



STATE OF INDIANA
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
ROOM E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769

Telephone: (317) 232-2513
Fax: (317) 232-4711
Web Site: www.in.gov/sboa

April 1, 2022

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF RICHLAND TOWNSHIP, GRANT COUNTY, INDIANA

As authorized under Indiana Code 5-11-1, we performed certain procedures to the accounting records and related documents of Richland Township (Township), Grant County, for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2020, to determine compliance with applicable Indiana laws and uniform compliance guidelines established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

Management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents, as well as compliance with applicable state laws and uniform compliance guidelines established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

The Township's Annual Financial Reports filed by management can be found on the Gateway Website: www.gateway.ifionline.org.

The Comments contained herein describe the identified reportable instances of noncompliance found as a result of the procedures we performed. Our procedures were not designed to identify all instances of noncompliance; therefore, noncompliance may exist that is unidentified.

Comments

ADOPTION OF, AND TRAINING ON, INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

Condition and Context

The Township had not adopted the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards as defined by the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

In addition, Township employees whose official duties included receiving, processing, depositing, disbursing, or otherwise having access to funds that belonged to the Township, had not received training over internal control standards that were developed or approved by the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

Criteria

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."

CERTIFICATION ON INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

Condition and Context

In its 2017 Annual Financial Report, the Township certified on Indiana Gateway for Government Units (Gateway) financial reporting system, that it had adopted the minimum internal control standards as required by Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(e); however, during the engagement, the Trustee indicated that the Township had not adopted the minimum internal control standards.

In addition, also in its 2017 Annual Financial Report, the Township certified on Gateway that all personnel defined by Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(c) had received training concerning the internal control standards adopted by the Township; however, during the engagement, the Trustee indicated that all personnel had not received training concerning the internal control standards.

Criteria

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

"The state examiner shall require from every audited entity 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](#)."

BANK ACCOUNT RECONCILIATIONS

Condition and Context

Year-end bank account reconciliations, including lists of outstanding checks and other reconciling items, were not presented for review. As a result, the December 31, 2020 reconciliation did not balance; the financial statement's ending cash and investments balance was \$3,169 less than the adjusted bank balance (cash long).

Criteria

Indiana Code 5-13-6-1(e) states: "All local investment officers shall reconcile at least monthly the balance of public funds, as disclosed by the records of the local officers, with the balance statements provided by the respective depositories."

At all times, the manual and/or computerized records, subsidiary ledgers, control ledger, and reconciled bank balance must agree. If the reconciled bank balance is less than the subsidiary or control ledgers, the amount needed to balance may be the personal obligation of the responsible official or employee. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 1)

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Condition and Context

The Township did not provide an annual salary resolution, Township Board minutes, or other documentation setting and approving the salaries of Township officers and employees during the engagement period.

Criteria

Indiana Code 36-6-6-10(c) states in part: "The township legislative body shall fix the compensation of all officers and employees of the township. Compensation shall be established using an annual, monthly, or biweekly salary schedule. . . ."

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)

APPROPRIATIONS

A similar comment also appeared in prior Report B47057.

Condition and Context

The following funds had disbursements in excess of budgeted appropriations for the amounts shown below:

Fund	Years	Excess Amount Expended
Township	2018	\$ 771
Township	2019	10,620
Township Assistance	2019	714
Fire Fighting	2019	21,769
Township	2020	2,531
Fire Fighting	2020	8,698

Criteria

Indiana Code 6-1.1-18-4 states in part: ". . . the proper officers of a political subdivision shall appropriate funds in such a manner that the expenditures for a year do not exceed its budget for that year as finally determined under this article."

FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES - COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

A similar comment also appeared in prior Report B47057.

Condition and Context

The Township had not withheld federal, state, and local taxes from salaries paid to employees during the engagement period.

In addition, the Township had not issued Forms W-2 (Wage and Tax Statement) to Township employees. Also, the Township had not issued Forms 1099 to the Trustee for office rent and other fringe benefits provided by the Township.

Criteria

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 Townships, Chapter 1)

TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE STANDARDS

A similar comment also appeared in prior Report B47057.

Condition and Context

Township Assistance Standards were not established in accordance with Indiana Code 12-20-5.5-1.

Criteria

Indiana Code 12-20-5.5-1 states:

"(a) The township trustee shall process all applications for township assistance according to uniform written standards and without consideration of the race, creed, nationality, or gender of the applicant or any member of the applicant's household.

(b) The township's standards for the issuance of township assistance and the processing of applications must be:

- (1) governed by the requirements of this article;
- (2) proposed by the township trustee, adopted by the township board, and filed with the board of county commissioners;
- (3) reviewed and updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of basic necessities in the township and changes in the law;
- (4) published in a single written document, including addenda attached to the document; and
- (5) posted in a place prominently visible to the public in all offices of the township trustee where township assistance applications are taken or processed."

(c) The township trustee shall annually certify that the uniform written standards for the issuance of township assistance have been filed with the board of county commissioners as required under subsections (b)(2). The certification shall be noted in the township's budget submitted to the department of local government finance's computer gateway under [IC 6-1.1-17-3](#)."

ANNUAL NEPOTISM AND CONTRACTING CERTIFICATIONS

A similar comment also appeared in prior Report B47057.

Condition and Context

Each elected officer did not certify in writing that they had not violated Indiana Code 36-1-20.2 (Nepotism) by December 31 of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Each elected officer did not certify in writing that they had not violated Indiana Code 36-1-21 (Contracting with a Unit) by December 31 of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Criteria

Indiana Code 36-1-20.2-16 states: "Each elected officer of the unit shall annually certify in writing, subject to the penalties for perjury, that the officer has not violated this chapter. An officer shall submit the certification to the executive of the unit not later than December 31 of each year."

Indiana Code 36-1-21-6 states: "Each elected officer of the unit shall annually certify in writing, subject to the penalties for perjury, that the officer is in compliance with this chapter. An officer shall submit the certification to the executive of the unit not later than December 31 of each year."

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.

The Schedule of Cash and Investment Balances - Regulatory Basis, is presented as other information. It has not been subjected to any auditing procedures, and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

SCHEDULE OF CASH AND INVESTMENT
BALANCES - REGULATORY BASIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Fund	Cash and Investments 12-31-20
Township	\$ 33,672
Township Assistance	42,443
Fire Fighting	<u>13,614</u>
Total	<u>\$ 89,729</u>

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

The contents of this report were communicated to James Hawkins, Trustee, on March 14, 2022.

Respectfully,



Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner