

***BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO***

AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004 & 2003

Charles E. Harris and Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants and Government Consultants



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Board of Trustees
Bennington Township
6600 Bennington Chapel Road
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

We have reviewed the *Report of Independent Accountants* of Bennington Township, Licking County prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Auditor's Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State 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. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Independent Auditor's Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State permits.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Bennington Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery".

BETTY MONTGOMERY
Auditor of State

April 11, 2006

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**BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Audit Report
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 & 2003**

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Bennington Township
Licking County
6642 Bennington Chapel Road
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Bennington Township, Licking 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 that 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 the 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 its changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Bennington Township, Licking County, as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements and changes in fund cash balances 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 March 3, 2006, 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, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

March 3, 2006

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
All Governmental and Fiduciary Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Type	Total Memorandum Only
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Nonexpendable Trust	
Receipts:					
Property and Local Taxes	\$ 56,232	\$ 166,131	\$ 12,390	\$ -	\$ 234,753
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	3,945	3,575	-	-	7,520
Intergovernmental	37,336	101,098	1,561	-	139,995
Earnings on Investments	1,498	305	-	-	1,803
Miscellaneous	994	1,483	-	-	2,477
Total Receipts	100,005	272,592	13,951	-	386,548
Disbursements:					
General Government	84,035	-	-	-	84,035
Public Safety	-	60,938	-	-	60,938
Public Works	-	158,772	217	-	158,989
Health	6,714	964	-	-	7,678
Capital Outlay	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal	-	7,793	5,907	-	13,700
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	-	719	938	-	1,657
Total Disbursements	90,749	231,186	7,062	-	328,997
Total Receipts Over/(Under)					
Disbursements	9,256	41,406	6,889	-	57,551
Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2004	29,433	144,220	732	2,474	176,859
Fund Cash Balance, December 31, 2004	\$ 38,689	\$ 185,626	\$ 7,621	\$ 2,474	\$ 234,410

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
All Governmental and Fiduciary Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Type	Total Memorandum Only
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Nonexpendable Trust	
Receipts:					
Property and Local Taxes	\$ 52,745	\$ 138,105	\$ 10,562	\$ -	\$ 201,412
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	3,023	1,275	-	-	4,298
Intergovernmental	55,812	80,084	1,380	-	137,276
Earnings on Investments	1,107	291	-	127	1,525
Miscellaneous	433	-	-	-	433
Total Receipts	113,120	219,755	11,942	127	344,944
Disbursements:					
General Government	82,290	-	-	-	82,290
Public Safety	-	40,919	-	-	40,919
Public Works	1,425	141,002	183	-	142,610
Health	6,435	2,367	-	-	8,802
Capital Outlay	4,300	7,334	-	-	11,634
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal	-	-	11,150	-	11,150
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	-	-	1,229	-	1,229
Total Disbursements	94,450	191,622	12,562	-	298,634
Total Receipts Over/(Under)					
Disbursements	18,670	28,133	(620)	127	46,310
Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2003	10,763	116,087	1,352	2,347	130,549
Fund Cash Balance, December 31, 2003	\$ 29,433	\$ 144,220	\$ 732	\$ 2,474	\$ 176,859

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTITY

Bennington Township, Licking County (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established for the purpose of exercising 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 and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Hartford Volunteer Fire Department for fire protection and ambulance services.

The Township's management believes these financial statements included in this report represent all of the funds of the Township over which the Township has the ability to exercise direct operating control.

B. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Township prepares its financial statements following 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.)

The statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. CASH

Investments are included in the fund cash balances. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

D. FUND ACCOUNTING

The Township maintains its accounting records in accordance with the principles of "Fund" accounting. Fund accounting is a concept developed to meet the needs of governmental entities in which legal or other restraints require the recording of

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

D. FUND ACCOUNTING - (Continued)

specific receipts and disbursements. The transactions of each fund are reflected in a self-balancing group of accounts, an accounting entity, which stands separate from the activities reported in other funds. The restrictions associated with each class of funds are as follows:

Governmental Fund Types:

General Fund: The general operating fund of the Township. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required by law or contract to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds: These funds are used to account for proceeds from special sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. The Township has the following significant Special Revenue funds:

- Gasoline Tax Fund
- Road and Bridge Fund
- Fire Fund

Debt Service Fund: This fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of indebtedness. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

- Truck Debt Service

Fiduciary Fund Type: These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant Fiduciary Fund:

Nonexpendable Trust Fund:

- Cemetery

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

E. BUDGETARY PROCESS

A budget of estimated cash receipts and disbursements is prepared by the Clerk, approved by the Township Board of Trustees, and submitted to the county auditor, as secretary of the County Budget Commission, by July 20 of each year, for the period January 1 to December 31 of the following year.

1. Estimated Resources

The county auditor calculates the estimated revenues available to the Township. He prepares a certificate of estimated resources based upon this calculation and upon the other financial information supplied in the budget sent by the Township. The certificate is approved by the county budget commission and sent to the Township Clerk by September 1.

Prior to December 31, the Township must revise its budget so that the total budgeted expenditures for a fund will not exceed the amount of estimated resources stated in the certificate of estimated resources. The revised budget serves as the basis for the annual appropriation measure.

On or about January 1, the Clerk sends the county auditor a certificate which includes the actual unencumbered balances from the preceding year. The county auditor prepares an amended certificate, submits it to the county budget commission for approval. This amended certificate may be further amended during the year if projected revenue increases or the Clerk identifies decreases in revenue.

Budget receipts, as shown in Note 4, do not include the unencumbered fund balances as of January 1, 2003 and 2004. However, those fund balances are available for appropriation.

2. Appropriations

A temporary appropriation measure to control cash expenditures may be passed on or about January 1 of each year for the period January 1 to March 31. An annual appropriation measure must be passed by March 31 of each year for the period January 1 to December 31. The appropriation measure may be amended or supplemented during the year as new information becomes available. Appropriations may not exceed estimated resources.

**BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

E. BUDGETARY PROCESS - (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

The Township is required to use the encumbrance method of accounting by virtue of Ohio law. Under this system, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of funds are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation and to determine and maintain legal compliance. The sum of expenditures and encumbrances may not exceed appropriated totals at any level of budgetary control. The legal level of control is the object level.

Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end. Encumbered appropriations are carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year without being re-appropriated.

F. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as capital outlay 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 AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Township maintains a cash and investment 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:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Demand Deposits	\$232,410	\$174,859
Certificates of Deposit	2,000	2,000
Total	\$234,410	\$176,859

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, or (3) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003**

3. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes are levied on assessed values, which equal 35% of appraised value. The county auditor reappraises all real property every six years with a triennial update. The last update was completed for tax year 2004.

Real property taxes become a lien on all non-exempt real property located in the county on January 1. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20 of the following year. Under certain circumstances, state statute permits later payment dates to be established.

The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts the tax rates for inflation. Real property owners' tax bills are further reduced by homestead and rollback deductions when applicable. The amount of these homestead and rollback reductions is reimbursed to the Township by the State of Ohio. The amounts reimbursed by the State of Ohio are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as intergovernmental receipts.

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

The property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30, assess tangible personal property tax.

The County Treasurer collects property tax on behalf of all taxing authorities within the county. The County Auditor periodically remits to the taxing authorities their portions of the taxes collected.

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

<u>Fund:</u>	<u>2004 Budgeted vs Actual Receipts</u>		
	<u>Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$ 115,838	\$ 100,005	\$ (15,833)
Special Revenue Funds	262,385	272,592	10,207
Debt Service Fund	16,810	13,951	(2,859)
Nonexpendable Trust	-	-	-

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY – Continued

2004 Budgeted vs Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

<u>Fund:</u>	<u>Appropriation Authority</u>	<u>Budgetary Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$ 125,272	\$ 90,749	\$ 34,523
Special Revenue Funds	379,367	231,186	148,181
Debt Service Fund	17,542	7,062	10,480
Nonexpendable Trust	474	-	474

2003 Budgeted vs Actual Receipts

<u>Fund:</u>	<u>Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$ 102,757	\$ 113,120	\$ 10,363
Special Revenue Funds	216,970	219,755	2,785
Debt Service Fund	11,685	11,942	257
Nonexpendable Trust	-	127	127

2003 Budgeted vs Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

<u>Fund:</u>	<u>Appropriation Authority</u>	<u>Budgetary Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$ 113,520	\$ 94,450	\$ 19,070
Special Revenue Funds	333,057	191,622	141,435
Debt Service Fund	13,037	12,562	475
Nonexpendable Trust	347	-	347

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS), a state operated, cost sharing, multiple employer plans. The plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. Members of OP&F contributed 10.0% of their gross pay, while the Township contributed 19.5%. OPERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross pay while the Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of covered payroll. The Township paid all required contributions through 2004.

**BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP

The Township belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (“the Plan”), an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to approximately 500 Ohio governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Plan is a separate legal entity. The Plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages, modified for each member’s needs. The Plan pays judgments, settlements, and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the Member’s deductible.

The Plan issues its own policies and reinsures the Plan with A-Vii or better rated carriers, except for the 5% portion retained by the Plan. After September 1, 2003, the Plan pays the lesser of 5% or \$25,000 of casualty losses and the lesser of 5% or \$50,000 of property losses. The individual members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member.

The Pool’s audited financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and member’s equity at December 31:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$ 6,685,522	\$ 5,402,167
Liabilities	<u>2,227,808</u>	<u>1,871,123</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 4,457,714</u>	<u>\$ 3,531,044</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for the Ohio Government Risk Management at the Plan’s website, www.ohioplan.org.

Settled Claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the last three years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from last year.

The Township pays the State Worker's Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. The rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

**BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003**

7. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 is as follows:

<u>Description:</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Truck Loan	<u>\$ 17,796</u>	<u>5.00%</u>

Principal and interest requirements for debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Truck Loan</u>
<u>Ended</u>	
2005	\$ 13,689
2006	<u>6,844</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 20,533</u></u>

8. CONTINGENT LIABILITES/SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management believes there are no pending claims or lawsuits.

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants

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**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

The Board of Trustees
Bennington Township
6642 Bennington Chapel Road
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

We have audited the financial statements of Bennington Township, Licking County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated March 3, 2006, 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 standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Controls 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 an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud 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.

Compliance and Other Matters

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, grant agreements and other matters, 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 or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we noted other matters involving compliance that we have reported to the management of the Township in a separate letter dated March 3, 2006.

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

Charles E. Harris and Associates, Inc.

March 3, 2006

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

The prior audit report, for the years ending December 31, 2002 and 2001, reported no material citations or recommendations.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP

LICKING 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
MAY 4, 2006**