



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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October 24, 2025

Steve Breunig, Chairperson
Chapman Township Saunders County
2291 County Road I
Weston, NE 68070

Dear Chairperson Breunig:

The Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) has reviewed the audit waiver request received from the Chapman Township Saunders County (Township) for the fiscal year ending 2025. **That request has been approved.**

However, the Township's amount of disbursements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, exceeded our normal threshold (\$500,000) for granting a waiver of the audit requirement. Disbursements for the fiscal year ended 2025 totaled \$542,101, which exceeds the normal audit waiver threshold. Due to the Township's submission of supporting documentation for one-time, low risk expenditures, that accounted for a significant percentage of the current year's expenditures, we were able to consider for this year, the Township's activity to be low enough to grant the audit waiver request.

However, if the June 30, 2026, fiscal year end disbursements are similar to or greater than the fiscal year 2025's expenditures, an audit of fiscal year end June 30, 2026, may be required. This information is only for your consideration of planning for fiscal year 2026 and forward.

While performing, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 (Supp. 2025), 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.

Comments and Recommendations

1. Expenditures in Excess of Budget

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, actual expenditures exceeded the Township's adopted budget by \$268,426. No amendment was filed with our office for these additional expenditures.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-510 (Reissue 2022) states, in relevant part, the following:

No expenditure during any fiscal year or biennial period shall be made in excess of the amounts indicated in the adopted budget statement, except as authorized in section 13-511, or by state law. Any officer or officers of any governing body who obligates funds contrary to the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class V misdemeanor.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-511 (Reissue 2022) sets out the procedures for amending the adopted budget accordingly.

When expenditures are made in excess of the amounts budgeted with no appropriation adjustments by the Township Board (Board) to address those excesses, the Township is noncompliant with State statute, further increasing the risk for loss and/or misuse of funds.

We recommend the Board implement procedures for: 1) monitoring closely its budget status on an ongoing basis to avoid expenditures that exceed the amount budgeted; and 2) amending the budget as required when such excess expenditures are unavoidable.

2. Payment Not Approved

The APA obtained a copy of the March 18, 2025, meeting minutes for the Township Board (Board). Those minutes reflect the Board's approval of Township expenditures; however, an electronic payment to ADP Tax, totaling \$279, was not included as being approved by the Board. This payment cleared the Township's bank account on March 25, 2025.

Nebraska law requires the Board to approve all claims against the Township. In particular, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-255 (Reissue 2022) states the following, in relevant part:

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 duties necessarily entails the Board's approval of all expenditures of Township funds prior to their actual disbursement.

As a public body, moreover, the Board is subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, which is set out at Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-1407 to 84-1414 (Reissue 2024; Supp. 2025). Per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1413(1) (Reissue 2024) public bodies, including the Board, are required to "keep minutes of all meetings," showing, among other things, "the substance of all matters discussed."

Furthermore, a good internal control plan and sound business practices require procedures to ensure that the Board approves all expenditures and business transactions of the Township prior to payment. Those same procedures should ensure also that the Board documents such approval in its meeting minutes, specifying the name of each payee, the exact amount of any disbursement, and the specific purpose of the payment.

Without such procedures, there is an increased risk for not only failure to comply with State statute but also loss or misuse of public funds.

We recommend the implementation of procedures to ensure the Board approves all expenditures of Township funds prior to payment, and such approval is documented adequately in the Board's meeting minutes.

3. Payment of Claim 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 check, totaling \$846, was issued before the underlying claim was approved by the Board.

Approval Date	Name/Vendor	Amount	Check #	Check Date	Days Paid Before Approval
3/18/2025	Frontier Cooperative	\$ 846	2219	3/10/2025	7

Nebraska law requires the Board to approve all claims against the Township. In particular, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-255 (Reissue 2022) states the following, in relevant part:

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 their 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 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