



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**WHEELING TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Wheeling Township
Belmont County
43121 Luray Drive
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Wheeling Township, Belmont County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 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 Wheeling Township, Belmont 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 June 6, 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.

Wheeling Township
Belmont County
Independent Accountants' Report
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This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, 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.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

June 6, 2003

**WHEELING TOWNSHIP
BELMONT 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>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$16,295	\$51,231	\$67,526
Intergovernmental	84,126	81,211	165,337
Earnings on Investments	1,032	387	1,419
Miscellaneous	4,618		4,618
Total Cash Receipts	<u>106,071</u>	<u>132,829</u>	<u>238,900</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	64,026		64,026
Public Safety		15,886	15,886
Public Works	11,876	111,793	123,669
Health	5,498		5,498
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>81,400</u>	<u>127,679</u>	<u>209,079</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	<u>24,671</u>	<u>5,150</u>	<u>29,821</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>55,047</u>	<u>65,202</u>	<u>120,249</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$79,718</u>	<u>\$70,352</u>	<u>\$150,070</u>

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

**WHEELING TOWNSHIP
BELMONT 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>			<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$18,767	\$59,376	\$	\$78,143
Intergovernmental	69,641	69,846	23,749	163,236
Earnings on Investments	1,788	971		2,759
Other Revenue	6,709	118		6,827
	<u>96,905</u>	<u>130,311</u>	<u>23,749</u>	<u>250,965</u>
Total Cash Receipts				
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	68,447			68,447
Public Safety		20,167		20,167
Public Works	11,651	121,287		132,938
Health	6,603			6,603
Capital Outlay			23,749	23,749
	<u>86,701</u>	<u>141,454</u>	<u>23,749</u>	<u>251,904</u>
Total Cash Disbursements				
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>10,204</u>	<u>(11,143)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(939)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>44,843</u>	<u>76,345</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>121,188</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$55,047</u>	<u>\$65,202</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$120,249</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$212</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$212</u>

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

**WHEELING TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Wheeling Township, Belmont 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 road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection. The Township contracts with the Cumberland Trail Fire District and the Harrisville, New Athens, Maynard, Lafferty, and Flushing Volunteer Fire Departments 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. 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 for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

**WHEELING TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. Fund Accounting (Continued)

3. Capital Projects Fund

These funds are 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:

Ohio Public Works Commission Issue II Fund - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio through the Belmont County Engineer to resurface Township roads.

D. 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.

A summary of 2002 and 2001 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. 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.

F. 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.

**WHEELING TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	2002	2001
Demand deposits	\$150,070	\$120,249

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or 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	\$85,032	\$106,071	\$21,039
Special Revenue	113,710	132,829	19,119
Total	\$198,742	\$238,900	\$40,158

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$140,079	\$81,400	\$58,679
Special Revenue	178,910	127,679	51,231
Total	\$318,989	\$209,079	\$109,910

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$89,316	\$96,905	\$7,589
Special Revenue	121,049	130,311	9,262
Capital Projects	23,749	23,749	0
Total	\$234,114	\$250,965	\$16,851

**WHEELING TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$129,272	\$86,701	\$42,571
Special Revenue	190,705	141,454	49,251
Capital Projects	23,749	23,749	0
Total	\$343,726	\$251,904	\$91,822

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.

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 elected officials and 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 also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2002 and 2001, PERS members 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.

**WHEELING TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

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.

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:

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

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<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>

The Township also provides health insurance coverage to elected officials and employees, as well as life insurance coverage to employees, through a private carrier.

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Wheeling Township
Belmont County
43121 Luray Drive
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Wheeling Township, Belmont County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated June 6, 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 no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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.

Wheeling Township
Belmont County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
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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 style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

June 6, 2003



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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800-282-0370
Facsimile 614-466-4490

WHEELING TOWNSHIP

BELMONT 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
AUGUST 14, 2003**