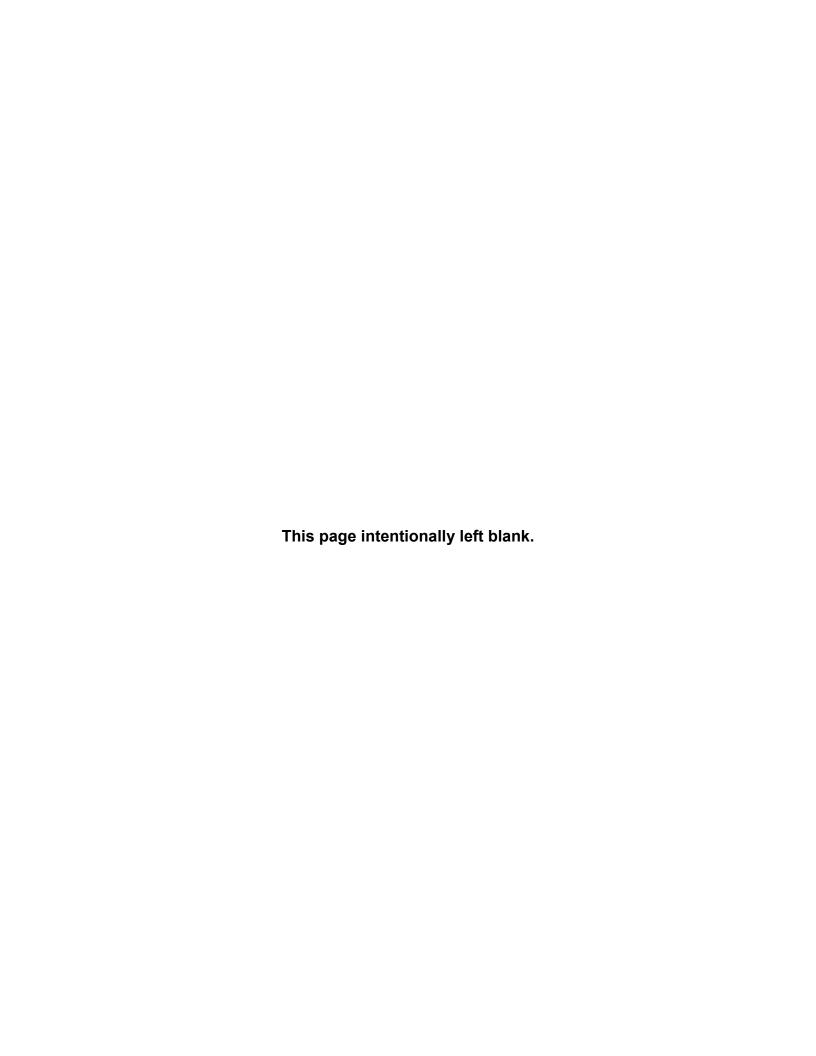




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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Highland Township **Defiance County** 15772 Hill Road Defiance. Ohio 43512-8926

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Highland Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000. 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 audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America 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, 2001 and 2000, 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 June 13, 2002, 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 audits.

Highland Township Defiance County Report of Independent Accountants Page 2

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 \S 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

June 13, 2002

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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, 2001

	Governmental Fund Types	
	General	Special Revenue
Cash Receipts:		
Local Taxes	\$13,597	\$99,106
Intergovernmental	71,945	82,419
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	0.054	5,183
Earnings on Investments	3,251	883
Other Revenue	1,617	8,591
Total Cash Receipts	90,410	196,182
Cash Disbursements: Current:		
General Government	64,833	47,335
Public Works	13,757	97,599
Health	10,707	4,356
Debt Service:		,,,,,,
Redemption of Principal		12,500
Interest and Fiscal Charges		
Capital Outlay		23,937
Total Cash Disbursements	78,590	185,727
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	11,820	10,455
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Transfers-In		
Transfers-Out	(7,000)	
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(7,000)	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	4,820	10,455
and outer i manding probation to the	1,020	10, 100
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	72,276	130,371
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$77,096	\$140,826

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

Governmental Fund Types			
Debt Service	Capital Projects	Fiduciary Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
\$40,107			\$152,810
Ψ10,107	\$16,665		171,029
	Ψ.σ,σσσ		5,183
		\$404	4,538
			10,208
40,107	16,665	404	343,768
			112,168
			111,356
			4,356
35,355			47,855
11,305			11,305
	16,665	1,800	42,402
46,660	16,665	1,800	329,442
(6,553)		(1,396)	14,326
7,000			7,000
.,000			(7,000)
7,000			
.,,,,,			
447		(4.200)	14 200
447		(1,396)	14,326
		11,248	213,895
\$447		\$9,852	\$228,221

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

	Governmental Fund Types	
	General	Special Revenue
Cash Receipts:		
Local Taxes	\$13,759	\$112,534
Intergovernmental	72,379	84,878
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	0.700	7,518
Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	3,782 497	1,155 16,055
Total Cash Receipts	90,417	222,140
Cash Disbursements:		
Current:		
General Government	61,829	41,276
Public Works Health	4,850	132,467 5,673
Redemption of Principal		5,075
Interest and Fiscal Charges		
Capital Outlay		76,123
Total Cash Disbursements	66,679	255,539
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	23,738	(33,399)
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt:		
Other Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt		48,222
Transfers-In		14,000
Transfers-Out	(26,310)	
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(26,310)	62,222
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements		
and Other Financing Disbursements	(2,572)	28,823
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	74,848	101,548
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$72,276	\$130,371

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

Governmental Fund Types			
Debt Service	Capital Projects	Fiduciary Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
\$29,555			\$155,848
	\$28,534		185,791
		\$558	7,518 5,495
			16,552
29,555	28,534	558	371,204
			103,105
			137,317
00.555			5,673
29,555 12,310			29,555 12,310
	28,534		104,657
41,865	28,534		392,617
(12,310)		558	(21,413)
			, , ,
			48,222
12,310			26,310
			(26,310)
12,310			48,222
		558	26,809
		10,690	187,086
		\$11,248	\$213,895

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Highland Township (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

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.

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000 (Continued)

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

Fire Fund – This fund received property tax money for providing fire protection services for the Township's residents.

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:

Capital Projects Fund – The Township receives grants from the State of Ohio to repair and maintain Township roads.

4. Debt Service Funds

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bonds and note indebtedness. The Township had the following significant debt service fund:

Miscellaneous Debt Service Fund – The fund is used to pay off the general obligation notes that relate to the Township Hall/Firehouse construction project.

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:

Myers Cemetery Maintenance Fund – This fund receives interest revenue and funds are used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

Hall Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund receives interest revenue and funds are used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

General Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund receives interest revenue and funds are used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

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 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000 (Continued)

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.

A summary of 2001 and 2000 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 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:

	2001	2000
Demand deposits	\$219,207	\$205,014
Certificates of deposit	9,014	8,881
Total deposits	\$228,221	\$213,895

Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2001 and 2000 follows:

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$78,805	\$90,410	\$11,605
Special Revenue	258,847	196,182	(62,665)
Debt Service	51,660	47,107	(4,553)
Capital Projects		16,665	16,665
Fiduciary	391	404	13
Total	\$389,703	\$350,768	(\$38,935)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000 (Continued)

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$151,081	\$85,590	\$65,491
Special Revenue	389,218	185,727	203,491
Debt Service	51,660	46,660	5,000
Capital Projects		16,665	(16,665)
Fiduciary	2,880	1,800	1,080
Total	\$594,839	\$336,442	\$258,397

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Budgeted	Actual	
Receipts	Receipts	Variance
\$78,090	\$90,417	\$12,327
319,203	284,362	(34,841)
41,865	41,865	
	28,534	28,534
391	558	167
\$439,549	\$445,736	\$6,187
	Budgeted Receipts \$78,090 319,203 41,865	Budgeted Actual Receipts Receipts \$78,090 \$90,417 319,203 284,362 41,865 41,865 28,534 558

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$144,938	\$92,989	\$51,949
Special Revenue	364,529	255,539	108,990
Debt Service	41,865	41,865	
Capital Projects		28,534	(28,534)
Fiduciary	11,082		11,082
Total	\$562,414	\$418,927	\$143,487

4. COMPLIANCE

The Hall Cemetery Bequest Fund was not credited interest proceeds in either 2001 or 2000, contrary to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code § 5705.131.

Changes were made to the Township's legally adopted appropriations without Board approval in the General Fund and the Miscellaneous Debt Service Fund in 2001, and in the Gasoline Tax Fund, the Fire Fund, the Meyers Cemetery Maintenance Fund, in the Hall Cemetery Bequest Fund, and the General Cemetery Bequest Fund in 2000, contrary to Ohio Revised Code § 5705.40.

Expenditures exceeded appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund by \$16,665 for the year ended December 31, 2001 and by \$28,534 for the year ended December 31, 2000, contrary to Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41 (B).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000 (Continued)

5. 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 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.

6. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2001 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Notes	\$147,780	5.95%

The general obligation notes relate to the Township Hall/Firehouse construction project.

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

Version diese December 24.	General Obligation
Year ending December 31:	Notes
2002	\$38,349
2003	36,590
2004	34,832
2005	33,073
2006	31,315
Total	\$174,159

7. 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000 (Continued)

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2001 and 2000, members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2001 and from January 1, 2000 through June 30, 2000. PERS temporarily reduced the employer contribution rate to 8.13%, effective July 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2001.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

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 § 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 their 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.



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

Highland Township
Defiance County
15772 Hill Road
Defiance. Ohio 43512-8926

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Highland Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000, and have issued our report thereon dated June 13, 2002. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America 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 the 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 instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2001-40120-001, 2001-40120-002, and 2001-40120-003. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated June 13, 2002.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audits, 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 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 June 13, 2002.

Highland Township
Defiance County
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*Page 2

This report is intended solely 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

June 13, 2002

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000

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

FINDING NUMBER 2001-40120-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.131 states that interest earned on the principal of a nonexpendable trust fund that has been established for the purpose of receiving donations or contributions that the donor or contributor requires to be maintained intact must be credited to the nonexpendable trust fund to which the principal belongs.

\$117 and \$133 of interest earned on the Hall Cemetery Bequest Fund in 2000 and 2001, respectively, was not booked on the Township's records. This interest revenue represents 21% and 33% of total interest revenue in the Fiduciary Fund Type in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

The Township has adjusted its records to reflect the interest earned on the principal of the bequest to the nonexpendable trust fund in order to properly account for the revenue related to the Hall Cemetery Bequest Fund. In the future, the Township should account for such revenue in the same manner. The financial statements have been adjusted to reflect this interest to the nonexpendable trust fund.

FINDING NUMBER 2001-40120-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.40 provides that appropriation measures may be amended or supplemented as long as the entity complies with the same provisions of the law as are used in making the original appropriation. In fiscal year 2000, changes were made to the Township's legally adopted appropriations with no documented Board approval in the following funds:

Fund	Approved Appropriations	Posted Appropriations	Variance
General Fund	\$151,081	\$126,081	\$25,000
Zoning Fund	7,951	7,851	100
Miscellaneous Debt Service Fund	51,660	59,160	(7,500)

In fiscal year 2001, changes were also made to the Township's legally adopted appropriations that were not evidenced by Board approval in the following funds:

Fund	Approved Appropriations	Posted Appropriations	Variance
Gasoline Tax Fund	\$100,079	\$148,301	(\$48,222)
Fire Fund	85,719	107,715	(21,996)
Meyers Cemetery Maintenance Fund	6,321	1,321	5,000
Hall Cemetery Bequest Fund	2,587	587	2,000
General Cemetery Bequest Fund	2,173	533	1,640

Highland Township Defiance County Schedule of Findings Page 2

FINDING NUMBER 2001-40120-002 (Continued)

This condition may result in a deficit spending situation. The Clerk should only make modifications to the appropriations ledger based on formally documented approval of the Board.

We also reported this matter in the management letter of our audit of the 1999 and 1998 financial statements.

FINDING NUMBER 2001-40120-003

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41 (B) states that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated. During the audit period, the Township's expenditures exceeded appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund by the following amount:

Year	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
2000		\$28,534	(\$28,534)
2001		16,665	(16,665)

Allowing expenditures to exceed appropriations could result in deficit spending. The Township should regularly monitor budgets to make sure that there are sufficient appropriations to fund anticipated expenditures.

We also reported this matter in the management letter of our audit of the 1999 and 1998 financial statements.



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HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

DEFIANCE 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 JULY 9, 2002