



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA COUNTY

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Liberty Township
Seneca County
6074 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 215
Kansas, OH 44841-0215

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Liberty Township, Seneca County (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001. These financial statements are the responsibility of Liberty Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits 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 audits 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 audits provide 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 Liberty Township, Seneca County, as of December 31, 2002 and 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 March 12, 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 audits.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

March 12, 2003

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$14,221	\$88,970		\$103,191
Intergovernmental	58,528	84,730		143,258
Special Assessments		2,547		2,547
Earnings on Investments	1,253	321		1,574
Other Revenue	7,417	3,467		10,884
	<u>81,419</u>	<u>180,035</u>		<u>261,454</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	45,248			45,248
Public Safety		22,188		22,188
Public Works	10,976	167,148		178,124
Health	6,812			6,812
Conservation - Recreation	442			442
	<u>63,478</u>	<u>189,336</u>		<u>252,814</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>17,941</u>	<u>(9,301)</u>		<u>8,640</u>
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):				
Transfers-In			\$1,000	1,000
Transfers-Out	(1,000)			(1,000)
	<u>(1,000)</u>		<u>1,000</u>	
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>(1,000)</u>		<u>1,000</u>	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	16,941	(9,301)	1,000	8,640
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>28,248</u>	<u>79,300</u>		<u>107,548</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$45,189</u>	<u>\$69,999</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>\$116,188</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$543</u>	<u>\$2,732</u>		<u>\$3,275</u>

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

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA 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>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$12,848	\$100,537		\$113,385
Intergovernmental	44,608	76,710	\$15,267	136,585
Special Assessments		2,796		2,796
Earnings on Investments	1,776	1,043		2,819
Other Revenue	367	3,519		3,886
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Total Cash Receipts	59,599	184,605	15,267	259,471
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	49,844			49,844
Public Safety		18,943		18,943
Public Works	8,553	140,857		149,410
Health	6,894			6,894
Conservation - Recreation	277			277
Capital Outlay		6,301	15,267	21,568
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	65,568	166,101	15,267	246,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(5,969)	18,504		12,535
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	34,217	60,796		95,013
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$28,248</u>	<u>\$79,300</u>		<u>\$107,548</u>
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Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$1,777	\$1,430		\$3,207
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The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Liberty Township, Seneca 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 general governmental services, road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with Bascom Joint Fire District, Kansas Community Volunteer Fire Department, Inc, Old Fort Volunteer Fire Department, and the Village of Bettsville to provide 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

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is 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:

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

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA COUNTY**

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

3. Capital Project 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 project fund:

Issue II Fund - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio to repair Township roads.

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.

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 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.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Demand deposits	<u>\$116,188</u>	<u>\$107,548</u>

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA COUNTY**

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

Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$41,755	\$81,419	\$39,664
Special Revenue	179,241	180,035	794
Capital Projects	11,000	1,000	(10,000)
Total	\$231,996	\$262,454	\$30,458

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$68,776	\$65,021	\$3,755
Special Revenue	249,869	192,068	57,801
Total	\$318,645	\$257,089	\$61,556

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$56,055	\$59,599	\$3,544
Special Revenue	157,885	184,605	26,720
Capital Projects	18,000	15,267	(2,733)
Total	\$231,940	\$259,471	\$27,531

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$90,272	\$67,345	\$22,927
Special Revenue	215,197	167,531	47,666
Capital Projects	18,000	15,267	2,733
Total	\$323,469	\$250,143	\$73,326

Contrary to Ohio law, ten percent of transactions were not certified by the fiscal officer at the time the commitment was incurred.

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA COUNTY**

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

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.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

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. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS 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. For 2002 and 2001, members of OPERS contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2002.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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 occurrence. 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, which the General Reinsurance Corporation will reinsure.

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.

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks including automobile physical damage up to \$100,000 on any specific loss. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures specific losses exceeding \$100,000.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA COUNTY**

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

The Travelers Indemnity Company also provides aggregate excess coverage for property including automobile physical damage subject to an annual stop loss. When the stop loss is reached in any year, The Travelers Indemnity Company provides coverage in excess of \$10,000.

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 report the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Assets	\$23,703,776	\$22,684,383
Liabilities	9,379,003	8,924,977
Retained Earnings	<u>\$14,324,773</u>	<u>\$13,759,406</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Assets	\$5,011,131	\$4,156,784
Liabilities	647,667	497,831
Retained Earnings	<u>\$4,363,464</u>	<u>\$3,658,953</u>

Health Insurance

The Township also provides health insurance through Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO), Ohio Health Pool.

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Liberty Township
Seneca County
6074 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 215
Kansas, OH 44841-0215

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Liberty Township, Seneca County (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated March 12, 2003. We conducted our audits 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 audits 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 2002-40172-001.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audits, 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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

March 12, 2003

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
SENECA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2002-40172-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D) states no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money is to be made unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer certifying 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. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be null and void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

This section also provides two "exceptions" to the above requirement:

- 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 Board may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within 30 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 Board, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

Ten percent of transactions tested were not certified by the fiscal officer at the time the commitment was incurred and neither of the exceptions provided for were used. To improve controls over disbursements we recommend all Township disbursements receive certification of the fiscal officer that the funds are or will be available.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

88 East Broad Street
P.O. Box 1140
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140
Telephone 614-466-4514
800-282-0370
Facsimile 614-466-4490

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

SENECA 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
APRIL 15, 2003**