ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 23, 2021

Chief Shawn Boseman
Town of Honea Path
204 S Main Street
Honea Path, SC 29654-1523

Dear Chief King,

The Office of the Attorney General, Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC), is sending this notice to inform you that we have completed the DCVC Programmatic Review and Financial Audit of the Victim Assistance Funds for the Town of Honea Path. A copy of the official report is attached for your review. This is in conformance with Act 96 [PART IV] which requires DCVC to conduct a programmatic review and financial audit on any governmental entity or non-profit organization receiving victim assistance funding to ensure that these crime victim funds are expended in accordance with the law.

Enclosed is a copy of our audit results. I am pleased to advise you that the Town of Honea Path has complied with all of the audit recommendations as outlined in this report. Please note that all DCVC audits and follow-up reports are public information and will be posted on our website at www.sova.sc.gov under the auditing tab.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Teresa Green at 803-734-7108.

Sincerely,

Ethel Douglas Ford, CPM
Assistant Deputy Director

cc: Beverly Crawford
    Mayor Earl L Meyers
The Office of the Attorney General
Department of Crime Victim Compensation

November 13, 2019  Follow Up Audit Review for the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court Victim Assistance Fines, Fees, and Assessments

February 23, 2021  DCVC Programmatic Review and Financial Audit for the Town of Honea Path Victim Assistance Fines, Fees and Assessment Fund
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Programmatic Review and Financial Audit of the Town of Honea Path Victim Assistance Fund
Acronyms:
FFA – Fines, Fees, and Assessment
SOVA – State Office of Victims Assistance
SCLEVA – South Carolina Law Enforcement Victim Advocate
Introduction and Laws

PREFACE

This programmatic review and financial audit was initiated as a Department of Crime Victim Compensation’s (DCVC) initial audit to the DCVC State follow up audit review issued November 13, 2019 regarding the Victim Assistance Fines, Fees, and Assessment fund (See Appendix A). On March 4, 2020, the Assistant Deputy Director issued a letter to the Town of Honea Path Chief of Police, Mayor and Town Clerk informing them of the Town of Honea Path’s DCVC Victim Assistance Fund audit. This audit is a follow up on previous recommendations from State Auditor’s Office November 13, 2019 audit and to address any new concerns regarding the Victim Assistance Fines, Fees, and Assessments.

On March 16, 2020, the Assistant Deputy Director sent another letter informing town officials due to COVID 19, the Governor directed agencies to postpone all non-essential travel. As a result, the Auditor in Charge would contact the town later to schedule a site visit date and time once the ban was lifted. On April 9, 2020, the DCVC Auditor informed the Town Clerk that although a physical site visit could not be scheduled, the audit would be completed via phone and electronically.

Therefore, on April 13, 2020 the DCVC Auditor forwarded a list of pre requested audit documents to the Town Clerk and Clerk of Court to determine if all previous recommendations were addressed and complied with according to the previous audit. The Town submitted some but not all the required documents requested. Therefore, the auditor scheduled phone audit interviews with the Clerk of Court, Town Clerk, and the Town’s Police Chief. The audit interviews were conducted on April 20-22, 2020. As a result of the audit phone interviews, documents and information received, the auditor was able to move forward with the electronic audit of Victim Assistance Fines, Fees, and Assessment Funds.
SECTION 13. B. Chapter 1, Title 14 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

"Section 14-1-211.6. (A) If the State Auditor finds that any county treasurer, municipal treasurer, county clerk of court, magistrate, or municipal court has not properly allocated revenue generated from court fines, fines, and assessments to the crime victim funds or has not properly expended crime victim funds, pursuant to Sections 14-1-206(B) and (D), 14-1-207(B) and (D), 14-1-208(B) and (D), and 14-1-211(B), the State Auditor shall notify the Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division. The division is authorized to conduct an audit, which must include both a programmatic review and financial audit of any entity or nonprofit organization receiving victim assistance funding, based on the referrals from the State Auditor or complaints of a specific nature received by the division to ensure that crime victim funds are expended in accordance with the law. Guidelines for the expenditure of these funds shall be developed in collaboration with the Victim Services Coordinating Council. The Victim Services Coordinating Council, in collaboration with the director of the division, shall develop these guidelines to ensure any expenditure that meets the parameters of Article 15, Chapter 3, Title 16 is an allowable expenditure.

(B) Any local entity or nonprofit organization that receives funding from revenue generated from crime victim funds is required to submit their budget for the expenditure of these funds to the Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division within thirty days of the budget's approval by the governing body of the entity or nonprofit organization. Failure to comply with this provision shall cause the division to initiate a programmatic review and a financial audit of the entity's or nonprofit organization's expenditures of victim assistance funds. Additionally, the division will place the name of the noncompliant entity or nonprofit organization on its website, where it shall remain until such time as the noncompliant entity or nonprofit organization is in compliance with the terms of this section."
Act 96 (cont.)

(C) Any entity or nonprofit organization receiving victim assistance funding must cooperate and provide expenditure and program data requested by the division. If the division finds an error, the entity or nonprofit organization has ninety days to rectify the error. An error constitutes an entity or nonprofit organization spending victim assistance funding on unauthorized items as determined by the division. If the entity or nonprofit organization fails to cooperate with the programmatic review and financial audit or to rectify the error within ninety days, the division shall assess and collect a penalty in the amount of the unauthorized expenditure plus fifteen hundred dollars against the entity or nonprofit organization for improper expenditures. This penalty which includes the fifteen hundred dollars must be paid within thirty days of the notification by the division to the entity or nonprofit organization that the entity or nonprofit organization is in noncompliance with the provisions of this section. All penalties received by the division shall be credited to the general fund of the State. If the penalty is not received by the division within thirty days of the notification, the political subdivision must deduct the amount of the penalty from the entity's or nonprofit organization's subsequent fiscal year appropriation."

Proviso 59.15

59.15. (AG: State Crime Victim Compensation)

A county or municipality may retain carry forward funds that were collected pursuant to Sections 14-1-206 (B) and (D), 14-1-207 (B) and (D), 14-1-208 (B) and (D), and 14-1-211 (B) of the 1976 Code, but no more than $25,000 or ten percent of funds collected in the prior fiscal year, whichever is higher. If a county or municipality does not spend at least ninety percent of the funds collected pursuant to Sections 14-1-206 (B) and (D), 14-1-207 (B) and (D), 14-1-208 (B) and (D), and 14-1-211 (B) on Article 16, Chapter 3, Title 16 first priority and/or second priority programs during the fiscal year that the funds are received then the county or municipality shall remit any unspent funds that are greater than the allowed carried forward funds, regardless of the year collected, to the State Victim Assistance Program (SVAP) with the Office of the Attorney General within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year. All funds must be accounted for in the annual audit for each county or municipality. The State Crime Victim Compensation Department shall offer training and technical assistance to each municipality and county annually on acceptable use of both priority one and priority two funds and funds available for competitive bid.
The State Crime Victim Compensation Department is authorized to transfer to the State Victim Assistance Program any state funds deemed available under Crime Victims Compensation authority to the State Victim Assistance Programs be placed in the competitive bid process. The State Victim Assistance Program shall offer any funds remitted to it to non-profit organizations that provide direct victim services on a competitive bid process. These funds may be used by the non-profit for administrative costs and victim services. A county or municipality may be exempt from the remittance requirements of this proviso upon submission of a plan to the State Crime Victim Compensation Department that meets the statutory requirements for the use of funds. A county or municipality must submit the report within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year. The State Crime Victim Compensation Department will review the submitted plan and advise the county or municipality of plan compliance with statutory requirements.

98.9 (TREAs: Penalties for Non-reporting)

If a municipality fails to submit the audited financial statements required under Section 14-1-208 of the 1976 Code to the State Treasurer within thirteen months of the end of their fiscal year, the State Treasurer must withhold all state payments to that municipality until the required audited financial statement is received.

If the State Treasurer receives an audit report from either a county or municipality that contains a significant finding related to court fine reports or remittances to the Office of State Treasurer, the requirements of Proviso 117.51 shall be followed if an amount due is specified, otherwise the State Treasurer shall withhold twenty-five percent of all state payments to the county or municipality until the estimated deficiency has been satisfied.

If a county or municipality is more than ninety days delinquent in remitting a monthly court fines report, the State Treasurer shall withhold twenty-five percent of state funding for that county or municipality until all monthly reports are current.

After ninety days, any funds held by the Office of State Treasurer will be made available to the State Auditor to conduct an audit of the entity for the purpose of determining an amount due to the Office of State Treasurer, if any.
 Courts – General Provisions
Collection/Disbursement of Crime Victim Monies at the Municipal & County Levels: below is a brief synopsis of applicable sections.

- Section 14-1-206, subsection(s) A, B & D: (A) A person who is convicted of, pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or forfeits bond for an offense occurring after June 30, 2008, tried in general sessions court must pay an amount equal to 107.5 percent of the fine imposed as an assessment. (B) The county treasurer must remit 35.35 percent of the revenue generated by the assessment imposed in the county to be used for the purposes set forth in subsection (D) and remit the balance of the assessment revenue to the State Treasurer on a monthly basis by the fifteenth day of each month and make reports on a form and in a manner prescribed by the State Treasurer. (D) All unused funds must be carried forward from year to year and used exclusively for the provision of services for victims of crime. All unused funds must be separately identified in the governmental entity's adopted budget as funds unused and carried forward from previous years.

- Section 14-1-207 Subsection(s) A, B & D: (A) A person who is convicted of, pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or forfeits bond for an offense occurring after June 30, 2008, tried in magistrate's court must pay an amount equal to 107.5 percent of the fine imposed as an assessment. (B) The county to be used for the purposes set forth in subsection (D) and remit the balance of the assessment revenue to the State Treasurer on a monthly basis by the fifteenth day of each month and make reports on a form and in a manner prescribed by the State Treasurer. (D) All unused funds must be carried forward from year to year and used exclusively for the provision of services for victims of crime.

All unused funds must be separately identified in the governmental entity's adopted budget as funds unused and carried forward from previous years.

- Section 14-1-208 Subsection(s) A, B & D: (A) A person who is convicted of, pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or forfeits bond for an offense occurring after June 30, 2008, tried in municipal's court must pay an amount equal to 107.5 percent of the fine imposed as an assessment. (B) The county treasurer must remit 11.16 % of the revenue
generated by the assessment imposed in municipal court to the county to be used exclusively for the purpose of providing direct victim services and remit the balance of the assessment revenue to the State Treasurer on a monthly basis by the fifteenth day of each month and make reports on a form and in a manner prescribed by the State Treasurer. (D) All unused funds must be carried forward from year to year and used exclusively for the provision of services for victims of crime. All unused funds must be separately identified in the governmental entity's adopted budget as funds unused and carried forward from previous years.

- **Section 14-1-206,207,208 Subsection(s) E:** To ensure that fines and assessments imposed are properly collected and remitted to the State Treasurer, the annual independent external audit required to be performed for each county and municipality must include a review of the accounting controls over the collection, reporting, and distribution of fines and assessments from the point of collection to the point of distribution and a Uniform Supplemental Schedule Form detailing all fines and assessments collected by the clerk of court for the court of general sessions, magistrate court of the county and at the court level, the amount remitted to the county and municipal treasurers, and the amount remitted to the State Treasurer.

- **Section 14-1-211 Subsection A, B, &D:** (A) A one hundred dollar surcharge is imposed on all convictions obtained in general sessions court and a twenty-five dollar surcharge is imposed on all convictions obtained in magistrates and municipal courts in this State. (B) The revenue collected must be retained by the jurisdiction which heard or processed the case and paid to the city or county treasurer,
- **Section 14-1-211 Subsection A, B, & D**: (B) for the purpose of providing services for the victims of crime, including those required by law. Any funds retained by the county or city treasurer must be deposited into a separate account for the exclusive use for all activities related to the requirements contained in this provision. For the purpose of funds allocation and expenditure, these funds are a part of the general funds of the city or county. These funds must be appropriated for the exclusive purpose of providing victim services as required by Chapter 3, Article 15 of Title 16; specifically, those service requirements that are imposed on local law enforcement, local detention facilities, prosecutors, and the summary courts. First priority must be given to those victims’ assistance programs which are required by Chapter 3, Article 15 of Title 16 and second priority must be given to programs which expand victims' services beyond those required by Chapter 3, Article 15 of Title 16. These funds must be used for, but are not limited to, salaries, equipment that includes computer equipment and internet access, or other expenditures necessary for providing services to crime victims. All unused funds must be carried forward from year to year and used exclusively for the provision of services to the victims of crime. All unused funds must be separately identified in the governmental entity's adopted budget as funds unused and carried forward from previous years.

**(D) (1)** The supplementary schedule must include the following elements:

(a) all surcharges collected by the clerk of court for the general sessions, magistrate's, or municipal court;

(b) the amount of surcharges retained by the city or county treasurer pursuant to this section;

(c) the amount of funds allocated to victim services by fund source; and

(d) how those funds were expended, and any carry forward balances.
Introduction and Legislative

AUDIT OBJECTIVES

The SC State Legislative Act 96 (Part IV) mandates Department of Crime Victim Compensation to conduct an audit which shall include both a programmatic review and financial audit of any entity or nonprofit organization receiving victim assistance funding to ensure that the crime victim funds are expended in accordance with the law.

Audit Objectives were:

- To determine if the Town of Honea Path developed and submitted written procedures to the auditor to ensure the conviction surcharge is properly accessed and collected according to State law.

- To determine if the Town of Honea Path submitted $47,775 to the State Victim Assistance Program (SVAP) for failure to meet the spending requirement per proviso 59.15 and forwarded a copy of the check submitted and supporting documentation to the DCVC Auditor before the State follow up audit.

- To determine if the Town of Honea Path properly executed the victim assistance contract in accordance with State law.

RESULTS IN BRIEF

Conviction Surcharge

Did the Town of Honea Path develop and submit written procedures to the auditor to ensure the conviction surcharge is properly accessed and collected according to State law?

Yes, the Town developed and submitted written procedures to the auditor to ensure the conviction surcharge is properly accessed and collected in accordance with State law.
Did the Town of Honea Path submit $47,775 to the State Victim Assistance Program (SVAP) for failure to meet the spending requirement per proviso 59.15 and forward a copy of the check submitted as supporting documentation to the DCVC Auditor before the state follow up audit.

No, The Town of Honea Path did not submit $47,775 to SVAP and supporting documentation to DCVC before the DCVC initial audit. However, the Town submitted a check dated April 21, 2020 to SVAP and sent a copy of the cancelled check and a current bank statement on June 8, 2020 to the DCVC Auditor as the audit report was being prepared.

Did the Town of Honea Path properly execute the victim assistance contract in accordance with State law?

Yes, the Town of Honea Path did execute and continue to maintain a victim services contract with Anderson County.
Objective(s), Conclusion(s), Recommendation(s), and Comments

A. Conviction Surcharge

Objective

Did the Town of Honea Path develop and submit written procedures to the auditor to ensure the conviction surcharge is properly accessed and collected according to State law?

Conclusion

Yes, the Town developed and submitted written procedures to the auditor to ensure the conviction surcharge is properly accessed and collected in accordance with State law.

Background

South Carolina State Code of Laws of 1976 Section 14-1-211

Town of Honea Path Clerk of Court

Discussion

Section 14-1-211 of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws states “a $25 surcharge is imposed on all convictions obtained in magistrate and municipal courts in the State. It further states no portion of the surcharge may be waived, reduced, or suspended.” During the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court State Auditor’s Report issued May 31, 2012, the State Auditor noted six instances where the Court did not assess the $25 conviction surcharge as required by State law. At that time, the Clerk advised she was not aware of the charge. As a result, the auditor recommended the Town implement procedures to ensure the conviction surcharge is properly assessed and collected in accordance with State law.

During the state follow up audit review issued November 13, 2020, the auditor requested a copy of the procedures as a part of the pre requested audit documents. However, they were not received. Therefore, during the DCVC audit site visit on July 12, 2019, the auditor inquired about the conviction surcharge. The Clerk of Court advised the auditor that they were aware of the charge and the surcharge is properly assessed and collected. The Clerk further advised these procedures were not in written format, but she would develop written policies and procedures and forward to the auditor by July 17, 2019. However, the procedures were not received by the auditor.
As a result, in the previous State Follow up audit report dated November 13, 2019; the auditor recommended the Town of Honea Path develop and submit written procedures to the auditor to ensure the conviction surcharge is properly assessed and collected in accordance with State law. These procedures however were not received prior to the audit phone interview on April 21, 2020. During the audit phone interview, the Clerk advised the Town had written procedures to ensure the surcharge is properly assessed and collected. These procedures included officers maintaining a list of court cost, entering tickets into the Court Management System (CMS), and a daily and monthly reconciliation. The Clerk advised she would forward the written procedures to the auditor following the phone interview. The procedures were received on April 21, 2020. Therefore, the town is compliant with this recommendation.

**Recommendation(s) and Comments**

No further recommendation.
Objective(s), Conclusion(s), Recommendation(s), and Comments

B. Accounting for Victim Assistance Funds

Objective

Did the Town of Honea Path remit $47,775 to the SVAP program for failure to meet the spending requirement per proviso 59.15 and forward a copy of the check submitted as supporting documentation to the DCVC Auditor before the follow up audit?

Conclusion

No, The Town of Honea Path did not submit $47,775 to the SVAP program and documentation to DCVC before the State follow up audit. However, the Town submitted a check to SVAP that was dated April 20, 2020. The auditor was informed that additional documentation will follow once the check was posted to the bank account.

Background

Town of Honea Path Town Clerk

Follow up Review for the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court Victim Assistance Fines, Fees, and Assessments

Discussion

During the State Follow up audit, it was determined by the DCVC Auditor that the Town had policies and procedures in place to ensure the victim assistance revenue is properly accounted for according to State law. The Town had a balance of $72,775 as of FY18. These funds were accounted for in a separate account as required by State law. It was also determined that although the Town currently has a contract for victim services, they did not have a victim advocate for FY13 to FY18. The contract was executed November 2018. Therefore, the Town had no expenditures and did not meet the spending requirement for those years. As a result, in accordance with proviso 59.15, the Town can only carryforward $25,000 or 10%, whichever is greater. In this case it is $25,000. It was recommended that the Town submit $47,775 to the SVAP program.

As a part of the pre requested audit documents, the DCVC Auditor requested a copy of the check submitted to SVAP for $47,775. However, it was not received.
On April 16, 2020, the auditor received a call from the Town Clerk inquiring about the $47,775 check. The auditor provided technical assistance and advised the clerk to contact SVAP. The Town Clerk contacted the SVAP program and was advised where to send the check for the SVAP submission of funds. On April 20, 2020, the auditor received a copy of a check dated April 20, 2020 to SVAP for $47,775. The auditor further advised the Town Clerk to send a copy of the front and back of the check once it clears the Town’s account for documentation. A copy of the front and back of the check and a bank account statement was received on June 8, 2020 via fax.

After the SVAP fund submission, the Town’s Victim Assistance fund balance was $25,000. During the audit phone interview with the Town Clerk, the auditor inquired if the Town had plans for the remaining funds. The Town Clerk advised she was unsure and informed the auditor to consult with the Chief of Police. On April 22, 2020, the auditor conducted a phone interview with the new Chief of Police. The auditor provided technical assistance and advised the Chief of the previous audit reviews and the Chief inquired how the funds could be expended. The auditor advised since the Town did not have a victim advocate, they had limited options. The auditor further advised a donation would be their best option and provided technical assistance on the requirements for donations. At the end of the audit phone interview, the auditor advised she would forward via email a copy of the previous audit reports, approved guidelines, and a copy of the donation checklist. This information was emailed on April 22, 2020. Therefore, the Town is compliant.

**Recommendation(s)**

**and Comments**

No further recommendation.
Objective(s), Conclusion(s), Recommendation(s), and Comments

C. Contract Review

Objective
Did the Town of Honea Path properly execute the victim services contract in accordance with State law?

Conclusion
Yes, the Town of Honea Path did properly account for Act 141 funds and executed a victim services contract in accordance with State law.

Background
Town of Honea Path Police Chief

Town of Honea Path Town Clerk

Follow up Review for the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court Victim Assistance Fines, Fees, and Assessments

Discussion
The Town of Honea Path no longer employs a Victim Advocate per Town Officials. As a result, the Town has entered into a contract with Anderson County.

During the State follow up audit review issued November 13, 2019, it was determined that the contract included all necessary information (See Appendix A). The contract was executed on November 9, 2018 and stated the following:

- The Anderson County Sheriff's Department will provide the Town of Honea Path with victim advocate services for incidents involving crimes against persons.

- The total monies collected by the Town of Honea Path for the purpose of providing services for victims of crimes will be placed in the Anderson County Sheriff's office Victim Services account.
• The Anderson County Sheriff’s Office will provide the Town of Honea Path with monthly, quarterly, and yearly reports regarding the number of victims, types of victims and services provided to victims on behalf of the Town of Honea Path.

As part of the pre requested audit documents, the auditor requested a sample of funds remitted to the county for the contract, bank account statements and State Treasurer Revenue Remittance Forms for FY 18. In addition, a copy of monthly, quarterly, and yearly reports submitted to the Town from the county for the victim assistance contract was received by the auditor. These items were received on April 20, 2020 and April 21, 2020 respectively.

The Town of Honea Path is currently remitting all funds to the Anderson County Sheriff’s Department monthly. The policies and procedures indicate, the Town’s Court Clerk complete and submit the STRRF. The funds are then received and deposited into the victim assistance bank account, Next, the Town Clerk prepares a check for the total amount received and forwarded to Anderson County. This procedure was verified by reviewing the documentation received.

The auditor confirmed and reviewed the required reports the Town receives monthly, quarterly, and yearly. During the phone interview with the Honea Path Chief of Police, the auditor inquired if the police department was satisfied with services that are provided by the county. The Chief confirmed that the Town was satisfied with the services received. Therefore, the Town is in compliance.

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**Recommendation(s) and Comments**

No further recommendation.
Objective(s), Conclusion(s), Recommendation(s), and Comments

D. Technical Assistance

Documentation Provided

During our site visit we explained and provided the following documents:

1. Copy of Act 96 Part IV
2. Copy of the Legislative Proviso 59.15
3. Copy of the Legislative Proviso 97.9
4. Copy of a Sample Budget
5. Sample Staff Hired Report
6. Sample Time and Activity Report
7. Sample Expenditure Report
8. Victim Advocate Procedural Manuel
9. Copy of Approved Guidelines

Other Matters

There are no other matters.
Corrective Action

Act 96 Part IV states:

"If the State Office of Victim Assistance finds an error, the entity or non-profit organization has ninety days to rectify the error. An error constitutes an entity or non-profit organization spending victim assistance funding on unauthorized items as determined by the State Office of Victims Assistance. If the entity or non-profit organization fails to cooperate with the programmatic review and financial audit or to rectify the error within ninety days, the State Office of Victim Assistance shall assess and collect a penalty in the amount of the unauthorized expenditure plus $1,500 against the entity or non-profit organization for improper expenditures. This penalty plus $1,500 must be paid within thirty days of the notification by the State Office of Victim Assistance to the entity or non-profit organization that they are in non-compliance with the provisions of this proviso. All penalties received by the State Office of Victim Assistance shall be credited to the General Fund of the State. If the penalty is not received by the State Office of Victim Assistance within thirty days of the notification, the political subdivision will deduct the amount of the penalty from the entity or non-profit organization’s subsequent fiscal year appropriation."

The Town of Honea Path officials were informed at the conclusion of the audit telephone interview on April 22, 2020 that all findings would be reviewed with management, and unless otherwise notified they were in compliance as outlined in this audit.

The DCVC Auditor completed the audit telephone interview on April 22, 2020 and issued the final audit report to the Town of Honea Path on February 23, 2021.
Official Post-Audit Response

The County/City has 5 business days from the date listed on the front of this report to provide a written response to the
DCVC Assistant Deputy Director:

Ethel Douglas Ford, CPM
1205 Pendleton St., Room 401
Columbia, SC 29201

Due to complications related to Covid-19 and our office teleworking typed names will serve as signatures for the purpose of this report and correspondence letter(s).

At the end of the ten day response period, this report and all post-audit responses (located in the Appendix) will become public information on the Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) website:

www.soya.sc.gov
Appendix – A

Follow up Audit Review for the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court Victim Assistance Fines, Fees, and Assessment Fund
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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT’S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor
State of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

The Honorable Donnie W. Cannon, Municipal Judge
Honea Path Municipal Court
Honea Path, South Carolina

Ms. Beverly Crawford, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Honea Path
Honea Path, South Carolina

We have performed the procedures described below, which were agreed to by the Town of Honea Path and the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court, solely to assist you in evaluating the performance of the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2012, in the areas addressed. The Town of Honea Path and the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court are responsible for its financial records, internal controls and compliance with State laws and regulations. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the Town of Honea Path and the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

1. Clerk of Court
   - We gained an understanding of the policies and procedures established by the Clerk of Court to ensure proper accounting for all fines, fees, assessments, surcharges, forfeitures, escheatments, or other monetary penalties.
   - We obtained certain judgmentally selected final court docket records from the Municipal Clerk. We randomly selected twenty-five cases from the final court docket and recalculated the fine, fee, assessment and surcharge calculation to ensure that the fine, fee, assessment or surcharge was properly allocated in accordance with applicable State law. We also determined whether the fine, fee, assessment and/or surcharge adhered to State law and to the South Carolina Court Administration fee memoranda.
The Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor
and
The Honorable Donnie W. Cannon, Municipal Judge
Ms. Beverly Crawford, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Honea Path
April 26, 2013

Our findings as a result of these procedures are presented in Adherence to Fine Guidelines and Conviction Surcharge in the Accountant's Comments section of this report.

2. Town Treasurer
   - We gained an understanding of the policies and procedures established by the Town to ensure proper accounting for court fines, fees, assessments, surcharges, forfeitures, escheatments, or other monetary penalties.
   - We obtained copies of all State Treasurer's Revenue Remittance Forms submitted by the Town for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2012. We agreed the line item amounts reported on the State Treasurer's Revenue Remittance Forms to the monthly court remittance reports and to the State Treasurer's receipts. We also agreed the total revenue due to the State Treasurer to the general ledger.
   - We determined if the State Treasurer's Revenue Remittance Forms were submitted in a timely manner to the State Treasurer in accordance with State law.
   - We verified that the amounts reported by the Town on its supplemental schedule of fines and assessments for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2012, agreed to the Town's general ledger. We also determined if the supplemental schedule of fines and assessments contained all required elements in accordance with State law.

Our findings as a result of these procedures are presented in Timely Submission of State Treasurer’s Revenue Remittance Form and Supplementary Schedule in the Accountant’s Comments section of this report.

3. Victim Assistance
   - We gained an understanding of the policies and procedures established by the Town to ensure proper accounting for victim assistance funds.
   - We made inquiries and performed substantive procedures to determine that any funds retained by the Town for victim assistance were accounted for in a separate account.
   - We tested the sole victim assistance expenditure to ensure that the Town expended victim assistance funds in accordance with State law and South Carolina Court Administration Fee Memoranda, Attachment L.
   - We determined if the Town reported victim assistance financial activity on the supplemental schedule of fines and assessments in accordance with State law.
   - We inspected the Town’s general ledger to determine if the Victim Assistance Fund balance was retained as of June 1 from the previous fiscal year in accordance with State law.

Our findings as a result of these procedures is presented in Accounting for Victim Assistance Funds in the Accountant’s Comments section of this report.
The Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor
and
The Honorable Donnie W. Cannon, Municipal Judge
Ms. Beverly Crawford, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Honea Path
April 26, 2013

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an audit, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on compliance with the collection and distribution of court generated revenue at any level of court for the twelve months ended May 31, 2012, and, furthermore, we were not engaged to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls over compliance with the laws, rules and regulations described in paragraph one and the procedures of this report. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Governor, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, members of the Town of Honea Path Town Council, Town of Honea Path Municipal Judge, Town of Honea Path Clerk/Treasurer, State Treasurer, State Office of Victim Assistance, and the Chief Justice and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Richard H. Gilbert, Jr., CPA
Deputy State Auditor
ACCOUNTANT’S COMMENTS
SECTION A – VIOLATIONS OF STATE LAWS, RULES OR REGULATIONS

Management of the entity is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls to ensure compliance with State Laws, Rules or Regulations governing court collections and remittances. The procedures agreed to by the entity require that we plan and perform the engagement to determine whether any violations of State Laws, Rules or Regulations occurred.

The conditions described in this section have been identified as violations of State Laws, Rules or Regulations.
ADHERENCE TO FINE GUIDELINES

We selected twenty-five cases from the final court dockets to ensure that the fine, fee, assessment and/or surcharge levied by the Municipal Court adhered to State law. Based on the tests performed, we noted one instance where an individual was fined $30 for a seatbelt violation. The $30 fine levied by the Court exceeded the maximum fine allowed by State law.

Section 56-5-6540(A) of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, states, "A person who is adjudicated to be in violation of the provisions of this article must be fined not more than twenty-five dollars, no part of which may be suspended."

The Municipal Clerk stated the error was due to oversight.

We recommend the Municipal Court develop and implement procedures to ensure that fines levied by the court adhere to applicable State law.

TIMELY SUBMISSION OF STATE TREASURER'S REVENUE REMITTANCE FORM

During our testing of the Town's State Treasurer's Revenue Remittance Forms (STRRF), we noted six out of twelve STRRF were not submitted to the State Treasurer by the fifteenth day of the month as required by State law. The STRRF were submitted from one to four days late.

The Town Clerk/Treasurer stated the late submissions were related to timing issues in processing accounts payable. The Town Clerk/Treasurer processes invoices once a week; therefore, if an invoice or other source documentation is not received prior to the weekly cutoff for processing accounts payables, the invoices will not be paid until the next week.

Section 14-1-208(B) of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, requires the Town to remit the balance of the assessment revenue to the State Treasurer on a monthly basis by the fifteenth day of each month and make reports on a form and in a manner prescribed by the State Treasurer.
We recommend the Town implement procedures to ensure the STRRF are submitted by the fifteenth day of each month in compliance with State law.

**CONVICTION SURCHARGE**

During our test of Municipal Court collections and remittances, we noted six instances where the Court did not assess and collect the $25 conviction surcharge as required by State law.

Section 14-1-211 (A)(1) of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, states, "In addition to all other assessments and surcharges...a twenty-five dollar surcharge is imposed on all convictions obtained in magistrates and municipal courts in this State. No portion of the surcharge may be waived, reduced, or suspended." This section does not apply to misdemeanor traffic offenses or parking violations.

The Municipal Clerk stated she was unaware of this requirement.

We recommend the Town implement procedures to ensure the conviction surcharge is properly assessed and collected in accordance with State law.

**ACCOUNTING FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE FUNDS**

During our testing of the Town's State Treasurer's Revenue Remittance Forms (STRRF), we noted the Town recorded victim assistance revenue for the month of June 2011 to the "Police Fine" general ledger account instead of the "Victim Assistance" account. As a result, the Town did not deposit cash receipts totaling $625 in the "Victim Assistance" bank account.

The Town Clerk/Treasurer stated the commingling of victim assistance revenue with general operating funds was an oversight.
Section 14-1-211(B) of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, states, "The revenue collected pursuant to subsection (A)(1) must be retained by the jurisdiction which heard or processed the case and paid to the city or county treasurer, for the purpose of providing services for the victims of crime, including those required by law. Any funds retained by the county or city treasurer pursuant to subsection (A)(1) must be deposited into a separate account for the exclusive use for all activities related to the requirements contained in this provision."

We recommend the Town establish and implement policies and procedures to ensure victim assistance revenue is accounted for in accordance with State law.

**SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE**

During our testing of the schedule of court fines, assessments and surcharges included in the Town's financial statements for the year ended May 31, 2012, we noted amounts reported for victim services expenditures, funds available for carryforward, beginning, and funds available for carryforward, ending did not agree to the Town's general ledger.

Section 14-1-208(E)(1) of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, states, "The supplementary schedule must include the following elements: (a) all fines collected by the clerk of court for the municipal court, (b) all assessments collected by the clerk of court for the municipal court, (c) the amount of fines retained by the municipal treasurer, (d) the amount of assessments retained by the municipal treasurer, (e) the amount of fines and assessments remitted to the State Treasurer pursuant to this section, and (f) the total funds, by source, allocated to victim services activities, how those funds were expended, and any balances carried forward."
The Town Clerk/Treasurer stated the reporting errors were due to an oversight in the reconciliation between the general ledger and the final schedule.

We recommend the Town implement procedures to ensure amounts reported on the supplementary schedule are accurately reported in accordance with State law.
TOWN'S RESPONSE
August 19, 2013

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Please accept this letter as official indication that the Town of Honea Path has reviewed the preliminary draft copy of the report resulting from your performance of agreed-upon procedures to the accounting records of the Town of Honea Path for fiscal year ending May 31, 2012. The Town of Honea Path authorizes the release of the report, and does not have any additional responses or comments to offer at this time.

Should you have any questions, or need further information, please feel free to contact me at (864)369-2466.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Beverly K. Crawford
Clerk/Treasurer
5 copies of this document were published at an estimated printing cost of $1.43 each, and a total printing cost of $7.15. Section 1-11-125 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended requires this information on printing costs be added to the document.
Appendix(s)

Town of Honea Path Municipal Court
Honea Path, South Carolina
May 4, 2017

The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor
State of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

The Honorable Dennis C. Bannister, Jr., Chief Judge
Ms. Beverly Crawford, Municipal Court Clerk
Town of Honea Path Municipal Court
Honea Path, South Carolina

This report resulting from the application of certain agreed-upon procedures to certain accounting records of the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court System as of and for the year ended May 31, 2016, was issued by Brown, CPA, under contract with the South Carolina Office of the State Auditor.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

George L. Kennedy, III, CPA
State Auditor

GLKIII/sag
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Municipality's Response ................................................................................................. Attachment A
Independent Accountant’s Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

Mr. George L. Kennedy, III, CPA
State Auditor
State of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

The Honorable Dennis C. Bannister, Jr., Chief Judge
Town of Honea Path Municipal Court
Honea Path, South Carolina

Ms. Beverly Crawford, Municipal Court Clerk
Town of Honea Path Municipal Court
Honea Path, South Carolina

We have performed the procedures described below, which were agreed to by the South Carolina Office of State Auditor and Town of Honea Path Municipal Court, solely to assist you in evaluating the performance of the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court for the period June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016, in the areas addressed. The Town of Honea Path Municipal Court’s management is responsible for its financial records, internal controls and compliance with State laws and regulations. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the Office of the State Auditor and the Town of Honea Path Municipal Court. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

1. Clerk of Court
   • We gained an understanding of the policies and procedures established by the Clerk of Court to determine timely reporting by the Clerk of Court’s Office.
   • We obtained the court dockets from the Clerk of Court. We judgmentally selected twenty-five cases from the court dockets and recalculated the fine, fee, assessment and surcharge calculation to determine that the fine, fee, assessment or surcharge was properly allocated in accordance with applicable State law and the South Carolina Court Administration fee memoranda.
   • We tested twenty-five judgmentally selected court receipt transactions to determine that the fee, fine, and/or assessment charge adheres to State law and the South Carolina Court Administration fee memoranda.
   • We tested twenty-five judgmentally selected court receipt transactions to determine that the receipts were allocated in accordance with applicable State law.

We found no exceptions as a result of the procedures.

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2. Municipal Treasurer
   - We gained an understanding of the policies and procedures established by the municipal treasurer to determine timely reporting by the municipality.
   - We obtained copies of all court remittance forms or equivalents and tested each monthly remittance form to determine that the forms were completed in accordance with instructions and submitted timely in accordance with State law.
   - We verified that amounts reported on the monthly court remittance forms or equivalents agreed to the municipality’s support.
   - We scanned the municipality’s support to determine if the municipality had misclassified fine, fee, assessment, and surcharge receipts.
   - We obtained copies of all State Treasurer’s Revenue Remittance Forms for the period June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016. We vouched the amounts reported on the State Treasurer’s Revenue Remittance Forms to the court remittance forms or equivalents.
   - We verified that the amounts reported by the municipality on its supplemental schedule of fines and assessments, as reported in the annual financial statement audit for the period June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016, agreed to the municipality’s general ledger.
   - We determined that the Town’s supplementary schedule of fines and assessments, as reported in the annual financial statement audit, contained all the required elements in accordance with State law.

Our findings as a result of these procedures are presented in the Accountant’s Comments section of this report.

3. Victim Assistance
   - We gained an understanding of the policies and procedures established by the municipality to determine proper accounting for victim assistance funds.
   - We made inquiries and performed substantive procedures to determine that any funds retained by the municipality for victim assistance were deposited into a separate account.
   - We tested selected expenditures to determine that the municipality expended victim assistance funds in accordance with State law and South Carolina Court administration Fee Memoranda.
   - We determined that the municipality reported victim assistance financial activity on the supplemental schedule of fines and assessments, as reported in the annual financial statement audit, in accordance with applicable State law.
   - We verified that the amounts reported by the municipality on its supplemental schedule of fines and assessments, as reported in the annual financial statement audit, applicable to Victim Assistance fund agreed to the Municipality’s general ledger or subsidiary ledgers.
   - We inspected the Municipality’s victim assistance account to determine if the Victim Assistance fund balance was retained as of June 1 from the previous fiscal year in accordance with State law.

Our findings as a result of these procedures are presented in the Accountant’s Comments section of this report.
We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or a review of the subject matter, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or a disclaimer of an opinion on the subject matter. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Governor, Chairmen of the House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Finance Committee, House Judiciary Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee, members of Town of Honea Path Council, Town of Honea Path Clerk of Court, Town of Honea Path Treasurer, State Office of Victim Assistance, the Chief Justice, and the South Carolina Office of the State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Brown CPA, L.L.C.
Irmo, South Carolina
May 4, 2017
Accountant’s Comments

Management of Town of Honea Path is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls to ensure compliance with State Laws, Rules or Regulations governing court collections and remittances. The procedures agreed to by the Town of Honea Path require that we plan and perform the engagement to determine whether any violations of State Laws, Rules or Regulations occurred.

SECTION A - VIOLATIONS OF STATE LAWS, RULES OR REGULATIONS

The conditions described in this section have been identified as violations of State Laws, Rules or Regulations.

Comment – The Town did not properly report within the financial statement audit the financial activity for the year for Victim Services fine assessments and surcharges as detailed on the supplemental schedule within the audit. We noted the following deficiencies:

1. In the financial reconciliation of the Victim Services account balance for the year ended May 31, 2016 there was a deduction from the account titled “Reconciliation” wherein a $650 deduction was entered to arrive at the final ending account balance for the year.

2. In the financial reconciliation of the Victim Services account balance for the year ended May 31, 2015 there was an addition to the account titled “Prior Period Reconciliations” wherein a $1,998 increase was entered to arrive at the final ending account balance for the year.

The usage of terms such as “Reconciliation” and “Prior Period Reconciliations” within the financial statement audit supplemental schedule of fines, assessments, and surcharges of the Victim Services account without explanation as to what these amounts represent to arrive a final account balance should not be used. State regulations require that local municipalities that collect and retain Victim Service amounts maintain accurate financial records as to beginning account balance, amounts collected, and amounts disbursed during the fiscal year. Further the State of South Carolina Office of Victim Assistance has guidelines related to the expenditure of Victim Services funds and such guidelines do not allow for nebulous terms such as “Reconciliation” and “Prior Period Reconciliations” to support a deductions from or increases to the account balance.

Based upon our review of the amounts collected and banking activity it appears that the following revisions to the Supplemental Schedule of Fines, Assessments, and Surcharges should be made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For the Year Ended May 31, 2016</th>
<th>As Presented in</th>
<th></th>
<th>As Revised</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Audit Report</td>
<td>Difference</td>
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<td>Amount Available / Bank Balance Beginning of Year</td>
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<td>Outstanding Deposit due to Victims Services Account</td>
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<td>Amount Available Beginning of Year</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.73</td>
<td>6,916.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
<td>(650.00)</td>
<td>650.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Available End of Year</td>
<td>$ 52,818.00</td>
<td>$ 1,217.77</td>
<td>$ 54,035.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bank Balance End of Year | $ 52,817.73 |
Outstanding Deposit due to Victims Services Account | 1,218.04 | 1,218.04 |
Amount Available End of Year | $ 52,818.00 | $ 1,217.77 | $ 54,035.77 |
Recommendation – We recommend that the Town take greater care to accurately report the financial activity of the Victim Services account.

SECTION B - OTHER WEAKNESSES

The conditions described in this section have been identified while performing the agreed-upon procedures but they are not considered violations of State Laws, Rules or Regulations.

Comment – It was noted that on the Supplemental Schedule of Fines, Assessments, and Surcharges within the financial statement audit that:

1. The Town presented “Court Assessment / Pullout Remitted to the State Treasurer” totaling $50,277.
   The schedule further detailed this total by showing the total remitted to the State Treasurer was $44,826 and the Town retained $5,451.

2. The Town presented “Court Surcharges Remitted to the State Treasurer” totaling $23,457.
   The schedule further detailed this total by showing the total remitted to the State Treasurer was $21,992 and the Town retained $1,465.

Recommendation – The Town should consider revising the presentation of the Schedule of Fines, Assessments, and Surcharges including within the financial statement audit to better reflect actual financial activity.
May 15, 2017

Mr. Matt Brown, CPA
Brown CPA, LLC
P.O. Box 3288
Irmo, SC 29063

Dear Mr. Brown;

The Town of Honea Path has reviewed the comments and recommendations provided herein related to the preparation of the municipal court Schedule of Fines, Assessments, and Surcharges included within our annual financial statement audit. We are in agreement with the comments and recommendations provided.

During our next financial statement audit we will place additional emphasis in accurately balancing and reporting the financial activity of the municipal court and the Victim Services account and reporting that activity on the Schedule of Fines, Assessments, and Surcharges included within the audit report.

We are always receptive to positive constructive criticism in our effort to improve upon financial reporting.

Sincerely yours,

Beverly Crawford
Clerk / Treasurer
Official Post-Audit Response

The County/City has 10 business days from the date listed on the front of this report to provide a written response to the DCVC Assistant Deputy Director:

Ethel Douglas Ford, CPM
1205 Pendleton St., Room 401
Columbia, SC 29201

At the end of the ten day response period, this report and all post-audit responses (located in the Appendix) will become public information on the Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) website:

www.sova.sc.gov
Programmatic Review Completed by:

Teresa Green, Auditor

Reviewed by:

Dexter L. Boyd, Sr. Auditor

Ethel Douglas Ford, CPM, Assistant Deputy Director

Scott Beard, DCVC Deputy Director
Programmatic Review Completed by:

Teresa Green 2/23/2021
Teresa Green, Auditor Date

Reviewed by:

Dexter L. Boyd 2/23/2021
Dexter L. Boyd, Sr. Auditor Date

Ethel Douglas Ford 2/23/2021
Ethel Douglas Ford, CPM, Asst. Deputy Director Date

D. Scott Beard 2/23/2021
D. Scott Beard, Deputy Director Date