



**OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE  
STATE OF IOWA**

Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

State Capitol Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006

Telephone (515) 281-5834 Facsimile (515) 281-6518

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE

March 12, 2021

Contact: Ernest Ruben  
515/281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released an agreed-upon procedures report on the City of Massena, Iowa, for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa.

Sand reported ten findings related to the receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. They are found on pages 9 through 11 of this report. The findings address issues such as a lack of segregation of duties, the lack of utility system reconciliations, disbursements exceeding budgeted amounts, business transactions that may represent conflicts of interest, a deficit fund balance and transfers that were not approved by resolution. Sand provided the City with recommendations to address each of the findings.

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 MASSENA**  
**AUDITOR OF STATE'S INDEPENDENT REPORT**  
**ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**  
**FOR THE PERIOD**  
**JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020**

**City of Massena**



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February 23, 2021

Officials of the City of Massena  
Massena, 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 Massena, Iowa, for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. 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 Massena 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 Massena**

**Officials**

**(Before January 2020)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Phil Przychodzin	Mayor	Jan 2020
Micah Lee	Council Member	Jan 2020
Adam McCunn	Council Member	Jan 2020
Kevin McCunn	Council Member	Jan 2020
Jackson Bissell	Council Member	Jan 2022
Doug Venteicher	Council Member	Jan 2022
Shana Platt	City Clerk/Treasurer	Indefinite
Justin Hockenberry	City Attorney	Indefinite

**(After January 2020)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Phil Przychodzin	Mayor	Jan 2022
Jackson Bissell	Council Member	Jan 2022
Doug Venteicher	Council Member	Jan 2022
Micah Lee	Council Member	Jan 2024
Adam McCunn	Council Member	Jan 2024
Kevin McCunn	Council Member	Jan 2024
Shana Platt	City Clerk/Treasurer	Indefinite
Justin Hockenberry	City Attorney	Indefinite

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Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

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 Massena for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, including procedures related to the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements identified below. The City of Massena'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 2020 Annual Financial Report to determine whether it was completed and accurately reflects the City's financial information.
7. The city had no investments.
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. We traced voter approved levies to proper authorization in accordance with Chapter 384.12 of the Code of Iowa.
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 to determine 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 Massena 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.



Ernest H. Ruben, Jr., CPA  
Director

February 23, 2021

**Detailed Findings and Recommendations**

City of Massena

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

(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 each of the following areas for the City:

- (1) Cash – handling, reconciling and recording.
- (2) Debt – record keeping, compliance and debt payment processing.
- (3) Receipts – opening mail, collecting, depositing, recording, reconciling and posting.
- (4) Disbursements – access to credit card, purchasing, invoice processing, check writing, mailing, reconciling and recording.
- (5) Payroll – recordkeeping, preparing and distributing.
- (6) Utilities – billing, collecting, depositing and posting.

Recommendation – We realize segregation of duties is difficult with a limited number of employees. However, the City should review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff, including elected officials. Independent reviews of reconciliations should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

(B) Journal Entries – Journal entries were not reviewed and approved by an independent person.

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

(C) Reconciliation of Utility Billings, Collections and Delinquent Accounts – Utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts were not reconciled throughout the year and a delinquent account listing was not prepared monthly.

Recommendation – A listing of delinquent accounts should be prepared monthly. Procedures should be established to reconcile utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts for each billing period. The City Council or other independent person designated by the City Council should review the reconciliations and monitor delinquent accounts. The review should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

(D) Certified Budget – Disbursements during the year ended June 30, 2020 exceeded the amounts budgeted in the public works, culture and recreation, community and economic development, and capital project functions by \$12,166, \$238, \$14,834 and \$68,571, respectively. 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.”

City of Massena

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

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.

- (E) Business Transactions – Business transactions between the City and City officials or employees which may represent conflicts of interest are detailed as follows:

Name, Title and Business Connection	Transaction Description	Amount
Kevin McCunn, Council Member, Owner of AgriVision	Parts	\$ 5,925
Kevin McCunn and Adam McCunn, Council Members, Owners of Massena Development	Developer agreement	122,207

In accordance with Chapter 362.5(3)(j) of the Code of Iowa, the above transactions may represent a conflict of interest since total transactions were more than \$6,000 during the fiscal year and the transactions were not competitively bid.

Recommendation – The City should consult legal counsel to determine the disposition of this matter.

- (F) Deficit Fund Balance – At June 30, 2020 the City had a deficit balance of \$16,286 in the Special Revenue, Road Use Tax fund.

Recommendation – The City should investigate alternatives to eliminate this deficit to return the fund to a sound financial position.

- (G) Commercial/Industrial Replacement Tax – The City recorded commercial/industrial replacement tax as property tax rather than intergovernmental receipts per the Uniform Chart of Accounts (COA) recommended by the City Finance Committee.

Recommendation – The City should implement procedures to ensure all receipts are properly recorded.

- (H) Transfers – Rule 545-2.5 of the Iowa Administrative Code requires transfers be passed by resolution and include a clear statement of the reason or purpose for the transfer, the name of the affected funds and the dollar amount to be transferred. During the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, two transfers totaling \$252,548 were not approved by resolution as required.

Recommendation – The City should comply with Rule 545-2.5 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

City of Massena

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

- (I) Monthly City Clerk's Reports – Monthly City Clerk's reports, including a summary of receipts, disbursements and beginning and ending balances by fund, were not prepared and provided to the City Council for review and approval. In addition, the City Council was not provided a monthly comparison of actual disbursements to the certified budget by function.

Recommendation – Monthly City Clerk's reports, including a summary of receipts, disbursements and beginning and ending balances by fund, should be prepared and provided to the City Council for approval. To provide better control over budgeted disbursements and the opportunity for timely amendment to the certified budget, the City Clerk's monthly financial reports to the City Council should include comparisons of actual disbursements to the certified budget by function.

- (J) Investments and Deposits – The City has not adopted a written investment policy as required by Chapter 12B.10B of the Code of Iowa. Although, a resolution naming official depositories was adopted by the City Council, the maximum approved amount was exceeded by \$156,796 during the fiscal year.

Recommendation – The City should adopt a written investment policy which complies with the provisions of Chapter 12B.10B of the Code of Iowa. The City Council, by resolution, should approve amounts sufficient to cover anticipated balances at all approved depositories as required by Chapter 12C.2 of the Code of Iowa.

City of Massena

Staff

This engagement was performed by:

Ernest H. Ruben, Jr., CPA, Director  
Ryan J. Pithan, CPA, Manager  
Corey D. Hauptmann, Staff Auditor  
Sarah B. Roemer, Assistant Auditor