicle License Tax, and Gasoline Tax funds, the Board appropriated

separately for "each office, department, and division, and within each, the amount appropriated for personal services," as is required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38(C). We found no exceptions.

3. We compared total appropriations required by Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.38 and 5705.40, to the amounts recorded in the Comparison of Disbursements and Encumbrances With Expenditure Authority Report for 2018 and 2017 for the following funds: General, Motor Vehicle License Tax, and Gasoline Tax. The amounts on the appropriation measures agreed to the amounts recorded in the Comparison of Disbursements and Encumbrances With Expenditure Authority Report.
4. Ohio Rev. Code Sections 5705.36(A)(5) and 5705.39 prohibits appropriations from exceeding the certified resources. We compared total appropriations to total certified resources for the General, Motor Vehicle License Tax, and Gasoline Tax funds for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. There were no funds for which appropriations exceeded certified resources.
5. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 for the General, Motor Vehicle License Tax, and Gasoline Tax funds, as recorded in the Appropriation Status Report. There were no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
6. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 requires establishing separate funds to segregate externally-restricted resources. We inspected the Receipt Register Report for evidence of new restricted receipts requiring a new fund during December 31, 2018 and 2017. We also inquired of management regarding whether the Township received new restricted receipts. We observed no evidence of new restricted receipts for which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 would require the Township to establish a new fund.
7. For funds existing in prior years, we inspected the fund activity to determine whether the fund is still being used for the statutorily approved purpose and that all the required funds were established. All of 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 Appropriation Ledger Report for the Mae Higgins – Cemetery Trust Fund. Not more than 5% of non-spendable monies were released, spent, or otherwise modified during the engagement period.
9. We inspected the 2018 and 2017 Revenue Status Reports and Appropriation Status Reports for evidence of interfund transfers 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 (effective after June 30, 2017) or Court of Common Pleas (effective through June 30, 2017).
10. We inquired of management and inspected the Appropriation Status Reports to determine whether the Township elected to establish reserve accounts permitted by Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.13 or 5705.132. The Township did not establish these reserves.
11. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2019 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. We noted no funds having a negative cash fund balance.

### **Compliance – Contracts and Expenditures**

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

### **Other Compliance**

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 its complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and Auditor of State established policy, within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 in the HINKLE system. There were no exceptions.

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

This report is to provide assistance in the evaluation of the Township's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances and is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

April 15, 2019



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**GROTON TOWNSHIP**

**ERIE 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 9, 2019**