



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HILL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #3
BELMONT COUNTY

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Hill Valley Fire District #3
Belmont County
P.O. Box 133
Colerain, Ohio 43916

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 an 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 adverse 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.

Mary Taylor

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June 11, 2008

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Hill Valley Fire District #3
Belmont County
P.O. Box 133
Colerain, Ohio 43916

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Hill Valley Fire District #3, Belmont County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District'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 District 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.

GAAP require presenting entity-wide statements and also presenting the District's larger (i.e., major) funds separately. While the District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require fire districts to reformat their statements. The District has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. 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 years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance of the Hill Valley Fire District #3, Belmont County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The District 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 June 11, 2008, on our consideration of the District'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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 11, 2008

**HILL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #3
BELMONT COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN CASH BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

Cash Receipts:	
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$140,623
Intergovernmental	18,501
Earnings on Investments	<u>51</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>159,175</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Current Disbursements:	
Security of Persons and Property:	
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	4,963
Materials and Supplies	23
Contracts	135,000
Other	<u>3,235</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>143,221</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	15,954
Cash Balance January 1	<u>36,063</u>
Cash Balance, December 31	<u><u>\$52,017</u></u>

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

**HILL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #3
BELMONT COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN CASH BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

Cash Receipts:	
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$61,081
Intergovernmental	9,588
Earnings on Investments	<u>43</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>70,712</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Current Disbursements:	
Security of Persons and Property:	
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	4,202
Materials and Supplies	105
Contracts	65,000
Other	<u>5,093</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>74,400</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(3,688)
Cash Balance January 1	<u>39,751</u>
Cash Balance, December 31	<u><u>\$36,063</u></u>

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

**HILL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #3
BELMONT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

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 Hill Valley Fire District #3, Belmont County (the District), as a body corporate and politic. A two-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Pease Township and Colerain Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District 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. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that the District budget annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the 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 District 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 2007 and 2006 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**HILL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #3
BELMONT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006
(Continued)**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

D. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

2. Cash

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash at December 31 was as follows:

	2007	2006
Demand deposits	\$52,017	\$36,063

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2007 and 2006 follows:

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
\$147,060	\$159,175	\$12,115

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures		
Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
\$183,557	\$143,221	\$40,336

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
\$65,040	\$70,712	\$5,672

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures		
Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
\$102,182	\$74,400	\$27,782

**HILL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #3
BELMONT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006
(Continued)**

4. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax 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 District.

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 District.

5. Retirement Systems

The District's officials belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007 and 2006, OPERS members contributed 9.5 and 9%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 13.85 and 13.7%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

8. Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The District is uninsured for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

However, the District does not own or maintain any property or equipment.

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

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

Hill Valley Fire District #3
Belmont County
P.O. Box 133
Colerain, Ohio 43916

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Hill Valley Fire District #3, Belmont County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated June 11, 2008, wherein we noted the District 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 District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

We noted a certain matter that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 11, 2008.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District'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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We did note certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 11, 2008.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 11, 2008



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HILL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #3

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
JULY 24, 2008**