

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
FORMER OWSLEY COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2017 TAXES**

**For The Period
April 18, 2017 Through April 16, 2018**



**MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
www.auditor.ky.gov**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE 502.564.5841
FACSIMILE 502.564.2912**

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary, Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Cale Turner, Owsley County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Kelly Shouse, Former Owsley County Sheriff
The Honorable Brent Lynch, Owsley County Sheriff
Members of the Owsley County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the former Owsley County Sheriff's Settlement - 2017 Taxes for the period April 18, 2017 through April 16, 2018 - Regulatory Basis, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting as described in Note 1. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements*, issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary, Finance and Administration Cabinet
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The Honorable Kelly Shouse, Former Owsley County Sheriff
The Honorable Brent Lynch, Owsley County Sheriff
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Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the former Owsley County Sheriff on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the taxes charged, credited, and paid of the former Owsley County Sheriff, for the period April 18, 2017 through April 16, 2018.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period April 18, 2017 through April 16, 2018 of the former Owsley County Sheriff, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 7, 2019, on our consideration of the former Owsley County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the former Owsley County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Cale Turner, Owsley County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Kelly Shouse, Former Owsley County Sheriff
The Honorable Brent Lynch, Owsley County Sheriff
Members of the Owsley County Fiscal Court

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards* (Continued)

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

2017-001 The Former Owsley County Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Harmon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

March 7, 2019

OWSLEY COUNTY
KELLY SHOUSE, FORMER SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2017 TAXES

For The Period April 18, 2017 Through April 16, 2018

<u>Charges</u>	Special			
	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 129,089	\$ 477,996	\$ 398,928	\$ 101,606
Tangible Personal Property	5,637	25,389	16,876	13,283
Fire Protection	1,533			
Franchise Taxes - Billed	19,759	71,373	59,142	
Franchise Taxes - Unbilled	1,868	6,635	5,594	
Unmined Coal - 2017 Taxes	635	2,173	1,961	500
Gas Property Taxes - 2015, 2016, 2017	289	958	896	238
Penalties	1,145	4,496	3,505	895
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	(57)	(12)	(6)	(5)
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>159,898</u>	<u>589,008</u>	<u>486,896</u>	<u>116,517</u>
 <u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	1,694	6,064	5,227	1,507
Discounts	1,847	6,810	5,631	1,498
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	9,534	33,389	29,067	7,403
Franchise Taxes	53	273	152	
Franchise Taxes - Unbilled	<u>1,868</u>	<u>6,635</u>	<u>5,594</u>	
Total Credits	<u>14,996</u>	<u>53,171</u>	<u>45,671</u>	<u>10,408</u>
Taxes Collected	144,902	535,837	441,225	106,109
Less: Commissions *	<u>6,158</u>	<u>22,773</u>	<u>17,649</u>	<u>4,510</u>
Taxes Due	138,744	513,064	423,576	101,599
Taxes Paid	138,458	512,123	422,719	101,369
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>286</u>	<u>941</u>	<u>857</u>	<u>230</u>
Due Districts as of Completion of Audit	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

* Commissions:

4.25% on	\$	786,848
4% on	\$	441,225

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

OWSLEY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 16, 2018

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the sheriff's office to invest in obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The former Owsley County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the FDIC as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240, the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The former sheriff did not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather followed the requirements of KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240. As of April 16, 2018, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement. However, as of November 8, 2017, public funds were exposed to custodial credit risk because the bank did not adequately collateralize the former sheriff's deposits in accordance with the security agreement.

- Uncollateralized and Uninsured \$616,018

OWSLEY COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 April 16, 2018
 (Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2017. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 29, 2017 through April 16, 2018.

B. Gas Property Taxes

The gas property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2017. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was November 15, 2017 through May 15, 2018.

C. Unmined Coal Property Taxes

The unmined coal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2017. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was February 21, 2018 through August 15, 2018.

D. Franchise Taxes

The franchise tax assessments were levied by the Department of Revenue for various tax years. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018.

Note 4. Interest Income

The former Owsley County Sheriff earned \$57 as interest income on 2017 taxes. The former sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder was used to operate the former sheriff's office.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The former Owsley County Sheriff collected \$9,433 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). This amount was used to operate the former sheriff's office.

Note 6. Unrefundable Duplicate Payments And Unexplained Receipts

The former sheriff deposited unrefundable duplicate payments and unexplained receipts in an interest-bearing account. The former sheriff's escrowed amounts were as follows:

2016	\$112
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KRS 393.090 states that if the funds have not been claimed after three years, they are presumed abandoned. Abandoned funds are required to be sent to the Kentucky State Treasurer pursuant to KRS 393.110 and its accompanying regulations.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Cale Turner, Owsley County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Kelly Shouse, Former Owsley County Sheriff
The Honorable Brent Lynch, Owsley County Sheriff
Members of the Owsley County Fiscal Court

**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the former Owsley County Sheriff's Settlement - 2017 Taxes for the period April 18, 2017 through April 16, 2018 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated March 7, 2019. The former Owsley County Sheriff's financial statement is prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the former Owsley County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the former Owsley County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the former Owsley County Sheriff's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2017-001 to be a material weakness.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the former Owsley County Sheriff's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Harmon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

March 7, 2019

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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OWSLEY COUNTY
KELLY SHOUSE, FORMER SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Period April 18, 2017 Through April 16, 2018

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

2017-001 The Former Owsley County Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2016-001. The former sheriff's office lacked adequate segregation of duties. The former sheriff's bookkeeper maintained receipts and disbursements ledgers, deposited the collections, collected funds from customers, prepared bank reconciliations, and prepared payments to taxing districts.

According to the former sheriff, due to his limited number of office personnel, he could not segregate the duties over receipts, disbursements, and reconciliations. Since only one person performed these functions, there was limited assurance that financial transactions were accurate, complete, and free of errors or misstatements. The functions of receiving, recording, depositing, and reconciling cash should be separated whenever possible in order to decrease the risk of undetected errors, misstatements, and fraud.

We recommend the sheriff's office either segregate these duties or implement steps to strengthen internal controls. The former sheriff could have implemented the following compensating controls:

- The former sheriff could have periodically compared daily bank deposit to the daily tax collection printout. Any differences should have been reconciled. The former sheriff could have documented this by initialing the bank deposit and the daily tax collection printout.
- The former sheriff could have compared his daily tax collection printouts for each month to his monthly tax collection report for each district. Any differences should have been reconciled. The former sheriff should have documented this by initialing this district's monthly tax collection report for the month being examined.
- The former sheriff could have periodically compared payments made to the taxing districts per the monthly tax collection reports to the checks that were actually written. The former sheriff could have documented this by initialing the monthly tax collection report noting that the payment amount agreed with the check.
- The former sheriff could have periodically compared the bank reconciliation to the checkbook balance. Any differences should have been reconciled. The former sheriff could have documented this by initialing the bank reconciliation and the balance in the checkbook.

Former Sheriff's Response: The former sheriff did not provide a response.