



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**



PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY

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**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

Perry Township  
Brown County  
3854 US Highway 50  
Fayetteville, Ohio 45118

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

August 31, 2005

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## Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Perry Township  
Brown County  
3854 US Highway 50  
Fayetteville, Ohio 45118

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Perry Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure 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 our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP would require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2004 (and 2003), the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since this Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2004, or their changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Corporate Centre of Blue Ash / 11117 Kenwood Rd. / Blue Ash, OH 45242  
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Also, 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 Perry Township, Brown County, as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 31, 2005, 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 grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.



**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

August 31, 2005



**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>				<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>					
Local Taxes	\$61,581	\$349,621	\$0	\$0	\$411,202
Intergovernmental	81,010	147,808	0	79,322	308,140
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	0	6,953	0	0	6,953
Earnings on Investments	1,537	321	0	0	1,858
Other Revenue	73	7,038	0	0	7,111
	<u>144,201</u>	<u>511,741</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>79,322</u>	<u>735,264</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>					
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>					
Current:					
General Government	76,794	16,441	0	0	93,235
Public Safety	0	348,525	0	0	348,525
Public Works	0	64,887	0	0	64,887
Health	3,210	0	0	0	3,210
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal	0	0	55,000		55,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	0	13,756		13,756
Capital Outlay	0	55,165	0	280,929	336,094
	<u>80,004</u>	<u>485,018</u>	<u>68,756</u>	<u>280,929</u>	<u>914,707</u>
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>					
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>64,197</u>	<u>26,723</u>	<u>(68,756)</u>	<u>(201,607)</u>	<u>(179,443)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):</b>					
Transfers-In	0	25,000	49,200	0	74,200
Transfers-Out	(74,200)	0	0	0	(74,200)
	<u>(74,200)</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>49,200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>					
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(10,003)	51,723	(19,556)	(201,607)	(179,443)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>26,288</u>	<u>102,609</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>203,926</u>	<u>352,823</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><b>\$16,285</b></u>	<u><b>\$154,332</b></u>	<u><b>\$444</b></u>	<u><b>\$2,319</b></u>	<u><b>\$173,380</b></u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$7,591</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$7,591</u>

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

**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN 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>				<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>					
Local Taxes	\$52,126	\$326,373	\$0	\$0	\$378,499
Intergovernmental	99,332	121,583	0	11,922	232,837
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	0	8,623	0	0	8,623
Earnings on Investments	3,400	293	0	0	3,693
Other Revenue	966	1,859	0	0	2,825
	<u>155,824</u>	<u>458,731</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,922</u>	<u>626,477</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>					
	<u>155,824</u>	<u>458,731</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,922</u>	<u>626,477</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>					
Current:					
General Government	71,623	7,500	0	0	79,123
Public Safety	0	370,723	0	0	370,723
Public Works	0	42,221	0	0	42,221
Health	6,316	0	0	0	6,316
Capital Outlay	644	78,315	0	155,530	234,489
	<u>78,583</u>	<u>498,759</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>155,530</u>	<u>732,872</u>
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>					
	<u>78,583</u>	<u>498,759</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>155,530</u>	<u>732,872</u>
<b>Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</b>	<u>77,241</u>	<u>(40,028)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(143,608)</u>	<u>(106,395)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):</b>					
Proceeds from Sale of Notes	0	0	0	275,000	275,000
Transfers-In	0	44,584	20,000	30,000	94,584
Transfers-Out	(74,584)	(20,000)	0	0	(94,584)
	<u>(74,584)</u>	<u>24,584</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>305,000</u>	<u>275,000</u>
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>					
	<u>(74,584)</u>	<u>24,584</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>305,000</u>	<u>275,000</u>
<b>Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements</b>	2,657	(15,444)	20,000	161,392	168,605
<b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>	<u>23,631</u>	<u>118,053</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>42,534</u>	<u>184,218</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$26,288</u></u>	<u><u>\$102,609</u></u>	<u><u>\$20,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$203,926</u></u>	<u><u>\$352,823</u></u>
<b>Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$190,508</u></u>	<u><u>\$190,508</u></u>

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

**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Description of the Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Perry Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Fayetteville Fire Department to provide fire services and ambulance 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

**C. Cash Deposits**

The Township maintains a "NOW" checking account and a Money Market checking account which is 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 reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**2. Special Revenue Funds**

These funds 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:

Emergency Medical Service Levy Fund - This fund receives proceeds from the property tax levy for the provision of emergency medical services to Township residents.

Fire Levy Fund - This fund receives proceeds from the property tax levy for providing fire protection to Township residents.

**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

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

**3. Debt Service Funds**

These funds account for resources the Township accumulates to pay bond and note debt. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Bond Retirement Fund – This fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bond indebtedness.

**4. Capital Project Funds**

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant Capital Project Funds:

Permanent Improvement Fund – This fund received federal funds for the construction of a new community township building, and equipment storage building.

Issue II Fund – The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio to widen and pave Tucker Road.

**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 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. However, there were no material unrecorded encumbrances at December 31, 2004 and 2003.

A summary of 2004 and 2003 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

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

**F. Property, Plant, and Equipment**

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

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

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

	2004	2003
Demand deposits	\$72,961	\$97,764
Money Market deposits	100,419	255,059
Total deposits	\$173,380	\$352,823

**Deposits:** Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2004 and 2003 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$153,250	\$144,201	(\$9,049)
Special Revenue	553,020	536,741	(16,279)
Debt Service	51,500	49,200	(2,300)
Capital Projects	79,322	79,322	0
Total	\$837,092	\$809,464	(\$27,628)

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$170,847	\$154,204	\$16,643
Special Revenue	554,998	492,609	62,389
Debt Service	90,256	68,756	21,500
Capital Projects	291,181	280,929	10,252
Total	\$1,107,282	\$996,498	\$110,784

**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$164,100	\$155,824	(\$8,276)
Special Revenue	510,345	503,315	(7,030)
Debt Service	20,000	20,000	0
Capital Projects	316,922	316,922	0
Total	\$1,011,367	\$996,061	(\$15,306)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$178,231	\$153,167	\$25,064
Special Revenue	577,668	518,759	58,909
Capital Projects	377,432	346,038	31,394
Total	\$1,133,331	\$1,017,964	\$115,367

The Township did not obtain prior certification of the fiscal officer for all purchases nor were commitments properly encumbered as required by Ohio Law.

**4. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopt rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, 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.

**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

**5. DEBT**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Bonds	\$220,000	3.973%

The Township issued general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a new community township hall. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

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

	General Obligation Bonds
Year ending December 31:	
2005	\$23,385
2006	22,935
2007	22,485
2008	22,035
2009	21,450
2010 – 2014	117,305
2015 – 2016	53,150
Total	\$282,745

**6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

The Township's Officials belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes these plans' benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equaling 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

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. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Townships can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000 from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

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 in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500,000,000 per occurrence. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding 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 township.

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>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$30,687,203	\$27,792,223
Liabilities	<u>(13,640,962)</u>	<u>(11,791,300)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$17,046,241</u>	<u>\$16,000,923</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$7,799,073	\$6,791,060
Liabilities	<u>(753,906)</u>	<u>(750,956)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,045,167</u>	<u>\$6,040,104</u>





**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER  
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS  
REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Perry Township  
Brown County  
3854 US Highway 50  
Fayetteville, Ohio 45118

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Perry Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated August 31, 2005, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures in order to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Township's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with management's assertions in the financial statements. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2004-001.

A material weakness is a reportable 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 caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered material weaknesses. We do not consider the reportable condition listed above to be a material weakness. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 31, 2005, we reported a matter involving internal control over financial reporting which we did not deem to be a reportable condition.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect 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 an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2004-001.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, and Board of Trustees. It is not intended for 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

August 31, 2005

PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

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

FINDING NUMBER 2004-001

**Noncompliance Citation/Reportable Condition**

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41 (D), requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. This certificate need be signed only by the subdivision's fiscal officer. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. **"Then and Now" certificate** – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that 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, the Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.

2. **Blanket Certificate** – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. (Prior to September 26, 2003, blanket certificates were limited to \$5,000 and three months.) The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
3. **Super Blanket Certificate** – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

Contrary to the above requirement, the availability of funds was not certified for 57% of the expenditures tested. Failure to certify the availability of funds and encumber appropriations can result in overspending funds and negative cash balances. Therefore, we recommend the Township obtain approved purchase orders, which contain the Clerk's certification that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated and authorized, prior to making a commitment.

**PERRY TOWNSHIP  
BROWN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <b><i>Explain</i></b>
2002-01	Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41(D), requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or expenditure without prior certification.	No	Reissued the finding as 2004-001





**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

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800-282-0370  
Facsimile 614-466-4490

**PERRY TOWNSHIP**

**BROWN 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  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2005**