



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Report of Independent Accountants	1
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances – All Governmental Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2001	3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances – All Governmental Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2000	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on Internal Control Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	11
Schedule of Findings	13

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Franklin Township
Columbiana County
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Hanoverton, Ohio 44423

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Franklin Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of the Township as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 15, 2002 on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board, management, and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

March 15, 2002

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**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$7,658	\$49,050		\$56,708
Intergovernmental	16,746	74,276		91,022
Other Revenue	2,008	1,986		3,994
Total Cash Receipts	<u>26,412</u>	<u>125,312</u>		<u>151,724</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	15,820	197		16,017
Public Safety	165	27,569		27,734
Public Works	11,297	93,621		104,918
Health	561			561
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal		3,203	2,271	5,474
Interest and Fiscal Charges		620	33	653
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>27,843</u>	<u>125,210</u>	<u>2,304</u>	<u>155,357</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(1,431)</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>(2,304)</u>	<u>(3,633)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>14,299</u>	<u>39,699</u>	<u>3,073</u>	<u>57,071</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$12,868</u>	<u>\$39,801</u>	<u>\$769</u>	<u>\$53,438</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$218</u>	<u>\$508</u>		<u>\$726</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$7,687	\$22,917	\$8,451	\$39,055
Intergovernmental	22,476	70,146		92,622
Other Revenue	269	5,436		5,705
Total Cash Receipts	<u>30,432</u>	<u>98,499</u>	<u>8,451</u>	<u>137,382</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	19,279	181		19,460
Public Safety	130	9,857		9,987
Public Works	23,266	78,954		102,220
Health	1,044			1,044
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal		7,314	7,270	14,584
Interest and Fiscal Charges		368	412	780
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>43,719</u>	<u>96,674</u>	<u>7,682</u>	<u>148,075</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(13,287)</u>	<u>1,825</u>	<u>769</u>	<u>(10,693)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>27,586</u>	<u>37,874</u>	<u>2,304</u>	<u>67,764</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$14,299</u>	<u>\$39,699</u>	<u>\$3,073</u>	<u>\$57,071</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$157</u>	<u>\$260</u>		<u>\$417</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Franklin Township, Columbiana County, (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance and fire services.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

The Township has an interest bearing checking account. Interest earned is recognized and recorded when received. Investments procedures are restricted by the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. No investments were held by the Township.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to construct, maintain and repair Township roads.

Fire District Fund - This fund receives money to maintain the Fire Department.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

3. Debt Service Fund

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of note indebtedness.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2001 and 2000 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a cash and investment pool used by all funds. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and investments at December 31 was as follows:

	2001	2000
Demand deposits	\$53,438	\$57,071

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 follows:

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$27,941	\$26,412	(\$1,529)
Special Revenue	137,414	125,312	(12,102)
Debt Service	0	0	0
Total	\$165,355	\$151,724	(\$13,631)

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$42,240	\$28,061	\$14,179
Special Revenue	159,802	125,718	34,084
Debt Service	3,073	2,304	769
Total	\$205,115	\$156,083	\$49,032

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$30,097	\$30,432	\$335
Special Revenue	94,411	98,499	4,088
Debt Service	9,218	8,451	(767)
Total	\$133,726	\$137,382	\$3,656

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY - (Continued)

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$56,806	\$43,876	\$12,930
Special Revenue	130,030	96,934	33,096
Debt Service	11,522	7,682	3,840
Total	\$198,358	\$148,492	\$49,866

The Township did not always certify the availability of funds prior to entering into purchase commitments, as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D).

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by the Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2001 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Note	\$5,358	8.59%

The general obligation note was issued to finance the purchase of a new dump truck to be used for Township road maintenance. This note is backed by the full faith of the Township.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year ending December 31:	General Obligation Notes
2002	\$3,823
2003	1,911
Total	\$5,734

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000
(Continued)**

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Township employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2001 and 2000, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2001 from January 1, 2000 through June 30, 2000. PERS temporarily reduced the employer contribution rate to 8.13%, effective July 1, 2000. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2001.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

8. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The District is one of several Townships named in a Board of Tax Appeal Case. The case deals with the alternate formula for distribution of local government tax monies. Although the outcome of this case is not presently determinable, counsel believes that the resolution of this matter will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Franklin Township
Columbiana County
13603 St. Rte. 644
Hanoverton, Ohio 44423

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Franklin Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000, and have issued our report thereon dated March 15, 2002. We conducted our audit 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.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, 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 a instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2001-41215-001. We also noted an immaterial instance of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated March 15, 2002.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting in order 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 over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated March 15, 2002.

Franklin Township
Columbiana County
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees and management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

March 15, 2002

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

FINDING NUMBER 2001-41215-001

Non-compliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D), states that no subdivision shall make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless the certificate of the fiscal officer is attached. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet such a commitment has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. The amount so certified shall be recorded against the applicable appropriation account.

This section also provides two exceptions to the above requirements:

- A. "Then and Now Certificate" - If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was, both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the taxing authority may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within thirty days from the receipt of such certificate, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.
- B. If the amount involved is less than \$1,000, the fiscal officer may authorize it to be paid without the affirmation of the Trustees.

Our test of disbursements indicated that 46% of expenditures tested were committed prior to the certification of available funds by the Township Clerk. Of the 46% noted above, 33% of the disbursements were certified by the Clerk as then and now. However, the amount certified was greater than \$1,000 and did not have approval of the Trustees. This condition does not provide adequate accountability over the Township's disbursements. Obligations may be incurred which the Trustees have not authorized or which the Township cannot afford.

We recommend that all Township departments be advised that a purchase order with the certificate of the Clerk be obtained prior to making an order involving the expenditure of money. Any request for payment from a vendor without such purchase order should be reviewed by management before the payment is made.



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

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FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

COLUMBIANA COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
MAY 9, 2002**