



# NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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January 22, 2024

Terry Pinkelman, Chairperson  
Village of Wynot  
P.O. Box 61  
Wynot, NE 68792

Dear Chairperson Pinkelman:

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

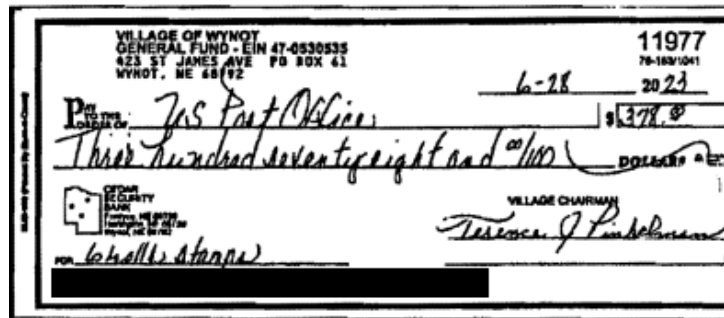
While performing, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 (Supp. 2023), the preliminary examination necessary to determine whether the audit waiver should be allowed or further audit work would be required, the APA noted certain internal control or compliance matters, or other operational issues, within 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 2023 audit waiver request. From these statements, the APA noted that six of the Village checks written during the examination period contained only one signature. An example of such checks is shown below.



State statute requires Village checks to be signed by both the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (Board) and the Village Clerk. Specifically, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 17-711 (Reissue 2022) 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.*

(Emphasis added.) 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 for not only failure to comply with State statute but also 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. Payment of Unapproved Claims**

During our comparison of the Village’s bank account details to claims approved by the Board, the APA identified multiple checks, totaling \$5,341.77, which were paid but not included on the claims listing to be approved by the Board. Details of the unapproved payments are included in the table below:

<b>Name/Vendor</b>	<b>Check Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Check #</b>
Charles Burbach	4/10/23	\$ 108.00	11880
James Haas	4/10/23	156.72	11881
Kyle Heimes	4/10/23	119.13	11882
Melvin Heimes	4/10/23	295.05	11883
Ryan Heimes	4/10/23	324.62	11884
Dave Koch	4/10/23	32.32	11885
Kathy Promes	4/10/23	552.55	11886
Crystal Lenzen	4/10/23	661.72	11887
Jim Haas	4/24/23	83.11	11905
Melvin Heimes	4/24/23	365.71	11907
Terry Pinkelman	4/24/23	548.29	11910
IRS	4/10/23	244.80	ACH
Payment to Loan #269	4/17/23	834.18	ACH
IRS	4/17/23	865.76	ACH
Nebraska Department of Revenue	4/24/23	149.81	ACH
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 5,341.77</b>	

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 17-614(1)(a) (Supp. 2023) 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 authorized 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 February 23, 2023, which can be found on the APA’s website. However, it does not appear this issue was corrected after the APA’s notification.

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