



**HURON RIVER JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

HURON RIVER JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Huron River Joint Fire District
Huron County
130 North West Street
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-1269

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

November 30, 2006

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Huron River Joint Fire District
Huron County
130 North West Street
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-1269

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of the Huron River Joint Fire District, Huron County, (the District) as of and for the year end December 31, 2004. This financial statement is the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement 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 statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. 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 District 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 District 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 District has prepared this financial statement 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 statement 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 statement does not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statement. The District has elected not to reformat its statement. 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 statement referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004, does 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 statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balance and reserve for encumbrances of the Huron River Joint Fire District, Huron County, as of December 31, 2004, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the year 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 statement.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 30, 2006, 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 audit.



Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

November 30, 2006

**HURON RIVER JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	<u>Governmental Fund Type</u>
	<u>General</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Local Taxes	\$103,311
Intergovernmental	15,614
Charges for Services	11,752
Earnings on Investments	2,658
Miscellaneous	388
	133,723
Cash Disbursements:	
Current:	
Security of Persons and Property	107,244
Capital Outlay	3,818
	111,062
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	22,661
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	192,476
	192,476
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$215,137
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$2,800

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

**HURON RIVER JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

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 Huron River Joint Fire District, Huron County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A four-member Board of Trustees governs the District. One board member is appointed by each political subdivision within the District. Those subdivisions are the Village of Monroeville, Peru Township, Ridgefield Township, and Sherman Township, all of which are located in Huron County. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes this financial statement presents 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).

This statement adequately discloses material matters the Auditor of State prescribes.

C. Cash and Investments

The accounting basis includes investments as assets. Accordingly, investment purchases are not recorded as disbursements, and investment sales are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Money market mutual funds (including STAR Ohio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

D. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The District has one fund and classifies it as follows:

General Fund

The General Fund accounts for all financial resources.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to budget each fund annually.

**HURON RIVER JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (Continued)

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, department, 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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2004 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. 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:

	<u>2004</u>
Demand deposits	(\$9,984)
STAR Ohio	225,121
Total deposits and investments	<u>\$215,137</u>

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

Investments: Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities existing in physical or book-entry form.

**HURON RIVER JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2004 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$119,204	\$133,723	\$14,519

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$311,679	\$113,862	\$197,817

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. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The District's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised code. For 2004, OPERS member employees contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

All employees not otherwise covered by the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System are required to contribute to Social Security. The District's liability is 6.2% of wages paid.

**HURON RIVER JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Crime
- Vehicles; and
- Management Liability.

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Huron River Joint Fire District
Huron County
130 North West Street
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-1269

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statement of the Huron River Joint Fire District, Huron County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated November 30, 2006, 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 also noted that the District 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 District 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 District's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statement 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 statement 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 District's management dated November 30, 2006, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statement is 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*.

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.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

November 30, 2006



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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HURON RIVER 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
DECEMBER 26, 2006**