



**Beaver County
Center District Court
36-3-03**

**Audit Report
For the Period January 2020 through December 2022**

**Maria Longo
Beaver County Controller**

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November 17, 2023

Honorable Joseph Schafer
District Court 36-3-03
226 Center Grange Road - F
Aliquippa, PA 15001

Judge Schafer:

We have audited the financial records of District Court 36-3-03 in the county of Beaver of the state of Pennsylvania for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Based upon the audit we have issued our report thereon dated November 17, 2023.

We conducted our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Based upon our review of the financial records, in our opinion, the statement of revenues and expenditures is fairly stated in all material aspects.

Maria Longo
Beaver County Controller

AUDIT SCOPE:

The scope of this audit encompasses the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES:

Through the completion of internal control questionnaires, control tests, substantive tests, and observation, the following audit objectives were accomplished for this audit:

- Prepare a financial statement for each year reviewed
- Evaluate controls over the District Court checking account
- Ensure that funds are deposited on the same day received
- Ensure that funds received are disbursed to the proper payees
- Ensure that funds held in escrow are adequate
- Ensure that funds receipted are applied to the proper case
- Ensure that costs and fines are properly split upon receipt
- Ensure that reports and funds due to the Commonwealth were correct and remitted in a timely manner
- Ensure that proper documentation was maintained in the case file
- Evaluate the controls over cash
- Evaluate the controls over purchasing and the administration of the budget
- Evaluate controls over general office procedures

**DISTRICT COURT 36-3-03
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020**

Beginning cash balance (1/1/2020) **\$ 26,290.99**

Receipts:

Traffic	\$ 416,895.57
Non-Traffic	77,584.93
Civil	28,601.95
Landlord / Tenant	8,278.78
Criminal	0.00
Miscellaneous and other fees	907.40

Total receipts 532,268.63

Disbursements:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$ 353,757.37
Beaver County	69,912.47
Underage Drinking	700.00
Server Costs	34,655.34
Restitution & Refund Bail / Collateral	28,161.16
Monaca Borough	20,037.38
Center Township	20,553.32
Raccoon Township	9,390.45
Shippingport Borough	1,451.69
Central Valley School District	3,590.77
Potter Township	1,238.09
Green Township	505.98
South Side School District	321.21
Georgetown Borough	100.00
Beaver Area School District	50.00
Western Beaver Area School District	50.00
Southside School District	321.21
Freedom School District	32.60

Total disbursements (544,507.83)

Adjustments:

Miscellaneous (.07)

Ending cash balance (12/31/2020) **\$ 14,051.72**

**DISTRICT COURT 36-3-03
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Beginning cash balance (1/1/2021) \$ 14,051.72

Receipts:

Traffic	\$ 464,770.86	
Non-Traffic	72,355.55	
Civil	29,151.92	
Landlord / Tenant	16,944.40	
Criminal	2,500.00	
Miscellaneous and other fees	<u>426.75</u>	
Total receipts		586,149.48

Disbursements:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$ 395,068.99	
Beaver County	74,707.69	
Server Costs	24,585.86	
Restitution & Refund Bail / Collateral	30,341.76	
Monaca Borough	21,626.05	
Center Township	14,512.86	
Raccoon Township	6,059.77	
Shippingport Borough	1,580.64	
Central Valley School District	1,513.28	
Potter Township	1,824.05	
Green Township	249.06	
South Side School District	1,513.28	
Homewood Borough	0.00	
Central Valley School District	<u>4,018.78</u>	
Total disbursements		(576,088.79)

Adjustments:

Miscellaneous		(1.09)
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Ending cash balance (12/31/2021) \$ 31,339.98

**DISTRICT COURT 36-3-03
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022**

Beginning cash balance (1/1/2022) **\$ 24,111.32**

Receipts:

Traffic	\$ 434,658.60
Non-Traffic	50,595.33
Civil	25,987.30
Landlord / Tenant	24,699.83
Criminal	0.00
Miscellaneous and other fees	<u>362.75</u>

Total receipts 536,303.81

Disbursements:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$ 375,898.78
Beaver County	73,660.52
Restitution & Refund Bail / Collateral	32,078.19
Server Costs	28,433.48
Monaca Borough	15,637.71
Center Township	9,432.07
Raccoon Township	4,011.28
Central Valley Area School District	1,913.86
Shippingport Borough	1,292.33
Potter Township	553.80
Green Township	28.96
South Side School District	<u>358.28</u>

Total disbursements (543,299.26)

Adjustments:

Miscellaneous	<u>44.10</u>
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Ending cash balance (12/31/2022) **\$ 17,159.97**

**DISTRICT COURT 36-3-03
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022**

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - District Court 36-3-03 reports on the cash basis of accounting. Under the cash basis of accounting revenues are recognized when received and expenses recognized when the disbursement is made.

Note 2: Traffic Receipt/Disbursement Categories -Transactions resulting from summary proceedings for offenses arising under the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code and violations of local parking ordinances.

Note 3: Non-Traffic Receipt/Disbursement Categories -Transactions resulting from non-traffic summary proceedings initiated by a police officer or private citizen.

Note 4: Civil Receipt Categories - Transactions resulting from civil actions filed for tortious conduct or contractual issues.

Note 5: Landlord Tenant Receipt Categories - Transactions resulting from landlord / tenant proceedings.

Note 6: Criminal, miscellaneous and other fees Receipt Categories -Transactions resulting from misdemeanor and/or felony charges brought by a police officer or private citizen. Miscellaneous funds and funds deposited in escrow.

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NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Honorable Joseph Schafer
District Court 36-3-03
226 Center Grange Road - F
Monaca, PA 15061

Report on Internal Control Structure

We have audited the accompanying statement of account of the District Court 36-3-03, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated November 17, 2023.

We conducted our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

In planning and performing our audit of the District Court 36-3-03, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022, we considered the office's internal control structure to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure.

The management of the District Court is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with prescribed policies. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, future reliance on any evaluation of the structure, past or current, is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

For the internal control structure we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation. Additionally, we assessed control risk for the internal control structure. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations was considered when assessing control risk for the internal control structure.

We noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider reportable conditions. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control structure that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the office's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce, to a relatively low level, the risk that material errors or irregularities affecting the financial statements being audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are considered to be material weaknesses as defined above. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider material weaknesses.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Office of the Controller, management, and others within the administration. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.



Marisa Longo
Beaver County Controller

An exit conference was held on April November 17,2023 at District Court 36-3-03 for the purpose of discussing the items presented in this report. Those in attendance were:

District Court 36-3-03

Joseph Schafer - District Justice

Mary Kruppa - Office Manager

Beaver County Controller's Office

Charles Gibbons - Auditor

The results of the audit were discussed in their entirety during this conference.

As a part of the Office of the Controller's normal reporting procedure, a copy of this report will be distributed to the Beaver County Court Administrator and will be posted in the Controller's section of the Beaver County website.

Center District Court Case File Review

Objective: The objective of this test is to assure:

- A. final payment has been made on closed case files
- B. time payments had proper forms signed
- C. all necessary documentation was on file for cases

Scope: The random receipt selection was also used to determine the case file selection. The case file associated with each receipt selected was reviewed in full.

Method: Review the case file for each record selected and note the following:

*citation/complaint	*DL38 (if applicable)
*payment schedule (if applicable) -signed by defendant	*decision documented
	*final payment was made (If applicable)
*evidence of server sheets (if applicable)	*traced speeding fines to authorized cost table (PF-13)
*canceled refund or restitution checks	

Findings:

We audited 20 check items and 20 receipt items to review case files. Of the 40 files we reviewed the office was unable to locate 2 files. While I was able to review these items through the office computers and run State Reports this is not the same as reviewing the actual file. Reviewing the actual files, citations and related paperwork is necessary to properly audit the District Justice Office for the items listed above. Case file related to check 44607 was not found for auditing. Case file related to receipt number 6743 was not found for auditing.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that more care be taken handling files to insure records are properly maintained and available if needed. Clerks should be trained the proper process of maintaining and filing of both open and closed files.