



**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Bern Township
Athens County
17484 Plantsville Road
Amesville, Ohio 45711

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of Bern Township, Athens County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statement on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Bern Township, Athens County, as of December 31, 1999, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 15, 2000, 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 grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management, the Board of Trustees and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

December 15, 2000

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**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS 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, 1999**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$ 15,869	\$ 26,856	\$	\$ 42,725
Intergovernmental	12,677	67,445		80,122
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		2,000		2,000
Earnings on Investments	666	404		1,070
Other Revenue	125	1,210		1,335
	<u>29,337</u>	<u>97,915</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>127,252</u>
Total Cash Receipts				
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	39,080	127		39,207
Public Safety		5,793		5,793
Public Works	6,732	75,400		82,132
Health		8,224		8,224
Capital Outlay	11,400	11,818		23,218
	<u>57,212</u>	<u>101,362</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>158,574</u>
Total Cash Disbursements				
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(27,875)</u>	<u>(3,447)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(31,322)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>37,999</u>	<u>18,602</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>61,601</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 10,124</u>	<u>\$ 15,155</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,279</u>

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

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**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DECEMBER 31, 1999**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Bern Township, Athens County (the Township), is a body corporate and politic 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 and a publicly-elected Clerk. The Township provides general governmental services, including road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection.

The Township's management believes the financial statement presents all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement follows the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

The statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Fund Accounting

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

1. General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund - This fund receives motor vehicle license tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DECEMBER 31, 1999
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Fire District Fund - This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection through a contract with the Amesville Fire Department.

Cemetery Fund - This fund receives property tax money for maintaining the Township's cemeteries.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fund - This fund receives money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide flood relief to the Township.

3. Fiduciary Funds

Trust funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. If the agreement requires the Township to maintain the corpus of the trust, the fund is classified as a Nonexpendable Trust Fund. Other trust funds are classified as Expendable. The Township had the following significant Fiduciary Fund:

Cemetery Fund - This Expendable Trust Fund is to be used for building/repair of the shelter house at Sandrock Cemetery.

D. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the function level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 1999 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DECEMBER 31, 1999
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township 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 was as follows:

	<u>1999</u>
Demand Deposits	<u>\$ 30,279</u>

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 1999, follows:

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 66,896	\$ 29,337	\$ (37,559)
Special Revenue	100,529	97,915	(2,614)
Expendable Trust	5,000	0	(5,000)
Total	\$ 172,425	\$ 127,252	\$ (45,173)

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 76,895	\$ 57,212	\$ 19,683
Special Revenue	124,362	101,362	23,000
Expendable Trust	5,000	0	5,000
Total	\$ 206,257	\$ 158,574	\$ 47,683

**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DECEMBER 31, 1999
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, 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 in the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Township's elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The 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 1999, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 1999.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability
- Vehicles
- Public Officials Liability

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



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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND
ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Bern Township
Athens County
17484 Plantsville Road
Amesville, Ohio 45711

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of Bern Township, Athens County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated December 15, 2000. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 1999-40705-001. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated December 15, 2000.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a 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 in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated December 15, 2000 .

This report is intended for the information and use of the management and the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

December 15, 2000

**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 1999**

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

FINDING NUMBER 1999-40705-001

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D) states that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contracts or order any expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the same has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund, free from any previous encumbrance. Every such contract made without such certificate shall be null and void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon. This section also provides two exceptions to the above requirements:

- a. Then and Now Certificate - If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the Clerk's certificate that a sufficient sum was appropriated and free of any previous encumbrance, the Board of Trustees may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within thirty days from the receipt of such certificate, if such certificate is otherwise valid.
- b. If the amount involved is less than one thousand dollars, the Clerk may authorize it to be paid without affirmation of the Board of Trustees.

Sixty-five percent of the transactions tested occurred prior to obtaining certification by the Clerk and no Then and Now Certificate was obtained.

We recommend the Clerk issue the necessary certification before officials or employees make purchases.

**BERN TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 1999**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain:</i>
1998-40705-001	A material noncompliance citation was issued under Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) for expenditures exceeding appropriations.	Yes	N/A



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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

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BERN TOWNSHIP

ATHENS 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
JANUARY 11, 2001**