



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Rice Township
Sandusky County
1830 County Road 145
Fremont, Ohio 43420-9330

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Rice Township, Sandusky County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 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 audits 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 audits 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 audits provide 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 of the Township as of December 31, 2000 and 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 24, 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 our 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 24, 2001

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**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$42,829	\$65,898		\$108,727
Intergovernmental	41,907	71,199	38,595	151,701
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	1,035	450		1,485
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties	300	4,600		4,900
Earnings on Investments	1,968	488		2,456
Other Revenue	6,441	1,230		7,671
	<u>94,480</u>	<u>143,865</u>	<u>38,595</u>	<u>276,940</u>
Total Cash Receipts				
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	60,104			60,104
Public Safety	15,198	17,554		32,752
Public Works		60,629		60,629
Health	587	3,179		3,766
Capital Outlay	1,345	4,105	38,595	44,045
	<u>77,234</u>	<u>85,467</u>	<u>38,595</u>	<u>201,296</u>
Total Cash Disbursements				
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	17,246	58,398		75,644
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	97,186	70,471		167,657
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$114,432</u>	<u>\$128,869</u>		<u>\$243,301</u>

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

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$35,350	\$54,179	\$89,529
Intergovernmental	49,911	58,500	108,411
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	505	650	1,155
Earnings on Investments	1,494	402	1,896
Other Revenue	4,795	17	4,812
	<u>92,055</u>	<u>113,748</u>	<u>205,803</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	53,488		53,488
Public Safety	15,576	17,365	32,941
Public Works		71,187	71,187
Health		1,405	1,405
Capital Outlay	1,138	25,245	26,383
	<u>70,202</u>	<u>115,202</u>	<u>185,404</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	21,853	(1,454)	20,399
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>75,333</u>	<u>71,925</u>	<u>147,258</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$97,186</u></u>	<u><u>\$70,471</u></u>	<u><u>\$167,657</u></u>

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

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Rice Township, Sandusky 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. The Township provides general governmental services, including road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection. The Township contracts with the Portage Fire District and the Village of Lindsey to provide fire 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. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is 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:

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

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

Fire Fund - This fund receives property tax money for the fire department.

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

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

3. Capital Project Funds

These funds are 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:

Issue II Fund - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio for maintaining and repairing Township roads.

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 object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

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

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 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.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Demand deposits	<u>\$243,301</u>	<u>\$167,657</u>

Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$76,027	\$94,480	\$18,453
Special Revenue	128,147	143,865	15,718
Capital Projects	38,595	38,595	0
Total	\$242,769	\$276,940	\$34,171

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$173,214	\$77,234	\$95,980
Special Revenue	193,619	85,467	108,152
Capital Projects	38,595	38,595	0
Total	\$405,428	\$201,296	\$204,132

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$74,119	\$92,055	\$17,936
Special Revenue	126,067	113,748	(12,319)
Total	\$200,186	\$205,803	\$5,617

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$149,452	\$70,202	\$79,250
Special Revenue	197,992	115,202	82,790
Total	\$347,444	\$185,404	\$162,040

The Township did not always certify expenditures in accordance with Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D).

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**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 payments, 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 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 SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS 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 2000 and 1999, members of PERS contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% and 10.84% of participants' gross salaries for 1999 and 2000, respectively. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2000.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). OTARMA assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policy. OTARMA may assess supplemental premiums. The following risks are covered by OTARMA:

- General liability and casualty;
- Public official's liability;
- Vehicle; and
- Property.



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

Rice Township
Sandusky County
1830 County Road 145
Fremont, Ohio 43420-9330

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Rice Township, Sandusky County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated May 24, 2001. We conducted our audits 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 audits 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 2000-40172-001. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated May 24, 2001.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the 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. 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 controls 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 24, 2001.

Rice Township
Sandusky County
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
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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 24, 2001

**RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2000-40172-001

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D) states no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated. Also, no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money is to be made unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer certifying that the amount required for the order or contract has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Every such contract made without such a 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 requirement:

- a. Then and Now Certificate - If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was, both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Board may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within 30 days from the receipt of such certificate, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

- b. If the amount involved is less than \$1,000, the fiscal officer may authorize it to be paid without the affirmation of the Board, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

Sixty-eight percent of the transactions tested were not certified by the fiscal officer at the time the commitment was incurred and neither of the exceptions provided for were used. To improve controls over disbursements, we recommend that all Township disbursements receive certification of the fiscal officer that the funds are or will be available.



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RICE TOWNSHIP
SANDUSKY 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
JUNE 19, 2001**