



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Brushcreek Township
Highland County
P.O. Box 1
Sinking Spring, Ohio 45172

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Brushcreek Township, Highland County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. 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, 2003 and 2002, 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 24, 2004 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 audit committee, management, the Board and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 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 24, 2004

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	Governmental Fund Types			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Fiduciary Funds	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$ 21,939	\$ 56,305	\$ -	\$ 78,244
Intergovernmental	21,238	81,888		103,126
Earnings on Investments	248	767	52	1,067
Other Revenue	93	175		268
 Total Cash Receipts	43,518	139,135	52	182,705
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	28,574			28,574
Public Safety		18,606		18,606
Public Works	618	104,004		104,622
Health	2,345	11,912		14,257
Capital Outlay		9,627		9,627
Debt Service:				
Note Principal Payment	4,997			4,997
Lease Purchase Principal Payment	11,504			11,504
Interest and Fiscal Charge:	5,848			5,848
 Total Cash Disbursements	53,886	144,149	-	198,035
 Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursement:	(10,368)	(5,014)	52	(15,330)
 Fund Cash Balances, January 1	52,421	45,562	4,025	102,008
 Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 42,053	\$ 40,548	\$ 4,077	\$ 86,678
 Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31		\$ 12,000		\$ 12,000

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

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY 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>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$ 21,687	\$ 46,087	\$ -	\$ 67,774
Intergovernmental	18,737	75,434		94,171
Earnings on Investments	46	144	97	287
Other Revenue	<u>13,303</u>	<u>8,125</u>		<u>21,428</u>
 Total Cash Receipts	 <u>53,773</u>	 <u>129,790</u>	 <u>97</u>	 <u>183,660</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	43,248			43,248
Public Safety	1,993	20,483		22,476
Public Works	10,738	77,331		88,069
Health	2,301	6,991		9,292
Capital Outlay		4,392		4,392
Miscellaneous				-
Debt Service:				
Note Principal Payment	4,712			4,712
Lease Purchase Principal Payment	14,253			14,253
Interest and Fiscal Charge:	<u>3,769</u>			<u>3,769</u>
 Total Cash Disbursements:	 <u>81,014</u>	 <u>109,197</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>190,211</u>
 Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursement:	 <u>(27,241)</u>	 <u>20,593</u>	 <u>97</u>	 <u>(6,551)</u>
 Fund Cash Balances, January 1	 <u>79,662</u>	 <u>24,969</u>	 <u>3,928</u>	 <u>108,559</u>
 Fund Cash Balances, December 31	 <u>\$ 52,421</u>	 <u>\$ 45,562</u>	 <u>\$ 4,025</u>	 <u>\$ 102,008</u>

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

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Brushcreek Township, Highland 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 maintenance, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection 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 Deposits

The Township invests all available funds in a NOW checking account and certificates of deposit with local commercial banks. 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:

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund - This fund receives motor vehicle tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

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

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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

Cemetery Levy Fund - This fund receives the proceeds from a tax levy for providing cemetery maintenance.

Fire Levy Fund - This fund receives property tax money for providing fire protection for Township residents.

Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund - This fund receives proceeds from the tax levied on all motor vehicle license sold in the Township for road maintenance and repairs.

3. Fiduciary Funds (Expendable Trust Funds)

The Township's expendable trust funds are used to account for money bequeath to the Township for the care and up keep of Cedar Chapel Cemetery and Beavers Cemetery.

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.

A summary of 2003 and 2002 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.

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND DEPOSITS

The Township maintains a cash and deposit 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:

	2003	2002
Demand deposits	\$84,155	\$99,486
Certificates of deposit	2,523	2,522
Total deposits and investments	\$86,678	\$102,008

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository 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, 2003 and 2002 follows:

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$37,815	\$43,518	\$5,703
Special Revenue	142,850	139,135	(3,715)
Fiduciary	200	52	(148)
Total	\$180,865	\$182,705	\$1,840

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$150,291	\$53,886	\$96,405
Special Revenue	188,412	156,149	32,263
Fiduciary	4,224	0	4,224
Total	\$342,927	\$210,035	\$132,892

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$57,530	\$53,773	(\$3,757)
Special Revenue	137,315	129,790	(7,525)
Fiduciary	150	97	(53)
Total	\$194,995	\$183,660	(\$11,335)

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$197,248	\$81,014	\$116,234
Special Revenue	162,284	109,197	53,087
Fiduciary	4,077	0	4,077
Total	\$363,609	\$190,211	\$173,398

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 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. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2003 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Note	\$45,219	6.08%
Lease Purchase Agreement	38,452	5.5%
Total	\$83,671	

The unsecured general obligation note was issued in 2000 to finance the purchase of a new dump truck to be used for road maintenance. The lease purchase agreement was entered into in 2002 for a tractor and boom mower to be used for road maintenance.

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

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

5. DEBT (Continued)

	General Obligation Note	Lease/ Purchase Agreement	Total
Year ending December 31:			
2004	8,096	14,252	22,348
2005	8,096	14,252	22,348
2006	8,097	14,253	22,350
2007	8,097	0	8,097
2008-10	24,515	0	24,515
Total	\$56,901	\$42,757	\$99,658

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's elected officials and part time 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 2003 and 2002, 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, 2003.

7. 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 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.

**BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (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: (the latest information available)

<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>



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Brushcreek Township
Highland County
P.O. Box 1
Sinking Spring, Ohio 45172

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Brushcreek Township, Highland County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated March 24, 2004. 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*. However, we noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated March 24, 2004.

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.

Brushcreek Township
Highland 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 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 24, 2004



**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

BRUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP

HIGHLAND 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 20, 2004**