



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
DARKE COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Cover Letter	1
Independent Accountants' Report.....	3
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Change in Fund Cash Balance – General Fund - For the Year Ended December 31, 2007	5
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Change in Fund Cash Balance - General Fund - For the Year Ended December 31, 2006	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	11
Schedule of Findings.....	13

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Tri-Village Joint Ambulance District
Darke County
3900 Koons Road
New Madison, Ohio 45346

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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Auditor of State

June 23, 2008

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Tri-Village Joint Ambulance District
Darke County
3900 Koons Road
New Madison, Ohio 45346

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Tri-Village Joint Ambulance District, Darke County, (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 requires 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 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 fund cash balances of Tri-Village Joint Ambulance District, Darke County, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis as Note 1 describes.

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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 23, 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 23, 2008

**TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
DARKE COUNTY**

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

	General
Cash Receipts:	
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$134,577
Integovernmental	16,300
Earnings on Investments	239
Rent Income	5,658
Miscellaneous	4,951
Total Cash Receipts	161,725
 Cash Disbursements:	
Contractual Services	100,000
Salaries	38,421
Fringe Benefits	7,297
Other	12,634
Total Cash Disbursements	158,352
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	3,373
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	38,027
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$41,400

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

**TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
DARKE COUNTY**

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

	General
Cash Receipts:	
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$133,826
Intergovernmental	15,842
Earnings on Investments	429
Rent Income	6,000
Miscellaneous	1,212
Total Cash Receipts	157,309
 Cash Disbursements:	
Contractual Services	100,000
Salaries	36,492
Fringe Benefits	6,894
Other	11,780
Total Cash Disbursements	155,166
 Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	 2,143
 Fund Cash Balance, January 1	 35,884
 Fund Cash Balance, December 31	 \$38,027

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

**TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBUALNCE DISTRICT
DARKE 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 Tri-Village Joint Ambulance District, Darke County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A eight-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are the Townships of Butler, Liberty, Neave, and Harrison, and the Villages of New Madison, Palestine, Hollansburg, and Wayne Lakes. The District provides rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside 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. Cash and Investments

The District's cash is in demand deposits.

D. Fund Accounting

The District classifies its fund as the following type:

1. General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

**TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBUALNCE DISTRICT
DARKE COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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 carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The District did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

A summary of 2007 and 2006 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. 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. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The District 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:

	2007	2006
Demand deposits	\$41,400	\$38,027
Total deposits	41,400	38,027

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$160,000	\$161,725	\$1,725
Total	\$160,000	\$161,725	\$1,725

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$198,027	\$158,352	\$39,675
Total	\$198,027	\$158,352	\$39,675

**TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
DARKE COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$160,000	\$157,309	(\$2,691)
Total	\$160,000	\$157,309	(\$2,691)

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$195,884	\$155,166	\$40,718
Total	\$195,884	\$155,166	\$40,718

Contrary to Ohio law, the District did not certify the availability of appropriations prior to entering into purchase obligations in violation of Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D).

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 employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes the plans 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.

**TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBUALNCE DISTRICT
DARKE COUNTY**

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles



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*

Tri-Village Joint Ambulance District
Darke County
3900 Koons Road
New Madison, Ohio 45346

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Tri-Village Joint Ambulance District, Darke County, (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated June 23, 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 of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies 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 matter that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 23, 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matter we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2007-001.

We also noted a certain noncompliance or other matter not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 23, 2008.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the management and 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 23, 2008

**TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
DARKE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

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

FINDING 2007-001

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

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 District can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The District 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 District.

2. **Blanket certificate** – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates not exceeding an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by the legislative authority, against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the current year. 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 District 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 one line item appropriation.

The District did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 100% of 2007 and 2006 disbursements, and the aforementioned exceptions were not properly utilized. The failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending and negative cash fund balances.

**FINDING 2007-001
(Continued)**

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the District's fund exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the District's Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to the obligation by the District. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the District certify purchases to which section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The fiscal officer should sign the certification at the time the District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

Officials Response:

Officials did not respond to this finding.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

TRI-VILLAGE JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT

DARKE 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 29, 2008**