

**STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 West Washington Street
Room E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769**

**Paul D. Joyce, CPA
State Examiner**

COMPLIANCE ENGAGEMENT REPORT

OF

ENGLISH FIRE DISTRICT

CRAWFORD COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024



FILED

05/14/2025

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SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Treasurer	Dale R. Roll (deceased) (Vacant) Paul D. Laswell (interim)	01-01-21 to 04-05-25 04-06-25 to 05-06-25 05-07-25 to 12-31-25
President of the District Board	Michael E. Benham	01-01-21 to 12-31-25



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INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

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TO: THE OFFICIALS OF THE ENGLISH FIRE DISTRICT, CRAWFORD COUNTY, INDIANA

As authorized under Indiana Code 5-11-1, we performed certain procedures to the accounting records and related documents of the English Fire District (District), for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024. The objective of this engagement was to determine compliance with applicable Indiana laws, regulations, and uniform compliance guidelines (Guidelines) established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts pursuant to Indiana Code 5-11-1-24. The objective of this engagement is not to opine on compliance or financial activity of the District as this engagement was not conducted in accordance with any standards established by an authoritative standard-setting body, and, as such, we do not provide any opinions on compliance or financial activity.

Management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents in accordance with applicable Indiana laws, regulations, and Guidelines. Management's responsibility also includes, but is not limited to, complying with other applicable Indiana laws, regulations, and Guidelines concerning how it operates: authorized sources and uses of funds; what reports are required to be prepared and filed; and what depositories and investment types are allowable.

We fulfilled our responsibility as detailed in the first paragraph, using procedures that verified the appropriate accounting for and reporting of cash, receipts, and disbursements; and the appropriate sources and uses of funds in accordance with applicable Indiana laws, regulations, and Guidelines. Expanding the scope and nature of these procedures can and does occur in specific circumstances.

The comments contained herein, if any, describe the identified reportable instances of noncompliance found during our engagement. Our procedures were not designed to identify all instances of noncompliance; therefore, noncompliance may exist that is unidentified. Any Official Response to the comments incorporated within this report was not verified for accuracy.

The Schedule of Officials and Statements of Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash and Investment Balances - Regulatory Basis (Statements) are informational only. The Statements have not been subjected to any procedures designed to express an opinion or provide any assurance on them, and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, governance, and others within the organization. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record. Reports can be found on the Indiana State Board of Accounts' website: <http://www.in.gov/sboa/>, and the District's Annual Financial Reports filed by management can be found on the Indiana Gateway for Government Units financial reporting system website: <http://www.gateway.ifionline.org>.

The contents of this report were communicated to Michael E. Benham, President of the District Board; Paul D. Laswell, interim Treasurer; and Wayne Carothers, Bookkeeper, on May 7, 2025.



Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner

May 7, 2025

ENGLISH FIRE DISTRICT COMMENTS

INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER COMPLIANCE

Condition and Context

Internal controls were not in place to ensure the District complied with laws, regulations, and uniform compliance guidelines. Internal control deficiencies resulted in noncompliance over the following areas and are detailed further in the comments below:

- Monthly and Annual Uploads
- Receipt Issuance

Criteria

The Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) is required under Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(e) to define the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards. To provide clarifying guidance, the State Examiner compiled the standards contained in the manual, *Uniform Internal Control Standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions*. All political subdivisions subject to audit by SBOA are expected to adhere to these standards. The standards include adequate control activities. According to this manual:

"Control activities are the actions and tools established through policies and procedures that help to detect, prevent, or reduce the identified risks that interfere with the achievement of objectives. Detection activities are designed to identify unfavorable events in a timely manner whereas prevention activities are designed to deter the occurrence of an unfavorable event. Examples of these activities include reconciliations, authorizations, approval processes, performance reviews, and verification processes.

An integral part of the control activity component is segregation of duties. . . .

There is an expectation of segregation of duties. If compensating controls are necessary, documentation should exist to identify both the areas where segregation of duties are not feasible or practical and the compensating controls implemented to mitigate the risk. . . ."

MONTHLY AND ANNUAL UPLOADS

This same comment appeared in a Management Letter addressed to the Officials of the District for the review period ending December 31, 2020.

Condition and Context

The District did not upload the following required monthly uploads:

- Bank reconcilements, Bank Statements, and Outstanding Check Lists for
 - May, September, and October 2022
 - July 2024
- Monthly fund ledger for
 - July through December 2022
 - July through December 2024

ENGLISH FIRE DISTRICT
COMMENTS
(Continued)

- Approved District Board Minutes for August through December 2024

The District did not upload any of the following required annual files during the engagement period:

- Year-end Investment Statements and Register of Investments
- Current Year Salary Ordinance or Schedule and Amendments
- Annual Funds Ledger

Criteria

Beginning with July 2018 files, which will be due September 15, 2018, **all** cities, towns, townships, libraries, and special districts will use the Upload App to upload files containing financial and governmental unit information on Gateway to allow the State Board of Accounts (SBOA) to conduct audit planning and audit processes prior to on-site work at a unit. (State Examiner Directive 2018-1)

All counties, cities, towns, townships, libraries, schools and special districts will use the Engagement Uploads to upload files containing financial and governmental unit information on Gateway to allow the SBOA to conduct audit planning and audit processes prior to on-site work at a unit. This remote process will provide for more efficient data processing and save audit costs for our clients. (Amended State Examiner Directive 2018-1, Updated November 9, 2020, and effective with uploads due February 15, 2021; Updated October 30, 2023, effective with the December 2023 monthly uploads due February 15, 2024, and the 2023 annual uploads due March 1, 2024)

Units are required to comply with all grant agreements, rules, regulations, bulletins, directives, letters, letter rulings, court decisions and filing requirements concerning reports and other procedural matters of federal and state agencies. Units must file accurate reports required by federal and state agencies. Noncompliance may require corrective action. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Special Districts, Chapter 1)

RECEIPT ISSUANCE

This same comment appeared in a Management Letter addressed to the Officials of the District for the review period ending December 31, 2020.

Condition and Context

A test was performed to verify that receipts issued were properly recorded to the District's records at the time the transactions occurred. The test revealed that while cash collections were posted to the records, no receipts (General Form 352) had been issued during the engagement period.

Criteria

Receipts shall be issued and recorded at the time of the transaction. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Special Districts, Chapter 1)

Officials and employees are required to use prescribed and approved forms in the manner prescribed. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Special Districts, Chapter 1)

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH
AND INVESTMENT BALANCES - REGULATORY BASIS

ENGLISH FIRE DISTRICT
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,
 AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -
 REGULATORY BASIS
 For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2022

Fund	Cash and Investments 01-01-21	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-21	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-22
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 12,296	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,296	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,296
Fire Equipment Debt	11,813	60,679	59,415	13,077	50,279	48,043	15,313
Cumulative Fire	143,323	40,393	-	183,716	41,993	-	225,709
Special Fire General	<u>294,812</u>	<u>216,786</u>	<u>136,521</u>	<u>375,077</u>	<u>217,616</u>	<u>138,711</u>	<u>453,982</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 462,244</u>	<u>\$ 317,858</u>	<u>\$ 195,936</u>	<u>\$ 584,166</u>	<u>\$ 309,888</u>	<u>\$ 186,754</u>	<u>\$ 707,300</u>

ENGLISH FIRE DISTRICT
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,
 AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -
 REGULATORY BASIS
 For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2024

Fund	Cash and Investments 01-01-23	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-23	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-24
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 12,296	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,296	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,296
Fire Equipment Debt	15,313	14	-	15,327	-	-	15,327
Cumulative Fire	225,709	51,770	7,540	269,939	57,502	-	327,441
Special Fire General	<u>453,832</u>	<u>240,883</u>	<u>151,233</u>	<u>543,482</u>	<u>283,542</u>	<u>297,256</u>	<u>529,768</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 707,150</u>	<u>\$ 292,667</u>	<u>\$ 158,773</u>	<u>\$ 841,044</u>	<u>\$ 341,044</u>	<u>\$ 297,256</u>	<u>\$ 884,832</u>