REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 - 1999



JIM PETRO AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

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STATE OF OHIO OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Liberty Township Delaware County 7201 Liberty Road Powell, OH 43065

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Liberty Township, Delaware County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and December 31, 1999. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 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 statements 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 statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances and reserve for encumbrances of Liberty Township, Delaware County, as of December 31, 2000 and December 31, 1999, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 10, 2001 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 that audit.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of 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

May 10, 2001

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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, 2000

		Governmenta	I Fund Type	s	Fiduciary Fund Type	
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:						
Local Taxes	\$478,639	\$2,259,070	\$441,412	\$0	\$0	\$3,179,121
Intergovernmental	198,548	385,331	55,424	0	0	639,303
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	214,611	0	0	0	0	214,611
Earnings on Investments	184,461	1,658	14,508	267,766	343	468,736
Other Revenue	79,885	92,732	0	97,694	300	270,611
Total Cash Receipts	1,156,144	2,738,791	511,344	365,460	643_	4,772,382
Cash Disbursements:						
Current:						
General Government	1,251,378	0	6,644	0	0	1,258,022
Public Safety	0	1,446,551	0	0	0	1,446,551
Public Works	0	746,713	0	0	0	746,713
Health	3,963	0	0	0	0	3,963
Conservation - Recreation	127,583	0	0	0	0	127,583
Debt Service:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bond Principal Payment	0	0 0	0	0	0	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	•	-	226,018	Ũ	0	226,018
Capital Outlay	1,000	183,219	0	1,648,534	0	1,832,753
Total Cash Disbursements	1,383,924	2,376,483	232,662	1,648,534	0	5,641,603
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(227,780)	362,308	278,682	(1,283,074)	643_	(869,221)
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements): Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt:						
Sale of Bonds	0	0	0	6,299,984	0	6,299,984
						,
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements	00	0	0	6,299,984	0	6,299,984
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements						
and Other Financing Disbursements	(227,780)	362,308	278,682	5,016,910	643	5,430,763
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	1,741,278	1,099,408	0	0	5,437	2,846,123
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$1,513,498</u>	<u>\$1,461,716</u>	\$278,682	<u>\$5,016,910</u>	\$6,080	\$8,276,886
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$37,256	\$41,500	\$0	\$2,017,044	\$0	\$2,095,800

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

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

	Governmenta	I Fund Types	Fiduciary Fund Type	
	General	Special Revenue	Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$407,865	\$2,127,316	\$0	\$2,535,181
Intergovernmental	392,257	358,384	0	750,641
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	194,310	0	0	194,310
Earnings on Investments	126,492	1,666	233	128,391
Other Revenue	42,193	56,262	300	98,755
Total Cash Receipts	1,163,117	2,543,628	533_	3,707,278
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:	500 050			500.050
General Government	582,653	0	0	582,653
Public Safety	0	1,381,783	0	1,381,783
Public Works	0	344,274	0	344,274
Health	2,137	0	0	2,137
Conservation - Recreation	116,128	0	0	116,128
Capital Outlay	37,884	137,393	0	175,277
Total Cash Disbursements	738,802	1,863,450	0	2,602,252
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	424,315	680,178	533	1,105,026
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements): Other Sources	4,339	0	0	4,339
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	4,339	0	0	4,339
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements				
and Other Financing Disbursements	428,654	680,178	533	1,109,365
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	1,312,624	419,230	4,904	1,736,758
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$1,741,278	\$1,099,408	\$5,437	\$2,846,123
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$0	\$217,708	\$0_	\$217,708

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Liberty Township, Delaware County, Ohio, (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. The Township provides general governmental services, including road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting 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. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

The investment in STAR Ohio (the State Treasurer's investment pool) is valued at amounts reported by the State Treasurer.

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 disbursements, respectively.

D. 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:

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

Fire Levy Fund - This fund receives taxes levied to provide fire protection to the Township.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999 (Continued)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

3. Debt Service Fund

The Debt Service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bond indebtedness. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

Bond Retirement Fund - This fund receives tax levies received to pay bond indebtedness.

4. Capital Project Fund

This fund is used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

Recreation Center Fund - This fund received bond proceeds for the construction of a recreation center for the Township.

5. Fiduciary Funds (Trust and Agency Funds)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements and funds for which the Township is acting in an agency capacity. The Township had the following significant fiduciary funds:

Park Fund (Non-Expendable Trust) - This fund receives donations and interest for park improvements.

AMOS Trust (Non-Expendable Trust) - This fund receives donations and interest for maintenance of the park flowerbed.

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function and 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999 (Continued)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

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

A summary of 2000 and 1999 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. 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.

G. Unpaid Vacation and Sick Leave

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the basis of accounting used by the Township.

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>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Demand deposits	(\$14,162)	\$14,510
Total deposits	(14,162)	14,510
STAR Ohio	8,291,048	2,813,613
Total investments	8,291,048	2,813,613
Total deposits and investments	\$8,276,886	\$2,828,123

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

Investments: Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or bookentry form.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999 (Continued)

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2000 and December 31, 1999 follows:

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts				
		Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type		Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General		\$1,018,268	\$1,156,144	\$137,876
Special Revenue		2,697,428	2,738,791	41,363
Debt Service		504,694	511,344	6,650
Capital Projects		0	6,665,444	6,665,444
Fiduciary		479	643	164
	Total	\$4,220,869	\$11,072,366	\$6,851,497

2000 Bud	geted vs.	Actual Budgetar	y Basis Expendit	ures
		Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type		Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General		\$2,700,000	\$1,421,180	\$1,278,820
Special Revenue		3,687,393	2,417,983	1,269,410
Debt Service		492,530	232,662	259,868
Capital Projects		0	3,665,578	(3,665,578)
Fiduciary		5,900	0	5,900
	Total	\$6,668,115	\$7,737,403	(\$851,580)

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts				
		Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	e Re		Receipts	Variance
General Special Revenue Fiduciary		\$764,612 2,471,462 370	\$1,167,456 2,543,628 533	\$402,844 72,166 163
	Total	\$3,236,444	\$3,707,277	\$475,173

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type		Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General Special Revenue Fiduciary		\$2,135,447 2,706,318 5,343	\$738,802 2,028,458 0	\$1,396,645 677,860 5,343
	Total	\$4,847,108	\$2,767,260	\$2,079,848

The expenditures exceeding appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund in 2000 is a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 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.

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

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

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2000 was as follows:

		Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Bonds		\$6,299,984	Variable
	Total	\$6,299,984	

The general obligation bonds were issued to finance the construction of a Community Recreation Center. The bonds are collateralized solely by the Township's taxing authority.

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

	General
Year ending	Obligation
December 31:	Bonds
2001	\$469,028
2002	468,308
2003	467,030
2004	470,380
2005	468,180
Subsequent	10,283,061
Total	\$12,625,987

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999 (Continued)

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's certified Fire Fighters belong to the Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Funds (PFDPF). Other employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PFDPF and PERS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. These plans provide 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 2000 and 1999, members of PFDPF contributed 10% of their wages to the PFDPF. The Township contributed an amount equal to 19.5% of their wages. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% participants' gross salaries in 1999 and 10.84% in 2000. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2000.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the "Plan"), an unincorporated non-profit association with over 600 governmental entity members providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Plan is deemed a separate legal entity. The Plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages, modified for each member's needs. The Plan pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the member's deductible.

The Plan uses conventional insurance coverages and reinsures these coverages 100%, rather than using a risk pool of member funds to pay individual and collective losses. Therefore, the individual members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts which vary from member to member.

The Township insures the following risks through this Plan:

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

B. Employee Benefits

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



STATE OF OHIO OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Liberty Township Delaware County 7201 Liberty Road Powell, OH 43065

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Liberty Township, Delaware County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and December 31, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated May 10, 2001. 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 statements are 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 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 2000-40621-001. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated May 10, 2001.

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 statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Township's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2000-40621-002. 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. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered material weaknesses. However, we do not believe the reportable condition described above is a material weakness. We also 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 May 10, 2001.

Liberty Township Delaware County Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

This report is intended for the information and use of 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

May 10, 2001

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

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

Material Noncompliance

FINDING NUMBER 2000-40621-001

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (B) states that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated.

The Township's budget basis expenditures exceeded appropriations during 2000 in the Capital Projects fund by \$3,665,578.

We recommend the Township ensures that expenditures do not exceed appropriations at any time during the year or at year end. If appropriations are insufficient, the Clerk should submit request for amended appropriations to the Trustees for their consideration, which upon approval should be submitted to the County Auditor for certification. The Township had adequate resources so that the Trustees could have passed supplemental appropriations.

Reportable Condition

FINDING NUMBER 2000-40621-002

Reconciliation and Timely Posting

The Township incorrectly posted several transactions to the Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) system, often such postings were not on a timely basis, throughout fiscal years 1999 and 2000. Therefore, the Township could not reconcile the UAN system balances to the bank account balances held by the Township throughout all of fiscal year 1999 and for November and December of 2000.

The Township should post all transactions on a timely basis and reconcile all cash balances from the Township's UAN system to the bank account balances held by the Township at the completion of each month of the fiscal year. We would suggest that this reconciliation should be reviewed by the Township's management.

The UAN system's built in safeguards to help ensure compliance with Ohio Budgetary laws cannot be effectively utilized with incorrect or untimely updated system balances. Unreconciled balances also prevent the Township from identifying possible errors, misstatements, or non-compliance with laws and regulations on a timely basis.

Unreconciled balances further prevent the Township's management from being able to properly monitor the financial position of the Township or detect possible errors, misstatements, or non-compliance with laws and regulations on a timely basis.

We recommend that the UAN system cash balance be reconciled to the Township's bank statements each month, and that monthly UAN reports, including the expenditure and receipts journals, be compared to activity on the bank statement to aid in identifying any discrepancies. Any discrepancies noted should be recorded in the UAN accounting system immediately.

We further recommend that the Township's management continue to review all monthly reconciliations and become actively involved in the reconciliation process, in order to assure that all transactions are correctly posted on a timely basis and that the Township's bank accounts balance to the UAN accounting system.



STATE OF OHIO OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

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LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

DELAWARE 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 JULY 3, 2001