

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

SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

OF

VERNON TOWNSHIP

JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017



FILED
01/25/2019

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SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS

| <u>Office</u> | <u>Official</u> | <u>Term</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Trustee | Roger Taylor | 01-01-11 to 12-31-18 |
| Chairman of the Township Board | Jackie Rockey | 01-01-14 to 12-31-18 |



STATE OF INDIANA
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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TO: THE OFFICIALS OF VERNON TOWNSHIP, JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA

This report is supplemental to our audit report of Vernon Township (Township), for the period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017. It has been provided as a separate report so that the reader may easily identify any Audit Results and Comments that pertain to the Township. It should be read in conjunction with our Financial Statements Audit Report of the Township, which provides our opinion on the Township's financial statements. This report may be found at www.in.gov/sboa/.

As authorized under Indiana Code 5-11-1, we performed procedures to determine compliance with applicable Indiana laws established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts. The Audit Results and Comments contained herein describe the identified reportable instances of noncompliance found as a result of these procedures. Our tests were not designed to identify all instances of noncompliance; therefore, noncompliance may exist that is unidentified.

Any Official Response to the Audit Results and Comments, incorporated within this report, was not verified for accuracy.

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

December 5, 2018

VERNON TOWNSHIP, JENNINGS COUNTY
AUDIT RESULTS AND COMMENTS

INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND REPORTING

There were deficiencies in the internal control system for the Township related to financial transactions and reporting. There was a lack of segregation of duties, as the Township had not separate incompatible activities related to cash and investments, receipts, disbursements, and financial reporting.

The Township Trustee performed all of the activities related to cash and investments, receipts, disbursements, and financial reporting without oversight or review.

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. . . ."

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The same comment also appeared in prior Report B44706.

The Township did not adopt a resolution establishing salaries of Township officers and employees in 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017.

All compensation and benefits paid to officials and employees must be included in the labor contract, salary ordinance, resolution, or salary schedule adopted by the governing body unless otherwise authorized by law. Compensation must be paid in a manner that will facilitate compliance with state and federal reporting requirements. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 1)

ADVANCE PAYMENTS

The same comment also appeared in prior report B44706.

The Trustee received his salary, rent, and phone reimbursement in advance of the actual date the services were provided.

VERNON TOWNSHIP, JENNINGS COUNTY
AUDIT RESULTS AND COMMENTS
(Continued)

Compensation and any other payments for goods and services must not be paid in advance of receipts of the goods or services unless specifically authorized by law. Payments made for goods or services which are not received may be the personal obligation of the responsible official or employee. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 1)

INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

The Township failed to adopt internal control standards as required by Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(g); therefore, Township personnel were not trained on internal controls. However, the Township certified that they had adopted minimum internal control standards, and that they had trained on those internal control standards.

Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(g) states:

"After June 30, 2016, the legislative body of a political subdivision shall ensure that:

- (1) the internal control standards and procedures developed under subsection (e) are adopted by the political subdivision; and
- (2) personnel receive training concerning the internal control standards and procedures adopted by the political subdivision."

Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(h) states:

"After June 30, 2016, the fiscal officer of a political subdivision shall certify in writing that:

- (1) the minimum internal control standards and procedures defined under subsection (e) have been adopted by the political subdivision; and
- (2) personnel, who are not otherwise on leave status, have received training as required by subsection (g)(2).

The certification shall be filed with the state board of accounts at the same time as the annual financial report required by section 4(a) of this chapter is filed. The certification shall be filed electronically in the manner prescribed under [IC 5-14-3.8-7](#)."

Indiana Code 5-11-1-4(a) states:

"The state examiner shall require from every municipality and every state or local governmental unit, entity, or instrumentality financial reports covering the full period of each fiscal year. These reports shall be prepared, verified, and filed with the state examiner not later than sixty (60) days after the close of each fiscal year. The reports must be in the form and content prescribed by the state examiner and filed electronically in the manner prescribed under [IC 5-14-3.8-7](#)."

VERNON TOWNSHIP, JENNINGS COUNTY
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on December 5, 2018, with Roger Taylor, Trustee.