



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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November 2, 2023

Russel Stockamp, Chairperson
Pebble Township Dodge County
1124 County Road G
Scribner, NE 68057

Dear Chairperson Stockamp:

The Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) has reviewed the audit waiver request received from the Pebble 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 the following checks, totaling \$3,120, were issued before the underlying claims were approved by the Board.

Approval Date	Name/Vendor	Amount	Check #	Check Date	Days Paid Before Approval
6/26/2023	Payroll	\$ 1,040	3906	3/30/2023	88
6/26/2023	Payroll	1,040	3911	4/29/2023	58
6/26/2023	Payroll	1,040	3912	5/30/2023	27
Total		\$ 3,120			

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.

A similar issue was identified by the APA in a prior review and was disclosed to the Township in the APA's letter dated December 28, 2022, which can be found on the APA's website. However, this issue does not appear to have been corrected after the APA's notification.

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