



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Hartsgrove Township
Ashtabula County
5321 State Route 534 South
Rome, Ohio 44085

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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September 18, 2009

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Hartsgrove Township
Ashtabula County
5321 State Route 534 South
Rome, Ohio 44085

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. 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. The Township processes its financial transactions with the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. 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.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. 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 GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require townships to reformat their statements. The Township 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.

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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, 2008 and 2007 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, 2008 and 2007, 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 combined fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula County, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

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 September 18, 2009, 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.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 18, 2009

**HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Fiduciary Fund</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Private Purpose Trust</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$80,237	\$183,935		\$264,172
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		2,201		2,201
Intergovernmental	20,502	141,842		162,344
Earnings on Investments	5,164	405	\$68	5,637
Miscellaneous	656	5,187		5,843
	<u>106,559</u>	<u>333,570</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>440,197</u>
Total Cash Receipts				
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	128,938	11,155		140,093
Public Safety		29,271		29,271
Public Works	126,777	231,684		358,461
Health	15,694	3,684		19,378
Conservation - Recreation	1,246			1,246
Capital Outlay	6,400	300		6,700
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal	29,700	73,759		103,459
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	370	32,724		33,094
	<u>309,125</u>	<u>382,577</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>691,702</u>
Total Cash Disbursements				
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(202,566)</u>	<u>(49,007)</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>(251,505)</u>
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):				
Other Financing Sources	598			598
	<u>598</u>			<u>598</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>598</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>598</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	<u>(201,968)</u>	<u>(49,007)</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>(250,907)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>535,389</u>	<u>132,257</u>	<u>1,063</u>	<u>668,709</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$333,421</u>	<u>\$83,250</u>	<u>\$1,131</u>	<u>\$417,802</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

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

**HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Fiduciary Fund Type</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Private Purpose Trust</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$80,548	\$136,624		\$217,172
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		4,487		4,487
Intergovernmental	499,285	129,701		628,986
Earnings on Investments	7,609	355	\$32	7,996
Miscellaneous	187	894		1,081
Total Cash Receipts	587,629	272,061	32	859,722
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	71,119	9,414		80,533
Public Safety		26,744		26,744
Public Works	1,561	503,387		504,948
Health	16,112	1,200		17,312
Conservation - Recreation	3,031			3,031
Capital Outlay	2,200			2,200
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal	3,844	329,327		333,171
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	1,599	24,040		25,639
Total Cash Disbursements	99,466	894,112	0	993,578
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	488,163	(622,051)	32	(133,856)
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):				
Note Proceeds		625,000		625,000
Other Financing Sources	50			50
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	50	625,000	0	625,050
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	488,213	2,949	32	491,194
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	47,176	129,308	1,031	177,515
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$535,389	\$132,257	\$1,063	\$668,709

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

**HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

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 Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Hartsgrove Volunteer Fire Association to provide fire services. The Township utilizes South Central Ambulance District to provide ambulance services.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township 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 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. Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Certificate of deposits are 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 private-purpose trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

**HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

Fire Levy Fund - This fund receives receipts generated from a restricted Township levy for fire protection.

3. Fiduciary Fund

Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments which are not available to support the Township's own programs.

The Township's private purpose trust fund is for the benefit of certain individuals.

The Township had the following significant Trust Fund:

Phelps Cemetery Bequest – Monies were left in a bequest for the proper care, maintenance, decoration and repair of a family burial plot.

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 or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2008 and 2007 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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.

**HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

	2008	2007
Demand deposits	\$217,802	\$166,563
Certificates of deposit	200,000	502,146
Total deposits	\$417,802	\$668,709

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, 2008 and 2007 follows:

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$102,000	\$107,157	\$5,157
Special Revenue	294,880	333,570	38,690
Fiduciary	15	68	53
Total	\$396,895	\$440,795	\$43,900

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$633,250	\$309,125	\$324,125
Special Revenue	422,840	382,577	40,263
Fiduciary	200	0	200
Total	\$1,056,290	\$691,702	\$364,588

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$528,296	\$587,679	\$59,383
Special Revenue	872,190	897,061	24,871
Fiduciary	0	32	32
Total	\$1,400,486	\$1,484,772	\$84,286

**HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY – (Continued)

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$574,850	\$99,466	\$475,384
Special Revenue	993,352	894,112	99,240
Fiduciary	200	0	200
Total	\$1,568,402	\$993,578	\$574,824

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 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.

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2008 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Note: Fire Truck	\$113,825	4.03%
General Obligation Note: Road Paving	567,137	4.75%
Total	\$680,962	

The Township issued a general obligation note to finance the purchase of a fire truck in 2003. The Township also received a \$625,000 loan from Andover Bank in 2007. This general obligation note was used to finance seal coating and paving of various township roads and to pay off the balance of a \$300,000 road paving note issued in 2006 from Middlefield Bank.

The Township's taxing authority collateralized the notes.

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

**HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

5. DEBT – (Continued)

Year ending December 31:	Fire Truck Note	Paving Note	Total
2009	\$25,542	\$78,886	\$104,428
2010	25,542	78,886	104,428
2011	25,542	78,886	104,428
2012	25,542	78,886	104,428
2013	23,414	78,886	102,300
2014-2018	0	300,834	300,834
Total	<u>\$125,582</u>	<u>\$695,264</u>	<u>\$820,846</u>

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a 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. For 2008 and 2007, OPERS members contributed 10 and 9.5%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 and 13.85%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2008.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees. The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

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

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006, OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim 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 \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA.

If losses exhaust PEP's retained earnings, APEEP provides *excess of funds available* coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000 (prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (on or subsequent to January 1, 2006).

**HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)

Property Coverage

Through 2004, OTARMA retained property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsured losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500 million per occurrence.

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. This amount increased to \$300,000 in 2007. For 2007, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$300,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable values. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in 2006, or \$100,000 and \$300,000 in 2007, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit.

The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2007 was \$2,014,548.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

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, 2007 and 2006 (the latest information available):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$43,210,703	\$42,042,275
Liabilities	<u>(13,357,837)</u>	<u>(12,120,661)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$29,852,866</u>	<u>\$29,921,614</u>

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, liabilities above include approximately \$12.5 million and \$11.3 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$11.6 million and \$10.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$8,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Township terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with OTARMA, the expected rates OTARMA charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to OTARMA for each year of membership.

HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)

7. RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
2006	\$10,138
2007	\$ 8,108
2008	\$ 8,176

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA provided they provide written notice to OTARMA 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's budgetary contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.

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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*

Hartsgrove Township
Ashtabula County
5321 State Route 534 South
Rome, Ohio 44085

To the Township Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated September 18, 2009 wherein we noted the Township prepared its financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the Township. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. 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 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 Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township'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 Township'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 Township'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 Township'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 one matter that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated September 18, 2009.

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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We did note one noncompliance or other matter that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated September 18, 2009.

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



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 18, 2009



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP

ASHTABULA 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
OCTOBER 13, 2009**