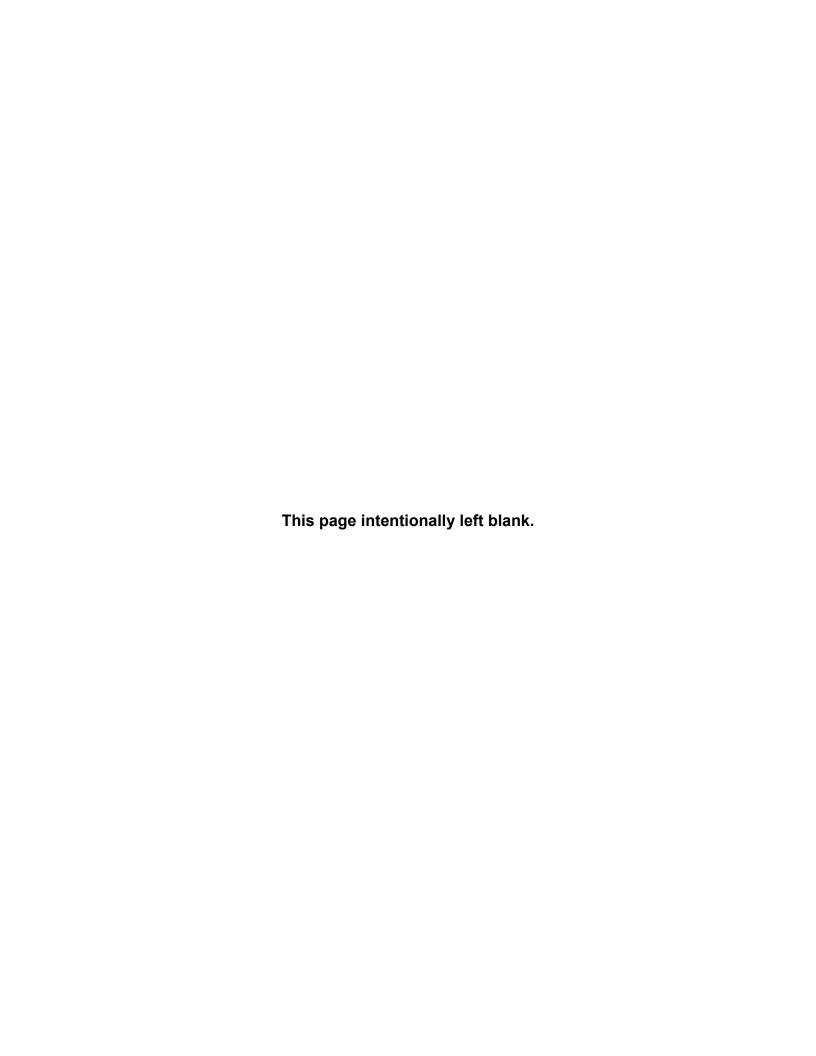




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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Clearcreek Township Fairfield County 10474 Dozer Road SW Stoutsville, Ohio 43154

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Clearcreek Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002, and December 31, 2001. 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 Clearcreek Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2002, and December 31, 2001, 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 July 29, 2003, 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.

Clearcreek Township Fairfield County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Butty Montgomery

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees 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.

**Betty Montgomery Auditor of State** 

July 29, 2003

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES AND FIDUCIARY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Governmental Fund Types				
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Fiduciary Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$40,671	\$227,164	\$0	\$0	\$267,835
Intergovernmental	45,258	135,145	237,611	0	418,014
Charges for Services	0	31,750	0	0	31,750
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	30,919	11,036	0	0	41,955
Earnings on Investments	5,238	830	0	1,328	7,396
Other Revenue	1,158	10,512	0	0	11,670
Total Cash Receipts	123,244	416,437	237,611	1,328	778,620
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	51,100	267	0	0	51,367
Public Safety	0	61,258	0	0	61,258
Public Works	0	246,773	0	0	246,773
Health	9,332	21,358	0	0	30,690
Miscellaneous	927	0	0	0	927
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal	0	13,000	0	0	13,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	341	0	0	341
Capital Outlay	15,862	9,902	237,611	0	263,375
Total Cash Disbursements	77,221	352,899	237,611	0	667,731
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	46,023	63,538	0	1,328	110,889
Other Financing Receipts :					
Sale of Fixed Assets	54	300	0	0	354
Total Other Financing Receipts	54	300	0	0	354
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing					
Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	46,077	63,838	0	1,328	111,243
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	158,655	291,351	0	48,228	498,234
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$204,732	\$355,189	\$0	\$49,556	\$609,477
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$362	\$1,516	\$0	\$0	\$1,878

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

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

	Governmental Fund Types			
	General	Special Revenue	Fiduciary Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$32,662	\$177,996	\$0	\$210,658
Intergovernmental	85,117	111,205	0	196,322
Charges for Services	0	28,300	0	28,300
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	34,139	10,135	0	44,274
Earnings on Investments	5,337	1,195	3,307	9,839
Other Revenue	5,444	19,573	0	25,017
Total Cash Receipts	162,699	348,404	3,307	514,410
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	58,877	275	0	59,152
Public Safety	0	48,445	0	48,445
Public Works	0	201,429	0	201,429
Health	7,882	17,439	0	25,321
Miscellaneous	600	0	0	600
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal	0	22,114	0	22,114
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	1,673	0	1,673
Capital Outlay	13,866	3,953	0	17,819
Total Cash Disbursements	81,225	295,328	0	376,553
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	81,474	53,076	3,307	137,857
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):				
Sale of Fixed Assets	3,575	2,732	0	6,307
Transfers-In	0	12,000	0	12,000
Transfers-Out	(12,000)	0	0	(12,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(8,425)	14,732	0	6,307
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing				
Receipts Over Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	73,049	67,808	3,307	144,164
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	85,606	223,543	44,921	354,070
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$158,655	\$291,351	\$48,228	\$498,234
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$449	\$1,914	\$0	\$2,363

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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. Description of the Entity

Clearcreek Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, (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 general governmental services, including road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical 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

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The investment in STAR Ohio (the State Treasurer's investment pool) is valued at amounts reported by the State Treasurer. Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

## 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:

*EMS* – This fund receives charges for services from other entities and individuals for emergency medical services.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

# 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

#### 2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Fire District - This fund receives monies from other local governments for providing fire and emergency services to those entities.

## 3. Capital Projects Fund

This fund is used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

Tarlton Road Improvements Fund - The Township received an Ohio Public Works Commission grant in 2002 from the State of Ohio to repair and replace portions of Tarlton Road.

# 4. Fiduciary Fund

This fund is used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

Non-Expendable Trust Fund – Cemetery Bequest – This fund receives money from individuals in which interest may be used by the Township for cemetery maintenance.

## 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, function or object 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.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### E. Budgetary Process (Continued)

#### 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.

A summary of 2002 and 2001 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. Unpaid Vacation and Sick Leave

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

#### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a cash and investments 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:

	2002	2001
Demand deposits	\$564,259	\$453,792
Certificates of deposit	4,061	3,967
Total deposits	568,320	457,759
STAR Ohio	41,157	40,475
Total investments	41,157	40,475
Total deposits and investments	\$609,477	\$498,234

**Deposits:** Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, or (2) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

Investments in Star Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

# 3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2002 and December 31, 2001 follows:

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$135,355	\$123,298	(\$12,057)
Special Revenue	403,336	416,737	13,401
Capital Projects	247,355	237,611	(9,744)
Fiduciary	3,000	1,328	(1,672)
Total	\$789,046	\$778,974	(\$10,072)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

2002 Badgotod To: 7 totadi Badgotai y Badio Experiantaree			
Appropriation	Budgetary		
Authority	Expenditures	Variance	
\$159,226	\$77,583	\$81,643	
514,577	354,415	160,162	
237,611	237,611	0	
0	0	0	
\$911,414	\$669,609	\$241,805	
	Appropriation Authority \$159,226 514,577 237,611 0	Appropriation         Budgetary           Authority         Expenditures           \$159,226         \$77,583           514,577         354,415           237,611         237,611           0         0	

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

2001 Badgeted vo. Actual Recorpts				
Budgeted	Actual	_		
Receipts	Receipts	Variance		
\$110,824	\$166,274	\$55,450		
362,600	363,136	536		
2,000	3,307	1,307		
\$475,424	\$532,717	\$57,293		
	Budgeted Receipts \$110,824 362,600 2,000	Budgeted         Actual           Receipts         Receipts           \$110,824         \$166,274           362,600         363,136           2,000         3,307		

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$171,762	\$93,674	\$78,088
Special Revenue	409,485	297,242	112,243
Fiduciary	0	0	0
Total	\$581,247	\$390,916	\$190,331

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

#### 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 payments, 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

The Township retired a Fire Truck Note in 2001 and an EMS Squad Note in 2002.

#### 6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Employees along with elected officials 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 also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2002 and 2001. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2002.

#### 7. RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

## Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured with APEEP up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000, from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

## 7. RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

#### **Property Coverage**

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$10,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$700,000 for 2001 and \$1,250,000 for 2002. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$10,000 if the annual aggregate is reached and all specific losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Operating Fund and Guarantee Fund pay for losses and loss adjustment expenses should they exceed operating contributions.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

#### **Financial Position**

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31:

Casualty Coverage	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Assets	\$23,757,036	\$23,703,776
Liabilities	<u>(9,197,512)</u>	(9,379,003)
Retained earnings	<u>\$14,559,524</u>	<u>\$14,324,773</u>

Property Coverage	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Assets	\$6,596,996	\$5,011,131
Liabilities	(1,204,326)	(647,667)
Retained earnings	<u>\$5,392,670</u>	<u>\$4,363,464</u>

#### 8. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

The Township appoints a Trustee to represent the Township on the 48 member board of the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission. The Township pays a small membership fee annually. The fee is based on the per capita of the Township. There is no ongoing financial interest or responsibility by the Township.



# INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Clearcreek Township Fairfield County 10474 Dozer Road SW Stoutsville, Ohio 43154

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Clearcreek Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002, and December 31, 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated July 29, 2003. 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 an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2002-001. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated July 29, 2003.

#### **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 a matter involving the internal control over financial reporting that does not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated July 29, 2003.

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Fairfield County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

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

**Betty Montgomery Auditor of State** 

Butty Montgomery

July 29, 2003

## SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

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

## **Material Noncompliance**

Finding Number	2002-001

#### **Funds Certification**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (D) states no order or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is a certificate of the fiscal officer that the amount required for the order or contract 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 Clerk may also issue "Then and Now Certificates" for obligations made prior to certification. Then and Now Certificates allow the Clerk to certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made and at the time the certification is completed, sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance. For obligations less than \$1,000, the certificates can be certified by the Clerk without subsequent approval from the Board. However, Then and Now Certificates in excess of \$1,000 must be approved by resolution or ordinance of the Board within 30 days after receiving such certificate. As of April 7, 2003, the threshold for Then and Now Certificates that require Board approval is \$3,000.

Twenty percent of the expenditures tested were not certified at the time of the obligation, nor were Then and Now Certificates used for these expenditures.

We recommend the Township establish procedures to help ensure funds are certified as available prior to the obligation through the issuance of a purchase order containing appropriate certification, or so-called blanket or super blanket certificates as further permitted by Section 5705.41(D). A blanket certificate can be issued for one line item appropriation, not to exceed three months or \$5,000. The blanket certificates must be canceled at the end of each fiscal year. A super blanket certificate can be issued for any amount and any time period, not to exceed the fiscal year, and may be used for recurring and reasonably predictable operating expenses. More than one super blanket certificate can be outstanding for an appropriation line item.



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## **CLEARCREEK TOWNSHIP**

# **FAIRFIELD 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.

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU** 

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED SEPTEMBER 11, 2003