



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State



RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY

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Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State

Ripley Township  
Huron County  
4382 New State Road  
Willard, Ohio 44890-9376

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*

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

October 26, 2009

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# Mary Taylor, CPA

## Auditor of State

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Ripley Township  
Huron County  
4382 New State Road  
Willard, Ohio 44890-9376

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ripley Township, Huron 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.

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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. 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 of Ripley Township, Huron 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 October 26, 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

October 26, 2009



**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$33,501	\$31,350	\$64,851
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	374		374
Intergovernmental	25,779	108,693	134,472
Earnings on Investments	59	99	158
Miscellaneous	446	400	846
Total Cash Receipts	<u>60,159</u>	<u>140,542</u>	<u>200,701</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>			
Current:			
General Government	49,929	15,511	65,440
Public Works		118,985	118,985
Human Services	2,274		2,274
Capital Outlay	803		803
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>53,006</u>	<u>134,496</u>	<u>187,502</u>
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	<u>7,153</u>	<u>6,046</u>	<u>13,199</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>6,068</u>	<u>10,986</u>	<u>17,054</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b><u>\$13,221</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,032</u></b>	<b><u>\$30,253</u></b>

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

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$33,804	\$31,822	\$65,626
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	531		531
Intergovernmental	58,801	97,920	156,721
Earnings on Investments	260	117	377
Miscellaneous	467	4,916	5,383
Total Cash Receipts	<u>93,863</u>	<u>134,775</u>	<u>228,638</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>			
Current:			
General Government	66,296		66,296
Public Works		240,066	240,066
Health	2,022		2,022
Capital Outlay	909		909
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>69,227</u>	<u>240,066</u>	<u>309,293</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>24,636</u>	<u>(105,291)</u>	<u>(80,655)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):</b>			
Transfers-In		63,868	63,868
Transfers-Out	(63,868)		(63,868)
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>(63,868)</u>	<u>63,868</u>	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Under Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(39,232)	(41,423)	(80,655)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>45,300</u>	<u>52,409</u>	<u>97,709</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b><u>\$6,068</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,986</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,054</u></b>

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

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON 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 Ripley Township, Huron 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 and cemetery maintenance.

The Township participates in two jointly governed organizations and the Ohio Township Risk Management Authority public entity risk pool. Notes 6 and 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for these entities. These organizations are:

Jointly Governed Organizations:

The Tri-Community Joint Fire District provides fire services.

The Tri-Community Ambulance District provides ambulance services.

Public Entity Risk Pool:

The Township participates in Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool which provides property and casualty coverage for its members.

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. Fund Accounting**

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is 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.

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

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

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**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.

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

**D. 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. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

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

**E. 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.

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

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

**2. Equity in Pooled Deposits**

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

	2008	2007
Demand deposits	\$30,253	\$17,054

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

**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	\$51,687	\$60,159	\$8,472
Special Revenue	126,087	140,542	14,455
Total	\$177,774	\$200,701	\$22,927

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$57,755	\$53,006	\$4,749
Special Revenue	136,526	134,496	2,030
Total	\$194,281	\$187,502	\$6,779

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$130,951	\$93,863	(\$37,088)
Special Revenue	201,719	198,643	(3,076)
Total	\$332,670	\$292,506	(\$40,164)

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON 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	\$137,383	\$133,095	\$4,288
Special Revenue	246,759	240,066	6,693
Total	\$384,142	\$373,161	\$10,981

**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. Retirement System**

The Township's employees 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 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.

**6. 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.

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

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

**6. Risk Management (Continued)**

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).

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):

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

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

**6. Risk Management (Continued)**

	<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 \$4,000. 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.

<b><u>Contributions to OTARMA</u></b>	
2006	\$4,963
2007	\$3,942
2008	\$3,883

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.



**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

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

**7. Jointly Governed Organizations**

**Tri-Community Ambulance District**

A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are the Village of Greenwich, Greenwich Township, and Ripley Township. The District provides emergency medical services to residents of these political subdivisions. Financial information can be obtained from Traci Montgomery, Clerk, Tri-Community Ambulance District, 3720 Edwards Road, Greenwich, Ohio 44837-9416.

**Tri-Community Joint Fire District**

A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are the Village of Greenwich, Greenwich Township, and Ripley Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District. Financial information can be obtained from Lisa Madison, Clerk, Tri-Community Joint Fire District, 49 Main Street, Greenwich, Ohio, 44837-1145.

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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***

Ripley Township  
Huron County  
4382 New State Road  
Willard, Ohio 44890-9376

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Ripley Township, Huron County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated October 26, 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

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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 certain matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated October 26, 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 an instance of noncompliance that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2008-001.

The Township's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the Township's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

October 26, 2009

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

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

FINDING NUMBER 2008-001

**Noncompliance Citation**

**Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D)(1)**, states that no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the Fiscal Officer certifying that the amount required for the order or contract has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be null and void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that 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 collections, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Board can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Board has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts 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 Board.

2. **Blanket Certificate** – Fiscal Officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to 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 Board 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 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.

Forty percent of the transactions tested were not certified by the Fiscal Officer at the time the commitment was incurred, and there was no evidence the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

Certification is not only required by Ohio law but is a key control in the disbursements process to help assure purchase commitments receive prior approval, and help reduce the possibility of Township funds being over expended or exceeding budgetary spending limitations as set by the Board. The Board did not pass a resolution establishing limit amount for regular blanket certificates. The Board of Trustees should establish a limit for the blanket certificates by resolution. To improve controls over disbursements, we recommend all Township disbursements receive prior certification of the Fiscal Officer and the Board periodically review the expenditures made to ensure they are within the appropriations adopted by the Board, certified by the Fiscal Officer and recorded against appropriations.

**Officials' Response:** The Fiscal Officer will correct this matter in the future.



Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP**

**HURON 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  
NOVEMBER 10, 2009**