



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**



**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT**

Berne Township  
Fairfield County  
112 North Canal Street  
Sugar Grove, Ohio 43155

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Berne Township, Fairfield County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions 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 Section 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code Sections 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandates the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

As discussed in Note 2, the accompanying financial statements and notes follow the modified cash accounting basis. This is a comprehensive accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Berne Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2005, and the respective changes in modified cash financial position and the respective budgetary comparisons for the General, Road and Bridge, Fire District, and Road Outside funds thereof for the year then ended in conformity with the basis of accounting Note 2 describes.

35 N. Fourth St. / Second Floor / Columbus, OH 43215  
Telephone: (614) 466-3402 (800) 443-9275 Fax: (614) 728-7199  
[www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us)

For the year ended December 31, 2005, the Township revised its financial presentation comparable to the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standard No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements—and Management's Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments*.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 11, 2006, 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.

Management's discussion and analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires. We have applied certain limited procedures, consisting principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measuring and presenting the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

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

**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

October 11, 2006

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
UNAUDITED**

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This discussion and analysis of Berne Township's (the Township) financial performance provides an overall review of the Township's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2005, within the limitations of the Township's modified cash basis accounting. Readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to enhance their understanding of the Township's financial performance.

**Highlights**

Key highlights for 2005 are as follows:

Net assets of governmental activities increased \$47,527, or 5.5 percent, as compared to 2004.

The Township's general receipts are primarily property tax and intergovernmental receipts. These receipts represent 65 percent of the total cash received for governmental activities during the year.

A fire levy expired in 2005 and was replaced by passage of continuing renewal fire levy for the same millage.

**Using the Basic Financial Statements**

This annual report is presented in a format consistent with the presentation requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, as applicable to the Township's modified cash basis of accounting.

**Report Components**

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities provide information about the cash activities of the Township as a whole.

Fund financial statements provide a greater level of detail. Funds are created and maintained on the financial records of the Township as a way to segregate money whose use is restricted to a particular specified purpose. These statements present financial information by fund, presenting funds with the largest balances or most activity in separate columns.

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the Government-wide and fund financial statements and provide expanded explanation and detail regarding the information reported in the statements.

**Basis of Accounting**

The basis of accounting is a set of guidelines that determine when financial events are recorded. The Township has elected to present its financial statements on a modified cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the Township's modified cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

As a result of using the modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable) are not recorded in the financial statements. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this report, the reader must keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the modified cash basis of accounting.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
UNAUDITED  
(Continued)**

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**Reporting the Township as a Whole**

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities reflect how the Township did financially during 2005, within the limitations of modified cash basis accounting. The statement of net assets presents the cash balances of the governmental-type activities of the Township at year end. The statement of activities compares cash disbursements with program receipts for each governmental-type activity. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts. The comparison of cash disbursements with program receipts identifies how each governmental function draws from the Township's general receipts.

These statements report the Township's cash position and the changes in cash position. Keeping in mind the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting, you can think of these changes as one way to measure the Township's financial health. Over time, increases or decreases in the Township's cash position is one indicator of whether the Township's financial health is improving or deteriorating. When evaluating the Township's financial condition, you should also consider other non-financial factors as well such as the Township's property tax base, the reliance on non-local financial resources for operations and the need for continued growth in the major local revenue sources.

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities present governmental activities, which includes all the Township's services. The Township has no business-type activities.

**Reporting the Township's Most Significant Funds**

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Township's major funds – not the Township as a whole. The Township establishes separate funds to better manage its many activities and to help demonstrate that money that is restricted as to how it may be used is being spent for the intended purpose. All of the Townships' funds are governmental.

Governmental Funds - The governmental fund financial statements provide a detailed view of the Township's governmental operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent to finance the Township's programs. The Township's significant governmental funds are presented on the financial statements in separate columns. The information for nonmajor funds (funds whose activity or balances are not large enough to warrant separate reporting) is combined and presented in total in a single column. The Township's major governmental funds are the General, Road and Bridge, Fire District, Road Outside, OPWC Road and Capital Improvement Funds. The programs reported in governmental funds are the same as those reported in governmental activities.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
UNAUDITED  
(Continued)**

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**The Government as a Whole**

Table 1 provides a summary of the Township's net assets for 2005 compared to 2004 on a modified cash basis:

(Table 1)  
**Net Assets**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	908,079	860,552
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Restricted for:		
Other Purposes	745,542	795,008
Unrestricted	<u>162,537</u>	<u>65,544</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$908,079</u>	<u>\$860,552</u>

As mentioned previously, net assets of governmental activities increased \$47,527 or 5.5 percent during 2005. The primary reason contributing to the increase in cash balances was due to:

- receipt of estate taxes approximately \$53,000 and insurance settlement of \$25,000 for wrecked road grader.

Table 2 reflects the changes in net assets in 2005. Since the Township did not prepare financial statements in this format for 2004, a comparative analysis of government-wide data has not been presented. In future years, when prior year information is available, a comparative analysis will be presented.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
UNAUDITED  
(Continued)**

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(Table 2)  
**Changes in Net Assets**

	2005
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Program Receipts:	
Charges for Services and Sales	\$5,894
Operating Grants and Contributions	171,591
Capital Grants and Contributions	227,706
Total Program Receipts	405,191
General Receipts:	
Property and Other Local Taxes	540,855
Income Taxes	
Grants and Entitlements Not Restricted to Specific Programs	119,474
Interest	20,010
Miscellaneous	66,596
Total General Receipts	746,935
Total Receipts	1,152,126
 <b>Disbursements:</b>	
General Government	180,751
Public Safety	162,026
Public Works	331,537
Health	26,553
Human Services	5,377
Capital Outlay	398,355
Total Disbursements	1,104,599
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	47,527
Net Assets, January 1, 2004	860,552
Net Assets, December 31, 2004	\$908,079

Program receipts represent 35 percent of total receipts and are primarily comprised of restricted intergovernmental receipts such as motor vehicle license and gas tax money, and building permits.

General receipts represent 65 percent of the Township's total receipts, and of this amount, over 72 percent are local taxes. State and federal grants and entitlements make up 16 percent. Other receipts are very insignificant and somewhat unpredictable revenue sources.

Public Safety is the cost of fire protection; Health is the health department assessment and Public Works is the cost of maintaining the roads.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
UNAUDITED  
(Continued)**

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**Governmental Activities**

If you look at the Statement of Activities on page 10, you will see that the first column lists the major services provided by the Township. The next column identifies the costs of providing these services. The major program disbursements for governmental activities are for public works and capital outlay, accounting for 30% and 36% of all governmental disbursements, respectively.

The next three columns of the Statement entitled Program Receipts identify amounts paid by people who are directly charged for the service and grants received by the Township that must be used to provide a specific service. The net Receipt (Disbursement) column compares the program receipts to the cost of the service. This "net cost" amount represents the cost of the service which ends up being paid from money provided by local taxpayers. These net costs are paid from the general receipts which are presented at the bottom of the Statement. A comparison between the total cost of services and the net cost is presented in Table 3.

(Table 3)

**Governmental Activities**

	Total Cost Of Services 2005	Net Cost of Services 2005
General Government	\$180,750	(\$131,051)
Public Safety	162,026	(162,026)
Public Works	331,537	18,077
Health	26,553	(26,053)
Human Services	5,377	0
Capital Outlay	398,355	(398,355)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,104,598</b>	<b>(\$699,408)</b>

The dependence upon property tax and intergovernmental receipts is apparent as over 63 percent of governmental activities are supported through these general receipts.

**The Township's Funds**

Total governmental funds had receipts of \$1,152,127 and disbursements of \$1,104,600. The greatest change within governmental funds occurred within the General Fund. The fund balance of the General Fund increased \$96,993 as the result of estate tax receipts and insurance settlement for wrecked road grader.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
UNAUDITED  
(Continued)**

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**General Fund Budgeting Highlights**

The Township's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances.

In the General Fund, final disbursements were budgeted at \$155,558 while actual disbursements were \$120,884.

**Capital Assets and Debt Administration**

**Capital Assets**

The Township does not currently keep track of its capital assets and infrastructure. The Township has acquired a software package to accomplish this task and is in the process of entering the necessary information. It is anticipated that this program will be fully functional for 2006.

**Debt**

At December 31, 2005, the Township's had no outstanding debt.

**Contacting the Township's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Township's finances and to reflect the Township's accountability for the monies it receives. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or requests for additional information should be directed to M. Joyce Krile, Fiscal Officer, 1590 Blue Valley Road, Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
Phone: (740) 746-8009.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$908,078.78
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$908,078.78</u></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Restricted for:	
Other Purposes	745,541.68
Unrestricted	162,537.10
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<u><u>\$908,078.78</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements



**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF MODIFIED CASH BASIS ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	GENERAL	ROAD AND BRIDGE	FIRE DISTRICT	ROAD OUTSIDE	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	OPWC ROAD	OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
<b>Assets</b>								
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$162,537.10	\$102,725.25	\$376,515.94	\$138,685.90	\$14,429.00	\$0.00	\$113,185.59	\$908,078.78
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$162,537.10</b>	<b>\$102,725.25</b>	<b>\$376,515.94</b>	<b>\$138,685.90</b>	<b>\$14,429.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$113,185.59</b>	<b>\$908,078.78</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>								
Unreserved:								
Designated, Reported in:								
Capital Projects Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,429.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,429.00
Undesignated (Deficit), Reported in:								
General Fund	162,537.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	162,537.10
Special Revenue Funds	0.00	102,725.25	376,515.94	138,685.90	0.00	0.00	113,185.59	731,112.68
Capital Projects Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$162,537.10</b>	<b>\$102,725.25</b>	<b>\$376,515.94</b>	<b>\$138,685.90</b>	<b>\$14,429.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$113,185.59</b>	<b>\$908,078.78</b>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN MODIFIED-CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	GENERAL	ROAD AND BRIDGE	FIRE DISTRICT	ROAD OUTSIDE	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	OPWC ROAD	OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
<b>Receipts</b>								
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$37,738.09	\$165,152.10	\$255,195.40	\$82,769.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$540,855.09
Charges for Services	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Licenses, Permits and Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,393.81	5,393.81
Intergovernmental	119,474.14	15,989.33	23,120.65	5,195.75	0.00	227,706.00	125,194.29	516,680.16
Earnings on Investments	20,009.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,091.38	22,101.29
Miscellaneous	36,003.65	8,671.21	17,001.93	4,080.00	0.00	0.00	839.36	66,596.15
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>213,725.79</u>	<u>189,812.64</u>	<u>295,317.98</u>	<u>92,045.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>227,706.00</u>	<u>133,518.84</u>	<u>1,152,126.50</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>								
Current:								
General Government	94,330.75	0.00	10,496.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,923.32	180,750.59
Public Safety	0.00	0.00	162,025.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	162,025.92
Public Works	0.00	196,621.61	0.00	69,094.54	0.00	0.00	65,821.14	331,537.29
Health	26,553.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,553.46
Human Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,377.00	5,377.00
Capital Outlay	0.00	33,836.72	0.00	0.00	135,571.00	227,706.00	1,241.60	398,355.32
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<u>120,884.21</u>	<u>230,458.33</u>	<u>172,522.44</u>	<u>69,094.54</u>	<u>135,571.00</u>	<u>227,706.00</u>	<u>148,363.06</u>	<u>1,104,599.58</u>
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	<u>92,841.58</u>	<u>(40,645.69)</u>	<u>122,795.54</u>	<u>22,950.71</u>	<u>(135,571.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(14,844.22)</u>	<u>47,526.92</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)								
Transfers In	4,151.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,000.00	0.00	0.00	79,151.50
Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	(75,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,151.50)	(79,151.50)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>4,151.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(75,000.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>75,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(4,151.50)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<u>96,993.08</u>	<u>(40,645.69)</u>	<u>47,795.54</u>	<u>22,950.71</u>	<u>(60,571.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(18,995.72)</u>	<u>47,526.92</u>
Fund Balances Beginning of Year	<u>65,544.02</u>	<u>143,370.94</u>	<u>328,720.40</u>	<u>115,735.19</u>	<u>75,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>132,181.31</u>	<u>860,551.86</u>
<b>Fund Balances End of Year</b>	<u><u>162,537.10</u></u>	<u><u>102,725.25</u></u>	<u><u>376,515.94</u></u>	<u><u>138,685.90</u></u>	<u><u>14,429.00</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>113,185.59</u></u>	<u><u>908,078.78</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGET BASIS  
GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$35,500.00	\$35,500.00	\$37,738.09	\$2,238.09
Charges for Services	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Intergovernmental	67,067.20	67,067.20	119,474.14	52,406.94
Earnings on Investments	8,300.00	8,300.00	20,009.91	11,709.91
Miscellaneous	11,126.00	11,126.00	36,003.65	24,877.65
<i>Total receipts</i>	<u>122,493.20</u>	<u>122,493.20</u>	<u>213,725.79</u>	<u>91,232.59</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	120,603.00	120,603.00	94,330.75	26,272.25
Health	30,803.46	34,954.96	26,553.46	8,401.50
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>151,406.46</u>	<u>155,557.96</u>	<u>120,884.21</u>	<u>34,673.75</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(28,913.26)</u>	<u>(33,064.76)</u>	<u>92,841.58</u>	<u>125,906.34</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers In	<u>4,151.50</u>	<u>4,151.50</u>	<u>4,151.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>4,151.50</u>	<u>4,151.50</u>	<u>4,151.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(24,761.76)	(28,913.26)	96,993.08	125,906.34
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	65,544.02	65,544.02	65,544.02	0.00
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$40,782.26</u>	<u>\$36,630.76</u>	<u>\$162,537.10</u>	<u>\$125,906.34</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGET BASIS  
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$153,000.00	\$153,000.00	\$165,152.10	\$12,152.10
Intergovernmental	14,000.00	14,000.00	15,989.33	1,989.33
Miscellaneous	44,497.00	44,497.00	8,671.21	(35,825.79)
<i>Total receipts</i>	<u>211,497.00</u>	<u>211,497.00</u>	<u>189,812.64</u>	<u>(21,684.36)</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
Public Works	282,900.00	282,900.00	196,621.61	86,278.39
Capital Outlay	0.00	33,836.72	33,836.72	0.00
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>282,900.00</u>	<u>316,736.72</u>	<u>230,458.33</u>	<u>86,278.39</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(71,403.00)	(105,239.72)	(40,645.69)	64,594.03
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	109,534.22	109,534.22	109,534.22	0.00
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>33,836.72</u>	<u>33,836.72</u>	<u>33,836.72</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$71,967.94</u></u>	<u><u>\$38,131.22</u></u>	<u><u>\$102,725.25</u></u>	<u><u>\$64,594.03</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGET BASIS  
FIRE DISTRICT FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$241,000.00	\$241,000.00	\$255,195.40	\$14,195.40
Intergovernmental	22,000.00	22,000.00	23,120.65	1,120.65
Miscellaneous	3,000.00	3,000.00	17,001.93	14,001.93
<i>Total receipts</i>	<u>266,000.00</u>	<u>266,000.00</u>	<u>295,317.98</u>	<u>29,317.98</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	12,000.00	13,000.00	10,496.52	2,503.48
Public Safety	474,760.00	473,760.00	162,025.92	311,734.08
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>486,760.00</u>	<u>486,760.00</u>	<u>172,522.44</u>	<u>314,237.56</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(220,760.00)</u>	<u>(220,760.00)</u>	<u>122,795.54</u>	<u>343,555.54</u>
<b>Other Financing Uses</b>				
Transfers Out	<u>(75,000.00)</u>	<u>(75,000.00)</u>	<u>(75,000.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Total Other Financing Uses</i>	<u>(75,000.00)</u>	<u>(75,000.00)</u>	<u>(75,000.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(295,760.00)	(295,760.00)	47,795.54	343,555.54
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	328,720.40	328,720.40	328,720.40	0.00
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$32,960.40</u>	<u>\$32,960.40</u>	<u>\$376,515.94</u>	<u>\$343,555.54</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGET BASIS  
ROAD OUTSIDE FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$82,000.00	\$82,000.00	\$82,769.50	\$769.50
Intergovernmental	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,195.75	195.75
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	4,080.00	4,080.00
<i>Total receipts</i>	<u>87,000.00</u>	<u>87,000.00</u>	<u>92,045.25</u>	<u>5,045.25</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
Public Works	202,735.19	202,735.19	69,094.54	133,640.65
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>202,735.19</u>	<u>202,735.19</u>	<u>69,094.54</u>	<u>133,640.65</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(115,735.19)	(115,735.19)	22,950.71	138,685.90
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	115,735.19	115,735.19	115,735.19	0.00
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$138,685.90</u></u>	<u><u>\$138,685.90</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The Berne Township, Fairfield County, Ohio (the Township) is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township also has an elected Township Fiscal Officer.

The reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, and other organizations that were included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading.

**A. Primary Government**

The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the Township. The Township provides general government services, maintenance of Township roads and bridges, and cemetery maintenance. The Township has a volunteer fire department for fire protection. Police protection is provided by local county sheriff's department.

**B. Component Units**

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Township is financially accountable. The Township is financially accountable for an organization if the Township appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the Township is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Township is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the Township is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide support to, the organization; or the Township is obligated for the debt of the organization. The Township is also financially accountable for any organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Township in that the Township approves their budget, the issuance of their debt or the levying of their taxes. Component units also include legally separate, tax-exempt entities whose resources are for the direct benefit of the Township, are accessible to the Township and are significant in amount to the Township. The Township has no component units.

**C. Jointly Governed Organizations**

A jointly governed organization is a regional government or other multi-governmental arrangement that is governed by representatives from each of the governments that create the organization, but that is not a joint venture because the participants do not retain an ongoing financial interest or responsibility. The Township participates in the Fairfield Regional Planning Commission, a forty-eight member board.

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

As discussed further in Note 2.C, these financial statements are presented on a modified cash basis of accounting. This modified cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the modified cash basis of accounting. In the government-wide financial statements, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board (APB) opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, have been applied, to the extent they are applicable to the modified cash basis of accounting, unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements, in which case GASB prevails. Following are the more significant of the Township's accounting policies.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The Township's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net assets and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

**Government-Wide Financial Statements**

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities display information about the Township as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government. The statements distinguish between those activities of the Township that are governmental. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions.

The statement of net assets presents the cash balance of the Governmental Statement of Activities. The statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each of the Township's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the Township is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services, grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program and receipts of interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a modified cash basis or draws from the Township's general receipts.

**Fund Financial Statements**

During the year, the Township segregates transactions related to certain Township functions or activities in separate funds to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the Township at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

**B. Fund Accounting**

The Township uses fund accounting to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds are used to segregate resources that are restricted as to use. The Township has only governmental funds.

**Governmental Funds**

The Township classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants), and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The Major Governmental Funds are General, Fire District, Road & Bridge, Road Outside, OPWC Road and Capital Improvement. The General Fund is used to account for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

The other governmental funds of the Township account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

**C. Basis of Accounting**

The Township's financial statements are prepared using the modified cash basis of accounting. Except for modifications having substantial support, receipts are recorded in the Township's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Any such modifications made by the Township are described in the appropriate section in this note.

As a result of the use of this modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

**D. Budgetary Process**

All funds, except agency funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations ordinance, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the Township may appropriate.

The appropriations ordinance is the Township's authorization to spend resources and sets limits on disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Township. The legal level of control has been established at the fund level.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in receipts are identified by the Township Fiscal Officer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificated of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the Township.

The appropriations ordinance is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation ordinance for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Township during the year.

**E. Cash and Investments**

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled and invested. Individual fund integrity is maintained through Township records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents".

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments. Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra revenue), respectively.

During 2005, the Township invested in a money market fund. The Township's money market fund investment is recorded at the amount reported by First Bremen Bank on December 31, 2005.

Interest earnings are allocated to Township funds according to State statutes, grant requirements, or debt related restrictions. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during 2005 were \$20,010.

**F. Restricted Assets**

Cash, cash equivalents and investments are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change the nature or normal understanding of their use. Such constraints are either imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The Township had no restricted assets at December 31, 2005.

**G. Inventory and Prepaid Items**

The Township reports disbursements for inventories and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

**H. Capital Assets**

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

**I. Accumulated Leave**

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's modified cash basis of accounting.

**J. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans**

The Township recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 8 and 9, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

**K. Net Assets**

Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments.

Net assets restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for specified purposes.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

The Township's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an obligation is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

**L. Fund Balance Reserves**

The Township reserves any portion of fund balances which is not available for appropriation or which is legally segregated for a specific future use. Unreserved fund balance indicates that portion of fund balance which is available for appropriation in future periods. No fund balance reserves existed at December 31, 2005.

**M. Interfund Transactions**

Transfers between governmental activities on the government-wide financial statements are reported in the same manner as general receipts.

**Note 3 – Change in Basis of Accounting**

Last year the Township reported fund financial statements by fund type using the regulatory basis of accounting as prescribed by the State Auditor's Office. For 2005, the Township has implemented the modified cash basis of accounting described in note 2. The fund financial statements now present each major fund in a separate column with nonmajor funds aggregated and presented in a single column, rather than a column for each fund type.

**Note 4 – Budgetary Basis of Accounting**

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budgetary Basis presented for the general, the road and bridge, the fire district, road district funds, are prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The difference(s) between the budgetary basis and the modified cash basis is (are) outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as a reservation of fund balance (modified cash basis). The Township had no outstanding encumbrances at December 31, 2005.

**Note 5 – Deposits and Investments**

Monies held by the Township are classified by State statute into three categories.

Active monies are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the Township treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the Township treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Trustees have identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 5 – Deposits and Investments** (continued)

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Interim monies held by the Township can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio or Ohio local governments;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Township, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions.

**Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Township will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At year end, \$822,456 of the Township's bank balance of \$922,456 was exposed to custodial credit risk because those deposits were uninsured and collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent, but not in the Township's name.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 5 - Deposits and Investments** (continued)

The Township has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by eligible securities pledged to and deposited either with the Township or a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution whose market value at all times shall be at least one hundred five percent of the deposits being secured.

**Note 6 – Property Taxes**

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real property, public utility property, and tangible personal property located in the Township. Real property tax receipts received in 2005 represent the collection of 2004 taxes. Real property taxes received in 2005 were levied after October 1, 2004, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2004, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax receipts received in 2005 represent the collection of 2004 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in 2004 became a lien on December 31, 2003, were levied after October 1, 2004, and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property is currently assessed at varying percentages of true value.

Tangible personal property tax receipts received in 2005 (other than public utility property) represent the collection of 2005 taxes. Tangible personal property taxes received in 2005 were levied after October 1, 2004, on the true value as of December 31, 2004. Tangible personal property is currently assessed at 25 percent of true value for capital assets and 23 percent for inventory. Amounts paid by multi-county taxpayers are due September 20. Single county taxpayers may pay annually or semiannually. If paid annually, the first payment is due April 30; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due April 30, with the remainder payable by September 20.

The full tax rate for all Township operations for the year ended December 31, 2005, was \$ 1 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The assessed values of real property, public utility property, and tangible personal property upon which 2005 property tax receipts were based are as follows:

Real Property		
Residential	\$	52,576,810
Agriculture		16,778,490
Commercial/Industrial/Mineral		7,485,740
Real		32,120
Personal		22,225,410
Tangible Personal Property		4,044,165
Tangible Personal Property Exempt		252,410
Total Assessed Value	\$	<u>103,428,145</u>

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 7 – Risk Management**

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

The Government 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 townships 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 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. Townships can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$12,000,000 with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA.

If losses exhaust OTARMA'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.

**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. APEEP's Guarantee Fund was responsible for losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding operating contributions.

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable value. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2005 was \$1,682,589.

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.

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

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 7 – Risk Management** (continued)

Members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA. They must 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 contribution, minus the subsequent year's premium. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all property and casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim was incurred or reported prior to the withdrawal.

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, 2005.

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$30,485,638
Liabilities	(12,344,576)
Retained earnings	<u>\$18,141,062</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$9,177,796
Liabilities	(1,406,031)
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,771,765</u>

The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above include approximately \$11.6 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 member townships in the future, as of December 31, 2005. OTARMA will collect these amounts in future annual premium billings when OTARMA's related liabilities are due for payment. The Township's share of these unpaid claims is approximately \$36,946.

**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

The Township participates in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The traditional plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20 percent per year). Under the member directed plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of the member and vested employer contributions plus any investment earnings.

The combined plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and a defined contribution plan. Under the combined plan, employer contributions are invested by the retirement system to provide a formula retirement benefit similar to the traditional plan benefit. Member contributions, whose investment is self-directed by the member, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the member directed plan.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan** (continued)

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Members of the member directed plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that may be obtained by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215-4642 or by calling (614) 222-6705 or (800) 222-7377.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, the members of all three plans were required to contribute 8.5 percent of their annual covered salaries. The Township's contribution rate for pension benefits for 2005 was 9.55 percent.

The Township's required contributions for pension obligations to the traditional and combined plans for the year ended December 31, 2005, 2004, 2003 were \$38,234, \$34,560, \$31,554 respectfully. The full amount has been contributed for 2005. Contributions to the member-directed plan for 2005 were \$ 23,495 made by the Township and \$14,739 made by the plan members.

**Note 9 - Postemployment Benefits**

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) provides postretirement health care coverage to age and service retirees with ten or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit with either the traditional or combined plans. Health care coverage for disability recipients and primary survivor recipients is available. Members of the member-directed plan do not qualify for postretirement health care coverage. The health care coverage provided by the retirement system is considered an Other Postemployment Benefit as described in *GASB Statement No. 12*. A portion of each employer's contribution to the traditional or combined plans is set aside for the funding of postretirement health care based on authority granted by State statute. The 2005 local government employer contribution rate was 9.55 percent of covered payroll; 4 percent of covered payroll was the portion that was used to fund health care.

Benefits are advance-funded using the entry age normal actuarial cost method. Significant actuarial assumptions, based on OPERS's latest actuarial review performed as of December 31, 2004, include a rate of return on investments of 8 percent, an annual increase in active employee total payroll of 4 percent compounded annually (assuming no change in the number of active employees) and an additional

increase in total payroll of between 0.50 percent and 6.3 percent based on additional annual pay increases. Health care premiums were assumed to increase between 1 and 6 percent annually for the next eight years and 4 percent annually after eight years.

All investments are carried at market. For actuarial valuation purposes, a smoothed market approach is used. Assets are adjusted to reflect 25 percent of unrealized market appreciation or depreciation on investment assets annually.

The number of active contributing participants in the traditional and combined plans was 376,109. Actual employer contributions for 2005 which were used to fund postemployment benefits were \$210,421. The actual contribution and the actuarially required contribution amounts are the same. OPERS's net assets available for payment of benefits at December 31, 2004, (the latest information available) were \$10.8 billion. The actuarially accrued liability and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability were \$26.5 billion and \$18.7 billion, respectively.

**BERNE TOWNSHIP  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
(Continued)**

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**Note 9 - Postemployment Benefits** (continued)

On September 9, 2005, the OPERS Retirement Board adopted a Health Care Preservation Plan (HCPP) with an effective date of January 1, 2007. The HCPP restructures OPERS' health care coverage to improve the financial solvency of the fund in response to increasing health care costs. Employee and employer contribution rates increased as of 1/1/06 which allows additional funds to be allocated to the health care plan.

**Note 10 – Interfund Transfers**

During 2005 the following transfers were made:

Transfers from the Fire District to:	
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 75,000
Total Transfers from the General Fund	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
Transfers from Other Governmental Funds	
General Fund	\$ 4,152
Total Transfers from Other Governmental Funds	<u>\$ 4,152</u>

The transfer from the Fire District represents the allocation of unrestricted receipts collected in the Fire District Fund to a reserve capital improvement fund for the purpose of establishing a reserve fund for fire department equipment.

The transfer from the Other Governmental Funds represents the elimination of the Permanent Fund because trust documents cannot be located. The balance in the fund was transferred to the General Fund.

**Note 11 – Jointly Governed Organization**

Fairfield Regional Planning Commission - The Township appoints a person to represent the Township on the 48 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 interest of responsibility by the Township.

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**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**

Berne Township  
Fairfield County  
112 North Canal Street  
Sugar Grove, Ohio 43155

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Berne Township, Fairfield County (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated October 11, 2006 wherein we noted the Township revised its financial presentation comparable with the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standard No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements—and Management's Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments*. 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 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 October 11, 2006, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

35 N. Fourth St. / Second Floor / Columbus, OH 43215  
Telephone: (614) 466-3402 (800) 443-9275 Fax: (614) 728-7199  
[www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us)

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated October 11, 2006, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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



**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

October 11, 2006



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

88 East Broad Street  
P.O. Box 1140  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140

Telephone 614-466-4514  
800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

**BERNE 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  
NOVEMBER 14, 2006**