



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006
Telephone (515) 281-5834

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

April 16, 2025

Contact: Pam Bormann
515/281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released an agreed-upon procedures report on the City of New Sharon, Iowa, for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa.

Sand reported seven findings related to the receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. They are found on pages 9 and 10 of this report. The findings address issues such as a lack of segregation of duties, deficit fund balances and the City not maintaining an accounting record/register for each investment. Sand provided the City with recommendations to address each of the findings.

Four of the findings discussed above are repeated from the prior year. The City Council has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the City's operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the "watchful and responsible care" a governing body exercises in its fiduciary capacity.

A copy of the agreed-upon procedures report is available for review on the Auditor of State's website at [Audit Reports – Auditor of State](#).

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CITY OF NEW SHARON
AUDITOR OF STATE'S INDEPENDENT REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE PERIOD
JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

City of New Sharon



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006
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Rob Sand
Auditor of State

April 4, 2025

Officials of the City of New Sharon
New Sharon, Iowa

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to submit to you the agreed-upon procedures report for the City of New Sharon, Iowa, for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa and in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards for attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of the City of New Sharon throughout the agreed-upon procedures engagement. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or my staff at 515-281-5834.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sand".

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

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City of New Sharon

Officials

(Before January 2024)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Jeffrey Long	Mayor	Jan 2024
Larry Applegate	Council Member	Jan 2024
Ron Wyatt	Council Member	Jan 2024
Tom German	Council Member	Jan 2026
Ben Hansen	Council Member	Jan 2026
Justin Stout	Council Member	Jan 2026
Lisa Munn	City Clerk	Indefinite
Dustin Hite	Attorney	Indefinite

(After January 2024)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Dustin Hite	Mayor	Jan 2028
Tom German	Council Member	Jan 2026
Ben Hansen	Council Member	Jan 2026
Justin Stout	Council Member	Jan 2026
Keri Lamberson	Council Member	Jan 2028
Linda Steel	Council Member	Jan 2028
Lisa Munn	City Clerk	Indefinite
Dustin Hite	Attorney	Resigned Dec 2023
Patrick Mahaffey	Attorney	Indefinite

City of New Sharon



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Rob Sand
Auditor of State

Auditor of State's Independent Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

We performed the procedures below, which were established at Iowa Code Chapter 11.6, to provide oversight of Iowa cities. Accordingly, we have applied certain procedures to selected accounting records and related information of the City of New Sharon for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, including procedures related to the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements identified below. The City of New Sharon's management, which agreed to the performance of the procedures performed, is responsible for compliance with these requirements and for the City's records.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards for attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The City of New Sharon's management has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose to report, in accordance with Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa, recommendations pertaining to selected accounting records and related information of the City including the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures we performed are summarized as follows:

1. We observed selected City Council meeting minutes for compliance with Chapters 21, 372.13(6) and 380 of the Code of Iowa.
2. We obtained an understanding of the City's internal controls to determine if proper control procedures were in place and incompatible duties, from a control standpoint, were not performed by the same employee.
3. We observed surety bond coverage for compliance with Chapter 64 of the Code of Iowa.
4. We obtained and observed the City Clerk's financial reports and selected bank reconciliations to determine whether the bank balances properly reconciled to the general ledger account balances, journal entries and monthly financial reports provided to the City Council.
5. We scanned City funds for consistency with the City Finance Committee's recommended Uniform Chart of Accounts (COA) and to determine required funds and fund balances were properly maintained and accurately accounted for.
6. We observed the City's fiscal year 2024 Annual Financial Report to determine whether it was completed timely and accurately reflected the City's financial information.
7. We scanned investments to determine compliance with Chapter 12B of the Code of Iowa.
8. We observed depository resolutions, the City's investment policy and reporting of unclaimed property to the State of Iowa to determine compliance with Chapters 12C.2, 12B.10B and 556.1(12) of the Code of Iowa.

9. We scanned debt, including general obligation and revenue bonds/notes, and related transactions for proper authorization and compliance with Chapters 75, 384 and 403.9 of the Code of Iowa and to determine whether the debt and related proceeds and repayments were properly accounted for.
10. The City had no TIF.
11. We traced selected receipts for accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA.
12. We traced voter approved levies to proper authorization in accordance with Chapter 384.12 of the Code of Iowa.
13. We traced selected disbursements to proper approval, adequate supporting documentation, accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA and compliance with the public purpose criteria established by Article III, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.
14. We traced transfers between funds to proper authorization and accurate accounting and to determine whether transfers were proper.
15. We traced selected payroll and related transactions to proper authorization and accurate accounting and determined whether payroll was proper.
16. We observed the annual certified budget for proper authorization, certification and timely amendment.

Based on the performance of the procedures described above, we identified various findings and recommendations for the City. Our findings and recommendations are described in the Detailed Findings and Recommendations section of this report. Unless reported in the Detailed Findings and Recommendations, no exceptions were noted during the performance of the specific procedures listed above.

We were engaged by the City of New Sharon's management to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards for attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on specific accounting records and related information of the City, including compliance with specific Code of Iowa requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the City of New Sharon and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

The purpose of this report is to report, in accordance with Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa, certain agreed-upon procedures and the resulting findings and recommendations pertaining to selected accounting records and related information of the City, including the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements. This report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the City of New Sharon during the course of our agreed-upon procedures engagement. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Bormann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "B".

Pam Bormann, CPA
Deputy Auditor of State

April 4, 2025

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

City of New Sharon

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

- (A) Segregation of Duties – Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control. A good system of internal control provides for adequate segregation of duties so no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to completion. In order to maintain proper internal control, duties should be segregated so the authorization, custody and recording of transactions are not under the control of the same employee. This segregation of duties helps prevent losses from employee error or dishonesty and maximizes the accuracy of the City's financial statements. Generally, one individual has control over each of the following areas for the City:

- (1) Cash – handling, reconciling and recording.
- (2) Investments – recordkeeping, investing, custody of investments and reconciling earnings.
- (3) Receipts – opening mail, collecting, depositing, recording, reconciling and posting.
- (4) Journal entries – preparing, reviewing and approving.

Recommendation – We realize segregation of duties is difficult with a limited number of employees. However, the City should review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff, including elected officials. Independent reviews of reconciliations should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

- (B) Financial Condition – At June 30, 2024, the City had deficit balances in the Special Revenue, Employee Benefits Fund and Enterprise, Water Fund of \$133,504 and \$2,775, respectively.

Recommendation – The City should investigate alternatives to eliminate these deficits in order to return these funds to a sound financial position.

- (C) Unclaimed Property – Chapter 556.11 of the Code of Iowa requires each City to report and remit outstanding obligations, including checks, trusts and bonds held for more than two years, to the Office of Treasurer of State annually. The City did not remit these obligations, as required.

Recommendation – Outstanding obligations should be reviewed annually and items over two years old should be remitted to the Office of Treasurer of State, as required.

- (D) Disbursements – Two disbursements observed included sales tax totaling \$86. As a government entity, the City maintains a tax-exempt status. As a result, the City should not incur sales tax.

Recommendation – The City should establish procedures to ensure all payments are reviewed to prevent the payment of sales tax.

- (E) Electronic Check Retention – Chapter 554D.114 of the Code of Iowa allows the City to retain cancelled checks in an electronic format and requires retention in this manner to include an image of both the front and back of each cancelled check. The City did not receive an image of the back of each cancelled check.

Recommendation – The City should obtain and retain images of both the front and back of cancelled checks for all bank accounts as required by Chapter 554.D.114 of the Code of Iowa.

City of New Sharon

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

- (F) Investments – The City did not maintain an accounting record/register for each investment, including cost, description, date purchased, interest rate, maturity date and identifying number.

Recommendation – The City should maintain an accounting record/register for each investment including cost, description, date purchased, interest rate, maturity date and identifying number.

- (G) Voided Receipts – Voided receipts were not being reviewed by an independent person for propriety.

Recommendation – The City should establish procedures to ensure voided receipts are reviewed by an independent person for propriety. This review should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

City of New Sharon

Staff

This engagement was performed by:

Pamela J. Bormann, CPA, Deputy
Tiffany M. Ainger, CPA, Manager
Hunter W. Penton, Staff Auditor
Amila Tursunovic, Staff Auditor