

TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA

March 1, 2023

Dear Town of Alexandria Board Members

The purpose of the annual audit is for the Town Board to exercise their responsibility for the general management and control of the Town's finances. Financial procedures reviewed were:

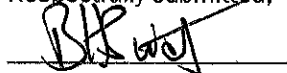
- 1) Financial records are complete and up to date.
- 2) Transactions are recorded properly.
- 3) Account reconciliations are completed monthly and reviewed by another Town employee.
- 4) Required reports are completed timely and accurately.
- 5) Comparison to previous years records with no issues to report currently.

As requested, we reviewed the accounting records of the Town of Alexandria Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Town Tax Collector with the assistance of Bill Dashnaw. We found the receivables deposited in a timely manner and the disbursements recorded as required. Bank reconciliations were completed on a timely basis.

Based on our review, the Town records are complete, and reporting done as required.

We thank the Town Employees for their cooperation with this task.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent Sweet

Town of Alexandria Supervisor



Bill Dashnaw

Financial Consultant

Appendix C – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Chief Fiscal Officers

Adequate accounting records and effective procedures need to be in place to properly account for and report financial activities of the local government or school district. Although most local governments and school districts maintain their accounting records electronically, the requirements are the same. Governing boards should familiarize themselves with the chief fiscal officer's recordkeeping system, whether maintained manually or electronically, before attempting to review the records. Some basic and essential record keeping and reporting requirements include the following:

1. Maintain official bank accounts in designated depositories.
2. Deposit moneys received into an official bank account and properly secure those moneys.
3. Moneys received should be deposited timely. Moneys received may be required by statute or local legislation to be deposited within a given number of days after receipt.
4. Disburse moneys, by check or electronic funds transfer, throughout the year. Most payments are made for salaries and wages of municipal officers and employees (based on certified payrolls) and for contractual expenses.
5. Maintain accurate and complete accounting records to record moneys received and disbursed. Accounting records are required to be kept on a fund basis.
6. Maintain separate appropriation accounts for every appropriation.
7. Prepare and provide interim reports to the governing board.
8. Prepare in a timely manner the annual financial report, which shows the summary of the prior year fiscal activity and the results of operations for that year. The report is filed with OSC and generally with the municipal clerk.
9. Reconcile cash, receivables, and other control accounts. Reconciliations of cash in the bank to recorded cash balances, and of detailed receivables or other subsidiary accounts to related control accounts, should be made periodically (monthly is recommended) and on a timely basis.

Appendix C – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Chief Fiscal Officers continued

Checklist for Review of Chief Fiscal Officer's Records

Determine the types of funds in use, and whether separate cash receipts and disbursements books are maintained for the various funds or whether a single cash receipts and single cash disbursements book is maintained. The following checklist can be used for each fund maintained.

<u>Cash Receipts</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the cash receipts journal up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash receipts journal maintained in a manner that identifies the date received, payer, purpose and the amount either individually or totals referenced to subsidiary receipt records (e.g., water rents receipts register)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are un-deposited cash receipts safeguarded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are duplicate deposit slips kept?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do deposit amounts agree with cash receipt amounts?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are deposits made timely and recorded up-to-date? <i>Last Recorded Deposit: Date <u>2/15/23</u> Amount <u>\$489.00</u></i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash receipts journal totaled and summarized monthly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the cash disbursements journal up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash disbursements journal maintained in a manner to identify amounts disbursed either individually or totals referenced to abstracts or payrolls?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pre-numbered checks used for all disbursements (other than petty cash)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all checks signed by the chief fiscal officer and <u>co-signed if required</u> ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If checks are signed electronically, is the signature stamp or software in the custody and control of the chief fiscal officer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are canceled checks or check images returned with bank statements and maintained on file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all unused checks properly controlled (blank check stock)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are checks recorded up-to-date? <i>Last Recorded Check: # <u>42755</u> Date <u>2/16/23</u> Amount <u>\$771.53</u></i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash disbursements journal totaled and summarized monthly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are payments supported by appropriate documentation? Consider comparing a sample of disbursements with supporting documentation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

N/A

Appendix C – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Chief Fiscal Officers continued

<u>Cash Reconciliations</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Are bank accounts reconciled? By Whom? <u>Bookkeeper</u> How Often? <u>Monthly</u> Who Reviews/Verifies Them? <u>Mike Lesson - CPA</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the bank reconciliation performed by a person whose job duties do not include maintaining either the cash receipts or disbursements journals or receiving or disbursing cash?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the bank reconciliation performed timely after the bank statement is received?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Last Bank Reconciliation for Each Bank Account</u>		
<u>Bank Account</u>	<u>Date Performed</u>	<u>Month Ending</u>
<u>0002</u>	<u>2/9/23</u>	<u>Dec-2022</u>
<u>0094</u>	<u>2/10/23</u>	<u>Jan-2023</u>
<u>0089</u>	<u>2/10/23</u>	<u>Jan-2023</u>
Are reconciliations documented and available for review?		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the reconciled bank balance agree with the cash balance recorded in the accounting records?		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Receivables</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Are receivable control accounts maintained?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there indication that the receivable control accounts are reconciled to the detail subsidiary records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Investment Records</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is an investment record maintained?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the record complete and up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Deposit Protection</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Has the bank pledged adequate, eligible securities to protect deposits and investments (under the custody of the chief fiscal officer) that exceed FDIC insurance protection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix C – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Chief Fiscal Officers continued

Indebtedness Records <i>(This record is maintained by the clerk in certain local governments)</i>	YES	NO
Is an indebtedness register maintained?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the register complete and up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Property Records	YES	NO
Are property records maintained?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the records up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all fixed assets included in the records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are physical inventories taken and compared to the records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Financial Reporting	YES	NO
Are interim reports (budget/actual; trial balances; etc.) prepared?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the reports distributed to the governing board and department heads?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does total year-end recorded cash agree with that reported in the annual financial report?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Payrolls	YES	NO
Are payrolls certified/approved by the appropriate official?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pay rates in accordance with collective bargaining agreements and other lawful employment contracts, or board resolutions?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is leave time accounted for?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments and Conclusions

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks

Adequate accounting records and effective procedures should be in place to account for and report town clerk financial activities properly. Some basic and essential recordkeeping and reporting procedures include the following:

1. Maintain a cashbook, which chronologically identifies all receipts and disbursements.
2. Make all disbursements by check, except as otherwise authorized by law, such as authorized petty cash disbursements.
3. Maintain official bank accounts in designated depositories.
4. Deposit all moneys received to official bank account no later than the third business day after \$250 has been collected (Town Law Section 30 [1-a]).
5. Perform a monthly reconciliation of cash with amount in the bank and related liabilities.
6. Prepare monthly reports and remit collections to the supervisor and agencies on a timely basis:
 - To the Town Supervisor – for fees and other moneys collected belonging to the town no later than the fifteenth day of each month following receipt (Town Law Section 27[1]).
 - To the New York State Department of Health – for marriage license fees on or before the fifteenth day of each month (Domestic Relations Law Section 15[3]).
 - To the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets – Dog Licensing Unit and County Treasurer – for dog license fees on or before the fifth day of each month (Agriculture and Markets Law Section 111[1]).
 - To the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – for conservation (hunting/fishing) license fees as applicable via the DEC's automated system (Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-0713; 6 NYCRR Section 177.4).

The town clerk of certain towns may also serve as the tax-collecting officer (see Town Law Section 36). As collecting officer, the town clerk generally would be responsible for collecting both town real property taxes and county real property taxes that are levied within the town. A portion of the taxes collected (the amount levied by the town) is remitted to the town supervisor, and any residual amount is paid to the county treasurer (see Town Law Section 35). Because of some unique or additional legal requirements pertaining to tax collecting officers, a separate audit checklist has been developed for this portion of the clerk's functions.

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks continued

Checklist for Review of Town Clerk's Records

<u>Cash Receipts</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the cash receipts journal up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash receipts journal maintained in a manner that identifies the date received, payer, purpose, and the amount either individually or totals referenced to subsidiary receipt records (e.g., water rents receipts register)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are un-deposited cash receipts safeguarded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are duplicate deposit slips kept?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do deposit amounts agree with cash receipt amounts?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are deposits made timely (no later than the third business day after \$250 has been collected) and recorded up-to-date? <i>Last Recorded Deposit: Date <u>2/14/23</u> Amount <u>\$10.00</u></i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash receipts journal totaled and summarized monthly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the cash disbursements journal up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash disbursements journal maintained in a manner to identify amounts disbursed either individually or totals referenced to abstracts or payrolls?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pre-numbered checks used for all disbursements made by check?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all checks signed by the town clerk?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are canceled checks or check images returned with bank statements and maintained on file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all unused checks properly controlled (blank check stock)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are checks recorded up-to-date? <i>Last Recorded Check: # <u>1546</u> Date <u>2/2/23</u> Amount <u>\$175.96</u></i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks continued

<u>Cash Reconciliations</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Are bank accounts reconciled? By Whom? <u>Town Clerk</u> How Often? <u>Monthly</u> Who Reviews/Verifies Them? <u>Deputy Clerk</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the bank reconciliation performed timely after the bank statement is received?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Last Bank Reconciliation for Each Bank Account</u>		
<u>Bank Account</u>	<u>Date Performed</u>	<u>Month Ending</u>
<u>0111</u>	<u>2/7/2023</u>	<u>Jan 2023</u>
Are reconciliations documented and available for review?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the reconciled bank balance agree with the cash balance recorded in the accounting records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Deposit Protection</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Has the bank pledged adequate, eligible securities to protect town clerk deposits that exceed FDIC insurance, if applicable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Accountability</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is accountability (what the town clerk owes) determined at the end of each month?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the accountability amount agree with the bank reconciliation and supporting records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are unissued licenses and permits (e.g., dog licenses) safeguarded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are revenues from town clerk fees comparable with those of previous years?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Financial Reporting</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Are monthly reports and payments made timely to the supervisor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are monthly reports and payments made timely to other agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do reported amounts on monthly reports agree with cash receipts and disbursements books?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks continued

Receivables <i>(if applicable, such as water rents)</i>	YES	NO
Are receivable control accounts maintained?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there indication that the receivable control accounts are reconciled to the detail subsidiary records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments and Conclusions

Appendix E – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Tax Collecting Officers

In order to accomplish their responsibilities and properly account for tax collections, collectors and receivers of taxes and assessments should, and in some cases must, comply with the following:

1. Maintain tax warrants, tax rolls, tax bills (statement of taxes due), and other documents relating to tax accounts.
2. Maintain a cashbook, which chronologically identifies all receipts and disbursements.
3. Maintain official bank accounts in designated depositories.
4. Issue acceptable receipt forms to acknowledge all moneys collected (tax bill and tax receipts are generally one document).
5. Deposit all moneys received in a timely manner.
For Towns Only: Deposit to the appropriate bank account(s) within 24 hours of collection.
6. Make all disbursements by check except for authorized petty cash payments.
7. **For Towns Only:** Generally, remit tax collections to the supervisor at least once a week until payment in full of all moneys payable to him/her pursuant to the warrant have been made.
8. **For Towns Only:** After payment to the supervisor in full of all moneys payable to him/her pursuant to the warrant, remit additional tax collections, if any, to the county treasurer by the 15th day of the month following collection.
9. Prepare a list of unpaid taxes at expiration of the warrant, and complete settlement with the county treasurer, if applicable.

(See, generally, Town Law Section 35, pertaining to the powers and duties of collectors, and Town Law Section 37, pertaining to the powers and duties of receivers of taxes and assessments.)

An Important Initial Step in the Audit Process for Tax Collectors and Receivers

Following the tax collection period, the tax collector or receiver is required to account for or settle up real property taxes that the collector or receiver was responsible for collecting. The accounting is made to the county treasurer, and is considered an important and integral part of any audit and/or oversight process.

Before the town board audits the records of the tax collector or receiver, a copy of the settlement sheet should be obtained and reviewed. If necessary, inquiry should be made with the county treasurer to find out if there were any known problems or concerns with the collector's or receiver's records or accounting at the time of settlement.

Note: An audit of the tax collector or receiver could be done any time after settlement with the county treasurer. Once the collector or receiver has settled with the county, there should be no further activity and the bank account balance should be zero (unless the bank, at the time of opening the account, required a minimum amount to be held in the account).

Appendix E – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Tax Collecting Officers continued

Checklist for Review of Tax Collecting Officer's Records

<u>Settlement</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is a copy of the collector's or receiver's settlement sheet available?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have all settlement issues/concerns been adequately resolved?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the bank account reconciled after bank statements are received?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Last Bank Reconciliation for Each Bank Account:</i>		
<i>Date Performed <u>2/4/23</u> Month Ending <u>Jan 2023</u></i>		
Note: Tax collector's bank account balance should be \$0.00 at the beginning of the collection period	<i>\$1.00</i>	

<u>Cash Receipts</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the cash receipts journal maintained in a manner sufficient to identify the date received, payer, tax account number, tax amount, interest amount and other appropriate information?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are deposits identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are duplicate deposit slips kept?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do deposit amounts agree with cash receipt amounts?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are bank deposits timely or (for towns) within 24 hours of collection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Are pre-numbered checks used for all disbursements other than petty cash?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all checks signed by the tax collector or receiver?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are canceled checks or check images returned with bank statements and maintained on file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Deposit Protection</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Has the bank pledged adequate, eligible securities to protect tax collector deposits that exceed FDIC insurance protection, when applicable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix E – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Tax Collecting Officers continued

Financial Reporting	YES	NO
Are payments made at least weekly to the supervisor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are receipt forms issued by the supervisor to acknowledge collection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are payments made timely to the county treasurer?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Accountability	YES	NO
Are penalties assessed/collected on late payments?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the total amount of penalties collected on overdue real property taxes comparable with that collected in previous year(s)? Do the amounts look reasonable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the tax collector or receiver treating his/her own tax bills properly, e.g., penalties, if required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are interest earnings remitted to the supervisor and/or the county as appropriate? (Check county resolution for guidance.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there significant safeguards for the protection of assets and cash, such as a safe or locked file cabinet, offices with locks on the door, regular deposits of cash, etc.?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments and Conclusions
