



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

PEASE TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Pease Township
Belmont County
425 Elm Street, P.O. Box 176
Martins Ferry, Ohio 43935

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pease Township, Belmont 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.

The Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code Section 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code Sections 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described 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 of Pease Township, Belmont County, 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 April 16, 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.

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Pease 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

April 16, 2004

**PEASE 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, 2003**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>(Memorandum Only)</u>
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$14,475	\$120,518	\$134,993
Intergovernmental	112,572	118,024	230,596
Earnings on Investments	1,881	161	2,042
Other Revenue	1,243	5,284	6,527
	<u>130,171</u>	<u>243,987</u>	<u>374,158</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
	<u>130,171</u>	<u>243,987</u>	<u>374,158</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	87,166	8,798	95,964
Public Safety	16,193	38,240	54,433
Public Works	53,675	165,758	219,433
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal	15,920		15,920
Capital Outlay	19,200	9,515	28,715
	<u>192,154</u>	<u>222,311</u>	<u>414,465</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
	<u>192,154</u>	<u>222,311</u>	<u>414,465</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(61,983)</u>	<u>21,676</u>	<u>(40,307)</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):			
Advances-In		3,019	3,019
Advances-Out	(3,019)		(3,019)
	<u>(3,019)</u>	<u>3,019</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)			
	<u>(3,019)</u>	<u>3,019</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	<u>(65,002)</u>	<u>24,695</u>	<u>(40,307)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>182,787</u>	<u>58,310</u>	<u>241,097</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$117,785</u></u>	<u><u>\$83,005</u></u>	<u><u>\$200,790</u></u>

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

**PEASE 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>		Totals
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>(Memorandum Only)</u>
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$15,708	\$120,774	\$136,482
Intergovernmental	225,377	87,262	312,639
Earnings on Investments	2,758	608	3,366
Other Revenue	7,169		7,169
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	251,012	208,644	459,656
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	75,584	9,367	84,951
Public Safety	14,482	38,794	53,276
Public Works	80,243	167,743	247,986
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal	18,000		18,000
Capital Outlay	18,315	3,049	21,364
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	206,624	218,953	425,577
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	44,388	(10,309)	34,079
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):			
Advances-In		2,502	2,502
Advances-Out	(2,502)		(2,502)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(2,502)	2,502	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	41,886	(7,807)	34,079
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	140,901	66,117	207,018
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$182,787</u>	<u>\$58,310</u>	<u>\$241,097</u>

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

**PEASE TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Pease Township, Belmont 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, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Sunset Heights Volunteer Fire Department, Brookside Volunteer Fire Department, Rock Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Martins Ferry Volunteer Fire Department, Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department, Glen Robbins Volunteer Fire Department, Yorkville Volunteer Fire Department, and the Wolfhurst Fire Department to provide 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

The certificate of deposit is 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 for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

**PEASE TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually. Advances in/out are not required to be budgeted since they represent a temporary cash flow resource and are intended to be repaid.

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. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus 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 canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

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.

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.

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:

	2003	2002
Demand deposits	\$124,911	\$166,136
Certificate of deposit	75,879	74,961
Total demand deposits	\$200,790	\$241,097

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

**PEASE TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

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	\$84,398	\$130,171	\$45,773
Special Revenue	199,254	243,987	44,733
Total	\$283,652	\$374,158	\$90,506

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$227,932	\$192,154	\$35,778
Special Revenue	239,679	222,311	17,368
Total	\$467,611	\$414,465	\$53,146

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$249,086	\$251,012	\$1,926
Special Revenue	196,024	208,644	12,620
Total	\$445,110	\$459,656	\$14,546

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$221,021	\$206,624	\$14,397
Special Revenue	242,779	218,953	23,826
Total	\$463,800	\$425,577	\$38,223

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.

**PEASE TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Township employees, as well as the Clerk and Trustees, 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, OPERS 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.

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 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.

**PEASE TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

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, 2002 and 2001 (the latest information available):

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

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

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Pease Township
Belmont County
425 Elm Street, P.O. Box 176
Martins Ferry, Ohio 43935

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pease Township, Belmont County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated April 16, 2004, wherein we noted that the Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. 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 2003-001. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated April 16, 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. 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 April 16, 2004.

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Pease Township
Belmont 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

April 16, 2004

**PEASE TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2003-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 505.24 states the amount of the annual salary approved by the board shall be no more than the maximum amount that could be received annually by a trustee if the trustee were paid on a per diem basis as specified in this division, and shall be paid only from the township general fund or from other township funds in such proportions as the board may specify by resolution.

During 2003 and 2002, a portion of the Trustee salaries were paid from the Gasoline Tax Fund in the amount of \$7,879 and \$7,766 respectively; however the Township had not adopted a resolution in either year authorizing the payment of Trustee salaries from the Gasoline Tax Fund. Since there was no formal resolution authorizing payment of Trustee salaries from the Gasoline Tax Fund the entire salary amount should be posted to the General Fund.

We recommend the Township adopt a formal resolution at the organizational meeting each year addressing the allocation of total trustee compensation, if payments of the trustee salaries are to be paid from any fund besides the general fund. Each resolution should address the appropriate proportions and funds from which the salaries and fringe benefits are to be paid. Benefits such as health insurance and the employer's portion of retirement and Medicare should be paid out of the same funds, and in the same proportions, as the salaries.

As of the date of this report, Township management was in agreement with the aforementioned adjustment. The adjustment has been posted to the Township's records and is reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

PEASE TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDING
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain:</i>
2001-41007-01	Ohio Rev. Code Section 507.09, finding for recovery issued against Township Clerk for overpayment of salary.	Yes	N/A.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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PEASE 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
JUNE 1, 2004**