



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

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By Kelly McBride
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Sharonville has joined a growing number of municipalities that participate in the Ohio Checkbook.

The online resource for financial transparency was launched by Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel in December 2014. It includes government spending data from 2008 to the present.

Sharonville Finance Director Scott McKeehan worked with Marcie Longenecker, of the Ohio treasurer's office, to input the city's information, which includes more than 53,000 transactions representing more than \$165 million of spending over the past five years, according to the treasurer.

Longenecker explained the program during City Council's May 23 meeting, when the announcement was made and the city went live on the site, www.ohiocheckbook.com.

Interactive charts and graphs provide details of spending spanning "\$2 pencils to million-dollar road contracts, and everything in between," Longenecker said of the program that was created in late 2014 after Ohio was ranked 46th in the nation for government transparency. For the past two years, the state has been ranked No. 1.

"For the first time in Ohio history, citizens can pull up their smartphones or computers and search any state agency or vendor and really drill down to some specific information," Longenecker said.

"We are empowering an army of citizen watchdogs to hold their elected officials accountable."

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