



## NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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Mike Foley  
State Auditor

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October 27, 2023

Matt Giessellmann, Chairperson  
Everett Township Dodge County  
2195 North Broad St.  
Fremont, NE 68025

Dear Chairperson Giessellmann:

The Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) has reviewed the audit waiver request received from the Everett Township Dodge County (Township) for the fiscal year ending 2023. **That request has been approved.**

While performing, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 (Supp. 2023), the preliminary examination necessary to determine whether further audit work would be required or the audit waiver should be allowed, the APA noted certain internal control or compliance matters, or other operational issues, within the Township.

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

### **Comment and Recommendation**

#### **Payment of Claims Prior to Board Approval**

During our comparison of the Township's bank account details to claims approved by the Board, the APA noted that all Township checks were issued before the underlying claims were approved by the Board.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-255 (Reissue 2022) requires the Township Board to approve claims against the Township, as follows:

*All claims and charges against the town, duly audited and allowed by the town board, shall be paid by order so drawn.*

(Emphasis added.) Properly discharging the above statutory duty necessarily entails the Board's approval of all expenditures of Township funds prior to the actual disbursement.

Furthermore, good internal control requires procedures to ensure that all claims are approved by the Board prior to payment and are adequately documented in the minutes of the meeting during which they are approved.

Without such procedures, there is an increased risk for the loss or misuse of Township funds.

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

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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 Township'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 Township.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Township 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