



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Tri-Community Joint Fire District
Huron County
49 Main Street
Greenwich, Ohio 44837-1145

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 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 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 cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

July 28, 2005

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Tri-Community Joint Fire District
Huron County
49 Main Street
Greenwich, Ohio 44837-1145

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Tri-Community Joint Fire District, Huron County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits 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 audits to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP would require the District to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. While the District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The District has elected not to reformat its statements. Since this District 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.

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 District 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 fund cash balances of the Tri-Community Joint Fire District, Huron County, as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and its 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 District to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The District has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 28, 2005 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audits.



Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

July 28, 2005

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

	<u>General</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Local Taxes	\$127,045
Intergovernmental	16,993
Earnings on Investments	735
Miscellaneous	<u>1,857</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>146,630</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Current:	
Security of Persons and Property	65,270
Debt Service:	
Redemption of Principal	32,419
Interest	4,414
Capital Outlay	<u>20,862</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>122,965</u>
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	23,665
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>116,237</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$139,902</u></u>

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

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

	<u>General</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Local Taxes	\$119,017
Intergovernmental	14,700
Earnings on Investments	710
Miscellaneous	<u>16,128</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>150,555</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Current:	
Security of Persons and Property	76,456
Debt Service:	
Redemption of Principal	40,397
Interest	6,436
Capital Outlay	<u>6,565</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>129,854</u>
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	20,701
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>95,536</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$116,237</u></u>

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

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 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 the Tri-Community Joint Fire District, Huron County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. 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.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting the Auditor of State prescribes or permits, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. This basis 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 adequately disclose material matters the Auditor of State prescribes.

C. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The District classifies its fund into the following type:

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

D. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to budget the General Fund annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements 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.

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

3. Encumbrances

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

A summary of 2004 and 2003 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The District maintains a cash and investments pool used by all funds. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and investments at December 31 follows:

	2004	2003
Demand deposits	\$139,902	\$116,237

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the District.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2004 and 2003 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$139,000	\$146,630	\$7,630

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$153,500	\$122,965	\$30,535

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$139,000	\$150,555	\$11,555

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$131,700	\$129,854	\$1,846

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Board of Trustees adopts rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The State then pays the District amounts equaling the homestead and rollback deductions. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the District.

Tangible personal property tax owners assess that property. The property owners must file a tangible property list to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the District.

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Notes	\$56,604	5.30%

The District issued a general obligation note to purchase of a new pumper tanker truck. The note was issued on January 25, 2002, for \$162,000, to be repaid in 10 semiannual installments of \$18,417 each April and October. The District paid off additional principal of \$10,000 on December 10, 2003. The note is collateralized by the property financed.

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

Year ending December 31:	General Obligation Notes
2005	\$36,834
2006	22,914
Total	\$59,748

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The District's employees belong to either the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) or Social Security. OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004 and 2003, OPERS member employees contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.



**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***

Tri-Community Joint Fire District
Huron County
49 Main Street
Greenwich, Ohio 44837-1145

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Tri-Community Joint Fire District, Huron County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated July 28, 2005, wherein we noted the District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audits 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 audits, we considered the District'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.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audits and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the District's management dated July 28, 2005, we reported a matter related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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Tri-Community Joint Fire District
Huron County
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

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

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

July 28, 2005



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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800-282-0370

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TRI COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

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
AUGUST 25, 2005**