



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Wells Township
Jefferson County
409 Prospect Avenue
Brilliant, Ohio 43913

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

August 6, 2010

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Wells Township
Jefferson County
409 Prospect Avenue
Brilliant, Ohio 43913

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Wells Township, Jefferson County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. 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. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

Voinovich Government Center / 242 Federal Plaza W. / Suite 302 / Youngstown, OH 44503-1293

Telephone: (330) 797-9900 (800) 443-9271 Fax: (330) 797-9949

www.auditor.state.oh.us

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, 2009 and 2008 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, 2009 and 2008, 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 Wells Township, Jefferson County, as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, 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 August 6, 2010, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

August 6, 2010

WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$190,037	\$940,961	\$1,130,998
Charges for Services		4,096	4,096
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	15,003		15,003
Fines and Forfeitures	13,046		13,046
Intergovernmental	100,708	336,660	437,368
Earnings on Investments	4,385	712	5,097
Miscellaneous	19,475	323,937	343,412
	<u>342,654</u>	<u>1,606,366</u>	<u>1,949,020</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	221,668	376,964	598,632
Public Safety	21,558	67,484	89,042
Public Works	35,000	1,042,948	1,077,948
Health	33,037		33,037
Conservation - Recreation		93,242	93,242
Capital Outlay	20,500	136,941	157,441
	<u>331,763</u>	<u>1,717,579</u>	<u>2,049,342</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>10,891</u>	<u>(111,213)</u>	<u>(100,322)</u>
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):			
Other Financing Sources	8,900	25,850	34,750
	<u>8,900</u>	<u>25,850</u>	<u>34,750</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)			
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	19,791	(85,363)	(65,572)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>209,295</u>	<u>670,259</u>	<u>879,554</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$229,086</u>	<u>\$584,896</u>	<u>\$813,982</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31		<u>\$444</u>	<u>\$444</u>

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

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$165,286	\$811,464	\$976,750
Charges for Services		5,140	5,140
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	13,529		13,529
Fines and Forfeitures	14,390		14,390
Intergovernmental	116,699	351,054	467,753
Earnings on Investments	9,030	974	10,004
Miscellaneous	19,958	221,375	241,333
	<u>338,892</u>	<u>1,390,007</u>	<u>1,728,899</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
	<u>338,892</u>	<u>1,390,007</u>	<u>1,728,899</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	204,118	371,032	575,150
Public Safety	19,314	65,491	84,805
Public Works	33,844	699,707	733,551
Health	39,948		39,948
Conservation - Recreation		67,201	67,201
Capital Outlay	78,473	48,761	127,234
	<u>375,697</u>	<u>1,252,192</u>	<u>1,627,889</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
	<u>375,697</u>	<u>1,252,192</u>	<u>1,627,889</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(36,805)</u>	<u>137,815</u>	<u>101,010</u>
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):			
Other Financing Sources		14,782	14,782
		<u>14,782</u>	<u>14,782</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)			
		<u>14,782</u>	<u>14,782</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(36,805)	152,597	115,792
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>246,100</u>	<u>517,662</u>	<u>763,762</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$209,295</u>	<u>\$670,259</u>	<u>\$879,554</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$19,000</u>		<u>\$19,000</u>

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

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

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 Wells Township, Jefferson 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 Brilliant, Rayland, New Alexandria, and Smithfield Volunteer Fire Departments to provide fire services and ambulance services.

The Township participates in Ohio Township Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. This organization is Ohio Township Risk Management Authority (OTARMA):

OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member townships pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

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.

Certificates of Deposit are recorded 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.

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008
(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.

Special Levy Police Fund - This fund receives police levy money to pay for police protection throughout the Township.

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 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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered 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 carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2009 and 2008 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.

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.

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS

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

	2009	2008
Demand deposits	\$813,982	\$579,554
Certificates of deposit		300,000
Total deposits	\$813,982	\$879,554

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, 2009 and 2008 follows:

2009 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$320,000	\$351,554	\$31,554
Special Revenue	1,331,500	1,632,216	300,716
Total	\$1,651,500	\$1,983,770	\$332,270

2009 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$381,132	\$331,763	\$49,369
Special Revenue	1,754,157	1,718,023	36,134
Total	\$2,135,289	\$2,049,786	\$85,503

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$300,000	\$338,892	\$38,892
Special Revenue	1,187,800	1,404,789	216,989
Total	\$1,487,800	\$1,743,681	\$255,881

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$441,231	\$394,697	\$46,534
Special Revenue	1,298,373	1,252,192	46,181
Total	\$1,739,604	\$1,646,889	\$92,715

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008
(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 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

Township 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 2009 and 2008, OPERS regular members contributed an amount equaling 10% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. For 2009 and 2008, OPERS law enforcement members contributed 10.1% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 17.63% and 17.4%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2009.

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.

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. American Risk Pooling Consultants, Inc. (ARPCO), a division of York Insurance Services Group, Inc. (York), functions as the administrator of OTARMA and provides underwriting, claims, loss control, risk management, and reinsurance services for OTARMA. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which is also administered by ARPCO. Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT - (Continued)

Casualty and Property Coverage

APEEP provides OTARMA with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement, OTARMA retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2009, OTARMA retained \$350,000 for casualty claims and \$150,000 for property claims.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreement does 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, 2009 and 2008:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Assets	\$38,982,088	\$40,737,740
Liabilities	<u>(12,880,766)</u>	<u>(12,981,818)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$26,101,332</u>	<u>\$27,755,922</u>

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, liabilities above include approximately \$12.0 and \$12.1 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$11.5 and \$10.9 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, 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 \$14,300.

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.

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
2007	\$12,856
2008	\$13,838
2009	\$12,624

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT - (Continued)

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.



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*

Wells Township
Jefferson County
409 Prospect Avenue
Brilliant, Ohio 43913

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Wells Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated August 6, 2010 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 the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of opining 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 *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in more than a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and timely corrected.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, 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.

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 or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2009-001.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated August 6, 2010.

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 management, and the Township Board of Trustees, and others within the Township. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

August 6, 2010

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2009-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) provides that no subdivision shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the Fiscal Officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. This certificate need be signed only by the subdivision's Fiscal Officer. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be 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 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 no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the Fiscal Officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was, both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Township may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within 30 days from the receipt of such certificate, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

If the amount involved is less than \$3,000 the Fiscal Officer may authorize payment through a Then and Now Certificate without affirmation of the Township Board of Trustees if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

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 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 Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line item appropriation 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 may be outstanding a particular time for any line item appropriation.

The Township did not properly certify the amount against the applicable appropriation accounts for 24% and 31% of tested expenditures in 2008 and 2009, respectively. The Township did not utilize the certification exceptions described above for those expenditures lacking prior certification.

Failure to certify the availability of funds and encumber appropriations could result in overspending and negative cash balances. 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 Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, the Fiscal Officer should certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

The Township should certify purchases to which section Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language which Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) requires authorizing disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2007-001	Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B). Expenditures exceeded appropriations.	No	Partially corrected. Verbal comment made for 2008. Corrected in 2009.
2007-002	Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D). Proper certification of disbursements.	No	Repeated as Finding 2009-001.

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

WELLS TOWNSHIP

JEFFERSON 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 4, 2010**