



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

March 9, 2020

Contact: Marlys Gaston
515/281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released an agreed-upon procedures report on the City of Ackley, Iowa, for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa.

Sand reported seven findings related to the receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. They are found on pages 7 and 8 of this report. The findings address issues such as a lack of segregation of duties, the lack of review and approval of journal entries and disbursements exceeding budgeted amounts prior to a budget amendment. Sand provided the City with recommendations to address each of the findings.

Three of the seven findings discussed above are repeated from the prior year. The City Council has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the City's operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the "watchful and responsible care" a governing body exercises in its fiduciary capacity.

A copy of the agreed-upon procedures report is available for review on the Auditor of State's web site at <https://auditor.iowa.gov/audit-reports>.

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CITY OF ACKLEY
AUDITOR OF STATE'S INDEPENDENT REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE PERIOD
JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019

City of Ackley



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February 18, 2020

Officials of the City of Ackley
Ackley, Iowa

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to submit to you the agreed-upon procedures report for the City of Ackley, Iowa, for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa and in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards for attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of the City of Ackley throughout the agreed-upon procedures engagement. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or my staff at 515-281-5834.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sand".

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

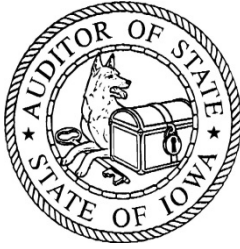
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City of Ackley

Officials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Erik Graham	Mayor	Jan 2020
Al Jones	Council Member	Resigned Sep 2018
Robert Harms (Appointed)	Council Member	Nov 2019
Joe Wessels	Council Member	Jan 2020
Judith Crawford	Council Member	Jan 2022
Patricia Daggs	Council Member	Jan 2022
Patrick Hurt	Mayor Pro Tem	Jan 2022
Kelly DeBerg	City Clerk	Indefinite
Michael A. Smith	Attorney	Indefinite



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Auditor of State's Independent Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

We performed the procedures below, which were established at Iowa Code Chapter 11.6, to provide oversight of Iowa cities. Accordingly, we have applied certain procedures to selected accounting records and related information of the City of Ackley for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, including procedures related to the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements identified below. The City of Ackley's management, which agreed to the performance of the procedures performed, is responsible for compliance with these requirements and for the City's records.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards for attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in the 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.

The procedures we performed are summarized as follows:

1. We observed selected City Council meeting minutes for compliance with Chapters 21, 372.13(6) and 380 of the Code of Iowa.
2. We obtained an understanding of the City's internal controls to determine if proper control procedures are in place and incompatible duties, from a control standpoint, are not performed by the same employee.
3. We observed surety bond coverage for compliance with Chapter 64 of the Code of Iowa.
4. We obtained and observed the City Clerk's financial reports and selected bank reconciliations to determine whether the bank balances properly reconciled to the general ledger account balances and monthly financial reports provided to the City Council.
5. We scanned City funds for consistency with the City Finance Committee's recommended Uniform Chart of Accounts (COA) and to determine required funds and fund balances are properly maintained and accurately accounted for.
6. We observed the City's fiscal year 2019 Annual Financial Report to determine whether it was completed and accurately reflects the City's financial information.
7. We scanned investments to determine compliance with Chapter 12B of the Code of Iowa.
8. We scanned depository resolutions, the City's investment policy and reporting of unclaimed property to the State of Iowa to determine compliance with Chapters 12C.2, 12B.10B and 556.1(12) of the Code of Iowa.

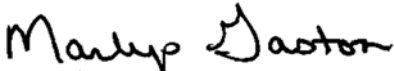
9. We scanned debt, including general obligation and revenue bonds/notes, and related transactions for proper authorization and compliance with Chapters 75, 384 and 403.9 of the Code of Iowa and to determine whether the debt and related proceeds and repayments were properly accounted for.
10. We scanned selected tax increment financing (TIF) transactions, including receipts, disbursements and transfers, for compliance and accurate accounting, including compliance with the TIF reporting requirements of Chapter 384.22 of the Code of Iowa.
11. We observed the City's TIF debt certification forms filed with the County Auditor, including requests for collection of reduced TIF amounts and to decertify certain TIF obligations, as applicable, for proper support and compliance with Chapter 403.19(6) of the Code of Iowa.
12. We traced selected receipts to accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA.
13. The City had no voter approved levies.
14. We traced selected disbursements to proper approval, adequate supporting documentation, accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA and compliance with the public purpose criteria established by Article III, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.
15. We traced transfers between funds to proper authorization and accurate accounting and determined whether transfers were proper.
16. We traced selected payroll and related transactions to proper authorization and accurate accounting and determined whether payroll was proper.
17. We observed the annual certified budget for proper authorization, certification and timely amendment.

Based on the performance of the procedures described above, we identified various findings and recommendations for the City. Our findings and recommendations are described in the Detailed Findings and Recommendations section of this report. Unless reported in the Detailed Findings and Recommendations, items of non-compliance were not noted during the performance of the specific procedures listed above.

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 specific accounting records and related information of the City, including compliance with specific Code of Iowa requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

The purpose of this report is to report, in accordance with Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa, certain agreed-upon procedures and the resulting findings and recommendations pertaining to selected accounting records and related information of the City, including the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements. This report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the City of Ackley during the course of our agreed-upon procedures engagement. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience.


Marlys K. Gaston, CPA
Deputy Auditor of State

February 18, 2020

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

City of Ackley

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

- (A) Segregation of Duties – Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control. A good system of internal control provides for adequate segregation of duties so no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to completion. In order to maintain proper internal control, duties should be segregated so the authorization, custody and recording of transactions are not under the control of the same employee. This segregation of duties helps prevent losses from employee error or dishonesty and maximizes the accuracy of the City’s financial statements. Generally, one individual has control over the receipts by opening mail, collecting, depositing and posting.

Recommendation – We realize segregation of duties is difficult with a limited number of employees. However, the City should review their control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff, including elected officials.

- (B) Petty Cash – The City Library has a petty cash fund which is not maintained on an imprest basis.

Recommendation – The City Library should maintain the petty cash fund on an imprest basis to provide additional control. An imprest system is one in which petty cash is maintained at a fixed, authorized amount and all distributions from the petty cash fund are supported/documented with a vendor receipt. Imprest systems improve the accountability for cash and enhance reconciliation of receipts and deposits. Also, surprise cash counts should be conducted by an independent person to ensure the accuracy of the petty cash fund balances.

- (C) Annual Urban Renewal Report – For the June 30, 2018 report, the City’s beginning and ending cash balances of the Special Revenue, Urban Renewal Tax Increment Fund reported on the Levy Authority Summary did not agree with the City’s records.

Recommendation – The City should ensure the cash balances reported on the Levy Authority Summary agree with the City’s records.

- (D) Journal Entries – Journal entries are not reviewed and approved by an independent person.

Recommendation – An independent person should review and approve journal entries. Approval should be documented by signing or initialing and dating the journal entries.

- (E) Certified Budget – Disbursements during the year ended June 30, 2019 exceeded the amounts budgeted in the public works function prior to the budget amendment. Chapter 384.20 of the Code of Iowa states, in part, “Public monies may not be expended or encumbered except under an annual or continuing appropriation.”

Recommendation – The budget should have been amended in accordance with Chapter 384.18 of the Code of Iowa before disbursements were allowed to exceed the budget.

City of Ackley

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

- (F) Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – Chapter 403.19(6)(a) of the Code of Iowa provides a municipality shall certify TIF indebtedness by December 1 to the County Auditor. Such certification makes it a duty of the County Auditor to provide for the division of property tax to repay the certified indebtedness. The City did not submit the TIF certification to the County by December 1.

Recommendation – The City should ensure TIF certifications are submitted to the County by December 1, as required.

- (G) Accounting Procedures Manual – The City does not have a current accounting policies and procedures manual.

Recommendation – An accounting policies and procedures manual should be developed to provide the following benefits:

- (1) Aid in training additional or replacement staff.
- (2) Help achieve uniformity in accounting and in the application of policies and procedures.
- (3) Save supervisory time by recording decisions so they will not have to be made each time the same, or a similar situation arises.

City of Ackley

Staff

This engagement was performed by:

Marlys K. Gaston, CPA, Deputy
Pamela J. Bormann, CPA, Manager
Matthew A. Miller, Staff Auditor
Nathan A. DeWit, Assistant Auditor