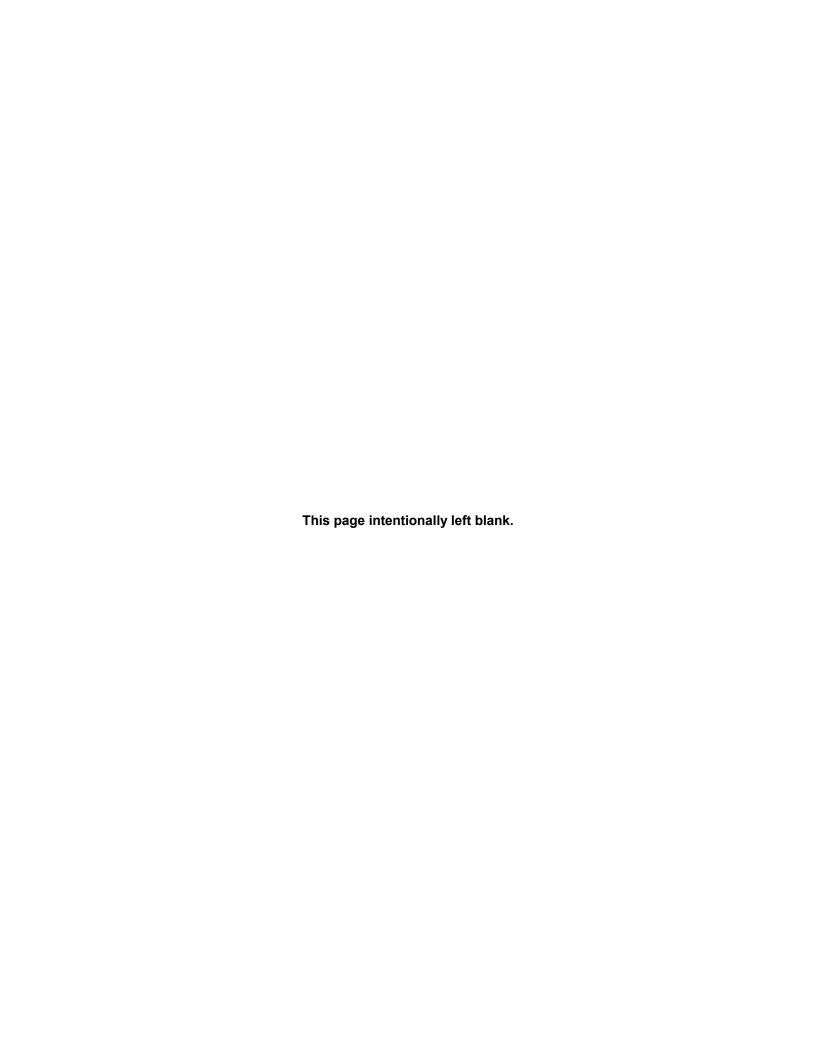
REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999



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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Village of Belle Center Logan County 104 West Buckeye Street P.O. Box 508 Belle Center, Ohio 43310

To the Village Council:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Village of Belle Center, Logan County, (the Village) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Village'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 Village 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 reserves for encumbrances of the Village 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 April 25, 2001, on our consideration of the Village'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 this audit.

Village of Belle Center Logan County Report of Independent Accountants Page 2

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and Village Council 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

April 25, 2001

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

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:					
Property Tax and Other Local Taxes	\$112,547		\$4,520		\$117,067
Intergovernmental Receipts	15,317	30,880			46,197
Fines, Licenses, and Permits Interest	514 4,882	542			514 5,424
Miscellaneous	6,209	542			6,209
Missellaneous					0,200
Total Cash Receipts	139,469	31,422	4,520		175,411
Cash Disbursements: Current:					
Security of Persons and Property	9,954				9,954
Leisure Time Activities	831				831
Community Environment	16,952				16,952
Basic Utility Services	21,673				21,673
Transportation	4,927	13,255			18,182
General Government	75,342				75,342
Debt Service	15,875		4,520		20,395
Capital Outlay		738		50,429	51,167
Total Disbursements	145,554	13,993	4,520	50,429	214,496
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(6,085)	17,429	0	(50,429)	(39,085)
Other Financing Receipts:				= 0.400	5 0.400
Proceeds Of Notes				50,429	50,429
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing					
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(6,085)	17,429	0	0	11,344
Fund Cash Balances January 1	190,283	26,103	0	0	216,386
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$184,198</u>	\$43,532	\$0	\$0	\$227,730
Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	\$3,853	\$603	\$0	\$26,356	\$30,812
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements Fund Cash Balances January 1	\$184,198	\$43,532	\$0	\$0	\$227,730

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

	Enterprise
Operating Cash Receipts: Charges for Services	\$114,849
Operating Cash Disbursements:	
Personal Service Employee Fringe Benefits Contractual Services Supplies and Materials Miscellaneous	57,919 771 41,643 20,577 371
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	121,281
Operating (Loss)	(6,432)
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	61,421
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$54,989
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$1,403

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

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:					
Property Tax and Other Local Taxes Intergovernmental Receipts Fines, Licenses, and Permits	\$116,781 18,601 522	32,084	\$4,520	20,707	\$121,301 71,392 522
Interest Miscellaneous	3,956 7,356	648 112			4,604 7,468
Total Cash Receipts	147,216	32,844	4,520	20,707	205,287
Cash Disbursements: Current:					
Security of Persons and Property Leisure Time Activities Community Environment Basic Utility Service	10,691 1,619 9,484 5,430				10,691 1,619 9,484 5,430
Transportation General Government Debt Service Capital Outlay	11,247 78,173	38,428	4,520	114,360	49,675 78,173 4,520 114,360
Total Disbursements	116,644	38,428	4,520	114,360	273,952
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	30,572	(5,584)	0	(93,653)	(68,665)
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements): Proceeds from Note Debt				93,653	93,653
Transfers-In Transfers-Out	(10,000)	10,000			10,000 (10,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(10,000)	10,000	0	93,653	93,653
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	20,572	4,416	0	0	24,988
Fund Cash Balances January 1	169,711	21,687	0	0	191,398
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$190,283	\$26,103	<u>\$0</u>	\$0	\$216,386
Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$426</u>	\$106		\$50,429	\$50,961

CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	Enterprise
Operating Cash Receipts: Charges for Services	<u>\$115,647</u>
Operating Cash Disbursements: Personal Service Employee Fringe Benefits Contractual Services Supplies and Materials Miscellaneous	38,327 2,278 29,922 12,542 300
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	83,369
Operating Income	32,278
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	29,143
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$61,421
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$2,496

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The Village of Belle Center, Logan County, (the Village) 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 Village is directed by a publicly-elected six-member Council. The Village provides general governmental services, including water utilities, refuse service, street maintenance, park operations (leisure time activities), emergency services, and fire services. They contract with B.M. R.T. Regional Ambulance District for ambulance services and Richland Township for fire services.

The Village's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Village 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 Village's checking account is valued at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The Village uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Village 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 Fund

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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax and motor vehicle tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Village streets.

Permissive Tax Fund - This fund receives the proceeds from additional motor vehicle license tax monies for use in constructing, maintaining, and repairing Village streets.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Debt Service Fund

These funds are used to accumulate resources for the payment of bonds and note indebtedness. The Village had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Obligation Bond Retirement Fund - This fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of Village debt issues.

4. 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 Village had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

Sewer Construction Fund - This fund is used to account for resources received on behalf of the Village for the payment of the Village's sewer construction project.

5. Enterprise Funds

These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises where management intends that the significant costs of providing certain goods or services will be recovered through user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Funds:

Water Fund - This fund receives charges for services from residents to cover the cost of providing this utility.

Refuse Fund - This fund receives charges for services from resident to cover the cost of providing this utility.

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 or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Council 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)

3. Encumbrances

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

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 cash basis of accounting used by the Village.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

The Village 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	\$ 282,719	\$ 277,807

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Village.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts								
		Budgeted			Actual			
Fund Type		Receipts		Receipts		\	Variance	
General Special Revenue Debt Service Capital Projects Enterprise		\$	130,000 30,000 4,520 50,000 110,000	\$	139,469 31,422 4,520 50,429 114,849	\$	9,469 1,422 0 429 4,849	
	Total	\$	324,520	\$	340,689	\$	16,169	

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

		Appropriation		Е	Budgetary		
Fund Type		Authority		Authority Expenditures			Variance
General Special Revenue Debt Service		\$	320,283 56,102 4,520	\$	149,407 14,596 4,520	\$	170,876 41,506 0
Capital Projects Enterprise			50,000 171,421		76,785 122,684		(26,785) 48,737
	Total	\$	602,326	\$	367,992	\$	234,334

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

		Budgeted		Actual			
Fund Type		Receipts		 Receipts		Variance	
General Special Revenue Debt Service Capital Projects Enterprise		\$	170,000 37,900 4,520 150,000 108,000	\$ 147,216 42,844 4,520 114,360 115,647	\$	(22,784) 4,944 0 (35,640) 7,647	
	Total	\$	470,420	\$ 424,587	\$	(45,833)	

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type		Appropriation Authority				Variance		
General Special Revenue Debt Service Capital Projects Enterprise		\$	343,711 55,587 4,520 0 137,143	\$ 127,070 38,534 4,520 164,789 85,865	\$	216,641 17,053 0 (164,789) 51,278		
	Total	\$	540,961	\$ 420,778	\$	120,183		

During 1999 and 2000, the Capital Projects Sewer Construction Fund had expenditures and commitments greater than appropriations which violated Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B).

Expenditures were not always prior certified by the Village Clerk which violated Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D).

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 Village Council. 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 within the Village.

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 Village.

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2000, was as follows:

		Interest
	_ Principa	I Rate
Water Pollution Control Loan	\$ 132,08	3.2%

The Water Pollution Control Loan (WPCL) relates to a design of a grinder pump sanitary sewer system to serve the Village. Semi-annual installments of \$15,875 are payable each July 1 and January 1.

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

Year ending	WPCL	
December 31:	 Loan	
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005	\$ 31,750 31,750 31,750 31,750 15,875	
Total	\$ 142,875	

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Village'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.

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

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS (Continued)

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2000 and 1999, members of PERS contributed 8.5% of their gross wages. The Village contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries during the period of January 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. During the period of July 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000, there was a temporary reduction which reduced the employer rate of 8.13%. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2000.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Village has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- General Liability
- EDP
- Auto Liability & Auto Physical Disability
- Property Coverage
- Inland Marine Coverage
- Public Officials Liability
- Crime

8. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

The Village began the design for a new sanitary sewer system during 1998, for which it borrowed \$144,082 from Water Pollution Control Center, the principal balance at December 31, 2000, of \$132,086 which is reflected in Note 5 of this report. This loan has since been rolled into a new loan from Ohio Water Development Authority number CS392165-02 in the amount of \$2,340,000. This new loan is for the actual installation of the new sanitary sewer system. Other debt as a result of this project entered into subsequent to the balance sheet date are two interest free loans from Ohio Public Works Commission in the amount of \$250,000 each.

The Village also expects to receive a \$700,000 grant from the US Army Corp of Engineers sometime during June of 2001. These monies will be used to decrease the final assessment fee to homeowners.

The Village expects to pay back all loans connected with this project with assessments, tap-in fees and monthly user charges.



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

Village of Belle Center Logan County 104 West Buckeye Street P.O. Box 508 Belle Center, Ohio 43310

To the Village Council:

We have audited the financial statements of the Village of Belle Center, Logan County, (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated April 25,2001. 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 Village'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 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 instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2000-30246-01 and 2000-30246-02. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Village in a separate letter dated April 25, 2001.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Village'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 control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Village in a separate letter dated April 25, 2001.

Village of Belle Center Logan County Report of Independent Accountants 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 Village Council, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro Auditor of State

April 25, 2001

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

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

Finding Number	2000-30246-01
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Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (D) states that no order or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is a certificate of the fiscal officer 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.

The following exceptions to this basic requirement are provided by statute:

Then and Now Certificate: This exception provides that, if the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made and at the time that he is completing his certification, sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the taxing authority can authorize the drawing of a warrant. The taxing authority has 30 days from the receipt of such certificate to approve payment by resolution or ordinance. If approval is not made within 30 days, there is no legal liability on the part of the subdivision or taxing district.

Amounts less than \$1,000 for villages may be paid by the fiscal officer without such certificate of the taxing authority upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the taxing authority.

Thirteen percent of the transactions tested were not certified by the Village Clerk prior to making orders for the expenditure of Village funds. In addition, neither of the two exceptions above were utilized for these transactions. Procedures should be implemented not only to help assure compliance with this requirement, but to help prevent the unauthorized obligation of Village funds.

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (B) states that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated. The Village had expenditures and commitments that exceeded appropriations in the Capital Projects Sewer Construction Fund by \$26,785 during 2000 and by \$164,789 during 1999.

The Village should implement procedures to help ensure that funds are properly appropriated to help prevent possible deficit spending and to help avoid noncompliance with this Ohio Revised Code Section.

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

Finding <u>Number</u>	Finding <u>Summary</u>	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
1998-30246-001	ORC Section 5704.41 (D) for not properly certifying all expenditures	No	Not corrected during the audit period. Citation will be repeated.
1998-30246-002	ORC Section 5705.41 (B) for expending money that was not appropriated	No	Not corrected during the audit period. Citation will be repeated.
1998-30246-003	ORC Section 135.18 for not having adequate collateral as security to an amount equal to the funds on deposit at all times	No	Partially corrected during the audit period. Citation will be repeated in management letter.



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VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER

LOGAN 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.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED JUNE 26, 2001