



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**



**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

Richland Township  
Fairfield County  
7490 Thornville Road NE  
Thornville, Ohio 43076

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 a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your Township 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 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery".

**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

August 22, 2005

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**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT**

Richland Township  
Fairfield County  
7490 Thornville Road NE  
Thornville, Ohio 43076

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Richland Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. 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.

Revisions to GAAP would require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2004 (and 2003), the revisions require presenting entity-wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2004. 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 the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since this Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, 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.

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In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 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, 2004, or its changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Richland Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. 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 22, 2005, 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.



**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

August 22, 2005

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

|  | Governmental Fund Types |                         |                    | Totals<br>(Memorandum<br>Only) |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | General                 | Special<br>Revenue      | Debt<br>Service    |                                |
| <b>Cash Receipts:</b>  |                         |                         |                    |                                |
| Local Taxes  | \$18,797                | \$136,996               | \$0                | \$155,793                      |
| Intergovernmental  | 67,596                  | 94,888                  | 0                  | 162,484                        |
| Licenses, Permits, and Fees  | 4,749                   | 0                       | 0                  | 4,749                          |
| Earnings on Investments  | 1,909                   | 763                     | 0                  | 2,672                          |
| Other Revenue  | 658                     | 737                     | 0                  | 1,395                          |
| Total Cash Receipts  | <u>93,709</u>           | <u>233,384</u>          | <u>0</u>           | <u>327,093</u>                 |
| <b>Cash Disbursements:</b>   |                         |                         |                    |                                |
| Current:   |                         |                         |                    |                                |
| General Government   | 42,747                  | 0                       | 0                  | 42,747                         |
| Public Safety  | 0                       | 43,194                  | 0                  | 43,194                         |
| Public Works   | 2,128                   | 149,358                 | 0                  | 151,486                        |
| Health   | 7,599                   | 0                       | 0                  | 7,599                          |
| Debt Service:  |                         |                         |                    |                                |
| Redemption of Principal  | 0                       | 0                       | 10,556             | 10,556                         |
| Interest and Fiscal Charges  | 0                       | 140                     | 579                | 719                            |
| Capital Outlay   | 0                       | 116,631                 | 0                  | 116,631                        |
| Total Cash Disbursements   | <u>52,474</u>           | <u>309,323</u>          | <u>11,135</u>      | <u>372,932</u>                 |
| Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements  | <u>41,235</u>           | <u>(75,939)</u>         | <u>(11,135)</u>    | <u>(45,839)</u>                |
| <b>Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):</b>   |                         |                         |                    |                                |
| Proceeds of Note   | 0                       | 65,140                  | 0                  | 65,140                         |
| Transfers-In   | 0                       | 0                       | 11,135             | 11,135                         |
| Transfers-Out  | (11,135)                | 0                       | 0                  | (11,135)                       |
| Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)   | <u>(11,135)</u>         | <u>65,140</u>           | <u>11,135</u>      | <u>65,140</u>                  |
| Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing<br>Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements<br>and Other Financing Disbursements | 30,100                  | (10,799)                | 0                  | 19,301                         |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1  | 71,178                  | 196,155                 | 10                 | 267,343                        |
| <b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>   | <b><u>\$101,278</u></b> | <b><u>\$185,356</u></b> | <b><u>\$10</u></b> | <b><u>\$286,644</u></b>        |

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

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

|   | Governmental Fund Types |                    |                 | Totals<br>(Memorandum<br>Only) |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
|   | General                 | Special<br>Revenue | Debt<br>Service |                                |
| <b>Cash Receipts:</b>   |                         |                    |                 |                                |
| Local Taxes   | \$17,403                | \$131,977          | \$0             | \$149,380                      |
| Intergovernmental   | 25,873                  | 188,816            | 0               | 214,689                        |
| Licenses, Permits, and Fees   | 5,643                   | 0                  | 0               | 5,643                          |
| Earnings on Investments   | 2,213                   | 786                | 0               | 2,999                          |
| Other Revenue   | 768                     | 3,642              | 0               | 4,410                          |
|   | 51,900                  | 325,221            | 0               | 377,121                        |
| <b>Total Cash Receipts</b>  | <b>51,900</b>           | <b>325,221</b>     | <b>0</b>        | <b>377,121</b>                 |
| <b>Cash Disbursements:</b>  |                         |                    |                 |                                |
| Current:  |                         |                    |                 |                                |
| General Government  | 42,689                  | 0                  | 0               | 42,689                         |
| Public Safety   | 0                       | 53,414             | 0               | 53,414                         |
| Public Works  | 2,329                   | 140,063            | 0               | 142,392                        |
| Health  | 7,559                   | 0                  | 0               | 7,559                          |
| Debt Service:   |                         |                    |                 |                                |
| Redemption of Principal   | 0                       | 0                  | 10,000          | 10,000                         |
| Interest and Fiscal Charges   | 0                       | 0                  | 1,173           | 1,173                          |
| Capital Outlay  | 0                       | 120,882            | 0               | 120,882                        |
|   | 52,577                  | 314,359            | 11,173          | 378,109                        |
| <b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>   | <b>52,577</b>           | <b>314,359</b>     | <b>11,173</b>   | <b>378,109</b>                 |
| <b>Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</b>  | <b>(677)</b>            | <b>10,862</b>      | <b>(11,173)</b> | <b>(988)</b>                   |
| <b>Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):</b>  |                         |                    |                 |                                |
| Transfers-In  | 0                       | 0                  | 11,178          | 11,178                         |
| Transfers-Out   | (11,178)                | 0                  | 0               | (11,178)                       |
|   | (11,178)                | 0                  | 11,178          | 0                              |
| <b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>   | <b>(11,178)</b>         | <b>0</b>           | <b>11,178</b>   | <b>0</b>                       |
| <b>Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing<br/>Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements<br/>and Other Financing Disbursements</b> | <b>(11,855)</b>         | <b>10,862</b>      | <b>5</b>        | <b>(988)</b>                   |
| <b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>  | <b>83,033</b>           | <b>185,293</b>     | <b>5</b>        | <b>268,331</b>                 |
| <b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>  | <b>\$71,178</b>         | <b>\$196,155</b>   | <b>\$10</b>     | <b>\$267,343</b>               |

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

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND DECEMBER 31, 2003**

**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 Richland Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, (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 Fairfield County Sheriff's Department to provide security of persons and property.

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

**B. Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting 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 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 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.

Fire District Fund - This fund receives real and personal property tax money for emergency and fire management.

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND DECEMBER 31, 2003  
(Continued)**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**C. Fund Accounting (Continued)**

**3. Debt Service Fund**

This fund accounts for resources the Township accumulates to pay note debt.

**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 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 re-appropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2004 and 2003 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.

**F. 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 CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

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

|                 |                  |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                 | <u>2004</u>      | <u>2003</u>      |
| Demand deposits | <u>\$286,644</u> | <u>\$267,343</u> |

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND DECEMBER 31, 2003  
(Continued)**

**2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)**

**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, 2004 and December 31, 2003 follows:

| 2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts |                      |                    |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Fund Type                         | Budgeted<br>Receipts | Actual<br>Receipts | Variance |
| General                           | \$45,695             | \$93,709           | \$48,014 |
| Special Revenue                   | 341,496              | 298,524            | (42,972) |
| Debt Service                      | 11,172               | 11,135             | (37)     |
| Total                             | \$398,363            | \$403,368          | \$5,005  |

| 2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures |                            |                           |           |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Fund Type   | Appropriation<br>Authority | Budgetary<br>Expenditures | Variance  |
| General   | \$116,872                  | \$63,609                  | \$53,263  |
| Special Revenue                                       | 407,153                    | 309,323                   | 97,830    |
| Debt Service  | 0                          | 11,135                    | (11,135)  |
| Total   | \$524,025                  | \$384,067                 | \$139,958 |

| 2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts |                      |                    |           |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Fund Type                         | Budgeted<br>Receipts | Actual<br>Receipts | Variance  |
| General                           | \$61,200             | \$51,900           | (\$9,300) |
| Special Revenue                   | 311,093              | 325,221            | 14,128    |
| Debt Service                      | 11,151               | 11,178             | 27        |
| Total                             | \$383,444            | \$388,299          | \$4,855   |

| 2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures |                            |                           |           |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Fund Type   | Appropriation<br>Authority | Budgetary<br>Expenditures | Variance  |
| General   | \$143,387                  | \$63,755                  | \$79,632  |
| Special Revenue                                       | 389,759                    | 314,359                   | 75,400    |
| Debt Service  | 0                          | 11,173                    | (11,173)  |
| Total   | \$533,146                  | \$389,287                 | \$143,859 |

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the FEMA Grant Fire, Fire District, and the Debt Service funds for the years ended December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003.

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND DECEMBER 31, 2003  
(Continued)**

**4. PROPERTY TAX**

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

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, 2004 was as follows:

|                             | Principal | Interest Rate |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| EMS Vehicle Promissory Note | \$65,140  | 3.75%         |

The Township entered into a loan on February 10, 2004 to finance the purchase of a new Emergency Medical Squad to be used by the Fire Department. Tax proceeds from the fire operating levy have been pledged to pay the note.

The Township paid a dump truck note in full during 2004.

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

| Year ending December 31: | Promissory<br>Note |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2005                     | \$14,530           |
| 2006                     | 14,530             |
| 2007                     | 14,530             |
| 2008                     | 14,530             |
| 2009                     | 14,530             |
| Total                    | \$72,650           |

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND DECEMBER 31, 2003  
(Continued)**

**6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004 and 2003, members of OPERS contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Risk Pool Membership**

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

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss 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 \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Townships can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000 from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500,000,000 per occurrence. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding operating contributions.

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 township.

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.

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND DECEMBER 31, 2003  
(Continued)**

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

**Risk Pool Membership (Continued)**

| <u>Casualty Coverage</u> | <u>2004</u>         | <u>2003</u>         |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Assets                   | \$30,687,203        | \$27,792,223        |
| Liabilities              | <u>(13,640,962)</u> | <u>(11,791,300)</u> |
| Retained earnings        | <u>\$17,046,241</u> | <u>\$16,000,923</u> |

| <u>Property Coverage</u> | <u>2004</u>        | <u>2003</u>        |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Assets                   | \$7,799,073        | \$6,791,060        |
| Liabilities              | <u>(753,906)</u>   | <u>(750,956)</u>   |
| Retained earnings        | <u>\$7,045,167</u> | <u>\$6,040,104</u> |

The Township also provides health insurance, dental and vision coverage to full-time employees through a private carrier.

**8. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATION**

*Fairfield Regional Planning Commission:* The Township appoints a person to represent the Township on the 47 member board of the Fairfield Regional Planning Commission. The Township pays a small membership fee annually. The fee is based on the per capita of the Township. There is no ongoing financial responsibility by the Township.



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

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

Richland Township  
Fairfield County  
7490 Thornville Road NE  
Thornville, Ohio 43076

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Richland Township, Fairfield County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated August 22, 2005, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted that 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 because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. 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 to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider material weaknesses. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 22, 2005, we reported an other matter involving the internal control over financial reporting we did not deem a reportable condition.

**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.

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Richland Township  
Fairfield County  
Independent Accountants' Report On Internal Control Over  
Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters  
Required By *Government Auditing Standards*  
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The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item number 2004-001. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 22, 2005, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.



**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

August 22, 2005

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003**

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2004-001**

**Expenditures Exceeding Appropriations**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) states, in part, that no subdivision or taxing unit is to make any expenditure unless it has been properly appropriated as provided in such chapter. Expenditures (plus encumbrances) exceeded appropriations at December 31, 2004, and December 31, 2003, in the following funds:

| <u>Fund</u>          | <u>Total<br/>Appropriations</u> | <u>Total<br/>Expenditures</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>2004</b>          |                                 |                               |                 |
| Fire District Fund   | \$151,650                       | \$159,702                     | (\$8,052)       |
| FEMA Grant Fire Fund | 0                               | 123                           | (123)           |
| Debt Service Fund    | 0                               | 11,135                        | (11,135)        |
| <b>2003</b>          |                                 |                               |                 |
| FEMA Grant Fire Fund | \$0                             | \$106,082                     | (\$106,082)     |
| Debt Service Fund    | 0                               | 11,173                        | (\$11,173)      |

The Trustees did not formally authorize appropriations in the FEMA Grant Fire fund or the Debt Service Fund in 2004 or 2003.

The Clerk should only post appropriations actually passed by the Trustees. The Clerk should monitor appropriations when preparing disbursements and should not process any disbursements that exceed appropriations.

The Clerk should request Trustees to amend appropriations before expenditures occur to prevent expenditures from exceeding appropriations. All original appropriations and amendments should be approved by the Trustees via resolution.

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004**

| Finding Number | Finding Summary  | Fully Corrected? | Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <b><i>Explain</i></b> |
|----------------|--|------------------|--|
| 2002-001       | Ohio Revised Code 5705.41(D), failure to certify funds.              | Yes              | N/A  |
| 2002-002       | Ohio Revised Code 5705.41(B), expenditures exceeding appropriations. | No               | See Finding Number 2004-001  |



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

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**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP**

**FAIRFIELD 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 20, 2005**