



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Charlie Janssen
State Auditor

Charlie.Janssen@nebraska.gov
PO Box 98917
State Capitol, Suite 2303
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301
auditors.nebraska.gov

March 1, 2021

Scott Stupka, Chairperson
Village of Anselmo
P.O. Box 68
Anselmo, NE 68813

Dear Chairperson Stupka:

The Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) has reviewed the audit waiver request received from the Village of Anselmo (Village) for the fiscal year ending 2020. **That request has been approved.**

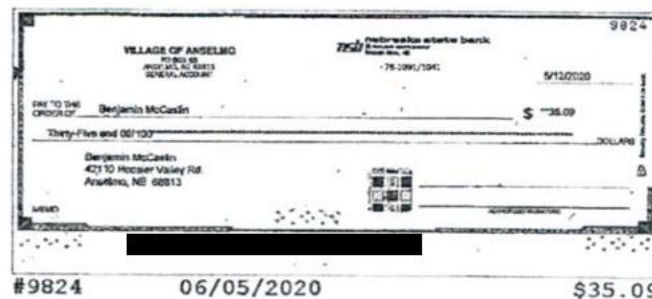
While performing, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 (Cum. Supp. 2020), the preliminary examination necessary to determine whether the audit waiver should be allowed or further audit work would be required, the APA noted certain internal control or compliance matters, or other operational issues, within the Village.

The following information is intended to improve internal controls or result in other operational efficiencies.

Comments and Recommendations

1. Lack of Dual Signatures

The APA obtained the bank statements for the Village's accounts from its fiscal year 2020 audit waiver request. From these statements, the APA noted that one of the Village checks written during the examination period contained no signatures, as shown below.



State statute requires Village checks to be signed by both the Board Chairperson and the Village Clerk. Specifically, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 17-711 (Cum. Supp. 2020) provides the following:

All warrants drawn upon the city treasurer of a city of the second class or village treasurer must be signed by the mayor or chairperson of the village board of trustees and countersigned by the city clerk or village clerk, stating the particular fund to which the same is chargeable, the person to whom payable, and for what particular object. No money shall be otherwise paid than upon such warrants so drawn. Each warrant shall specify the amount included in the adopted budget statement for such fund upon which it is drawn and the amount already expended of such fund.

Good internal control and sound accounting practices require procedures to ensure that Village checks contain the statutorily required endorsements. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk of not only failure to comply with State statute but also the loss and/or misuse of Village funds.

We recommend the Board implement procedures to require dual signatures, from the Board Chairperson and the Village Clerk, on all Village checks, as required by law.

2. Lack of Claim Purpose

During our comparison of the Village's bank account details to claims approved by the Board, the APA noted that four claims, totaling \$977.50, listed in the Board's official proceedings lacked descriptions of their respective purposes.

The following is an example of the approved claims listing provided by the Village for January 14, 2020:

AMGL \$3500.00 (audit wvr), J&J \$1415.69 (Gbg.), CPPD \$63.88 (Swr. elec.) \$1001.40 (elec.), USDA wtr. emerg. Res. \$120.00, USDA Wtr. Asset Mgmt. \$560.00, Street Res. \$200.00, Ne. Dept. of Rev. \$2751.28 (sales tax) \$729.25 (empl. Tax), US Treasury \$1081.35 (941 4 th Q), \$165.66 (2019 940), Rehab Repay \$97.50, Sewer Reserve \$148.00 (May) \$90.00 (June), \$128.00 (July), Vlg. Sewer Acct. \$1104.50 (May),

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 19-1102 (Cum. Supp. 2020) requires publication of the Board's official proceedings, which must include, among other things, the purpose of each claim allowed, as follows:

It shall be the duty of each city clerk or village clerk in every city or village having a population of not more than one hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified count by the United States Bureau of the Census to prepare and publish the official proceedings of the city council or village board of trustees within thirty days after any meeting of the city council or village board of trustees. The publication shall be in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in the city or village, shall set forth a statement of the proceedings of the meeting, and shall also include the amount of each claim allowed, the purpose of the claim, and the name of the claimant, except that the aggregate amount of all payroll claims may be included as one item. Between July 15 and August 15 of each year, the employee job titles and the current annual, monthly, or hourly salaries corresponding to such job titles shall be published. Each job title published shall be descriptive and indicative of the duties and functions of the position. The charge for the publication shall not exceed the rates provided for in section 23-122.

(Emphasis added.) Good internal control and sound accounting practices require procedures to ensure that the Board's official proceedings describe the purpose of each claim allowed. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk of not only failure to comply with statutory publication requirements but also a lack of transparency regarding the nature of public expenditures.

A similar issue was identified by the APA in a prior review and was disclosed to the Village in the APA's letter dated August 15, 2019, which can be found on the APA's website.

We recommend the Board implement procedures to ensure the purpose of each claim allowed is included in the Board's official proceedings and published in accordance with State statute.

3. Payment of Claims Prior to Board Approval

During our comparison of the Village's bank account details to claims approved by the Board, the APA noted that the following checks, totaling \$28,958.27, were issued before the underlying claims were approved by the Board.

The table below provides a summary of the premature payments:

Approval Date	Name/Vendor	Amount	Check #	Check Written	Days Paid Before Approval
1/14/2020	Dan Burnett	\$ 180.17	9727	12/31/2019	14
1/14/2020	Tanyor Gilligan	\$ 138.52	9723	12/31/2019	14
1/14/2020	Ryan Miller	\$ 207.79	9724	12/31/2019	14
1/14/2020	Maxine Taul	\$ 138.52	9725	12/31/2019	14
1/14/2020	Scott Stupka	\$ 306.79	9726	12/31/2019	14
1/14/2020	Ivan Phelps	\$ 183.19	9756	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Candance Thompson	\$ 58.45	9743	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Tammy Burnett	\$ 766.35	9744	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	CC Chief	\$ 59.99	9736	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	NE Pub Health Lab	\$ 15.00	9737	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Cons.	\$ 150.54	9738	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	LARM	\$ 8,176.39	9739	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	AMGL	\$ 3,500.00	9740	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	J&J	\$ 1,415.69	9741	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	CPPD	\$ 63.88	1416	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	CPPD	\$ 1,001.40	9742	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	USDA wr. Emerg. Res.	\$ 120.00	9729	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	USDA Wtr. Asset Mgmt	\$ 560.00	9730	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Street Res.	\$ 200.00	9731	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	NE Dept. of Revenue	\$ 2,751.28	9734	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	NE Dept. of Revenue	\$ 729.25	9733	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	US Treasury	\$ 1,081.35	9735	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	US Treasury	\$ 165.66	9732	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Rehab Repay	\$ 97.50	9754	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Sewer Reserve	\$ 148.00	9753	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Sewer Reserve	\$ 90.00	9751	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Sewer Reserve	\$ 128.00	9747	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Vig. Sewer Acct	\$ 1,104.50	9755	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Vig. Sewer Acct	\$ 628.50	9748	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Vig. Sewer Acct	\$ 976.22	9749	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Vig. Sewer Acct	\$ 1,019.34	9745	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Water Res.	\$ 1,092.00	9752	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Water Res.	\$ 708.00	9750	1/13/2020	1
1/14/2020	Water Res.	\$ 996.00	9746	1/13/2020	1
Total		\$ 28,958.27			

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 17-614(1) (Cum. Supp. 2020) sets out the proper method for the appropriation or payment of money by the Village, as follows:

All ordinances and resolutions or orders for the appropriation or payment of money shall require for their passage or adoption the concurrence of a majority of all members elected to the city council in a city of the second class or village board of trustees

(Emphasis added.) Good internal control requires procedures to ensure that all claims are approved by the Board prior to payment and are adequately documented in the meeting minutes of the month in which they are approved. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk for the loss or misuse of Village funds.

A similar issue was identified by the APA in a prior review and was disclosed to the Village in the APA's letter dated August 15, 2019, which can be found on the APA's website.

We recommend the Board implement procedures to ensure all claims are approved by the Board prior to payment and are adequately documented in the meeting minutes of the month in which they are approved.

* * * * *

The preliminary planning work that resulted in this letter was designed primarily on a test basis and, therefore, may not bring to light all existing weaknesses in the Village's policies or procedures. Nevertheless, our objective is to use the knowledge gained during the performance of that preliminary planning work to make comments and suggestions that we hope will prove useful to the Village.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Village and its management. It is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties. However, this letter is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

If you have any questions, please contact **Dakota Christensen** at **402-499-8702** or **dakota.christensen@nebraska.gov**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Avery", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Avery, CPA
Assistant Deputy Auditor