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### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Mead Township Belmont County 59300 Lockwood Run Road Shadyside, Ohio 43947

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Mead Township, Belmont County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001. 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 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 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 reserves for encumbrances of Mead Township, Belmont County, as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, 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 August 1, 2003, 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.

743 E. State St. / Athens Mall Suite B / Athens, OH 45701 Telephone: (740) 594-3300 (800) 441-1389 Fax: (740) 594-2110 www.auditor.state.oh.us Mead Township Belmont County Independent Accountants' Report 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 § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

August 1, 2003

#### COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Governmental Fund Types			-	
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$35,864 76,331 5,886 1,077	\$156,684 166,529 898 12	\$	\$	\$192,548 242,860 6,784 1,089
Total Cash Receipts	119,158	324,123	0	0	443,281
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Human Services Capital Outlay	51,582 6,689 27,932 17,545 34,718	12,250 234,696 27,544 12,846			51,582 12,250 241,385 27,932 45,089 47,564
Total Cash Disbursements	138,466	287,336	0	0	425,802
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(19,308)	36,787	0	0	17,479
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	85,895	169,774	53	40	255,762
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$66.587	\$206.561	\$53	\$40	\$273.241
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$428	\$1,636	\$0	\$0	\$2,064

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 FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

	Governmental Fund Types				
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$39,996 89,386 8,649 2,636	\$237,175 81,348 1,389 11	\$	\$ 22,205	\$277,171 192,939 10,038 2,647
Total Cash Receipts	140,667	319,923	0	22,205	482,795
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Human Services Capital Outlay	52,609 5,000 6,993 32,647 19,913 27,843	31,705 231,213 24,872 34,974		22,205	52,609 36,705 260,411 32,647 44,785 62,817
Total Cash Disbursements	145,005	322,764	0	22,205	489,974
Total Cash Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements	(4,338)	(2,841)	0	0	(7,179)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	90,233	172,615	53	40	262,941
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$85.895	\$169.774	\$53	\$40	\$255.762
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$350	\$1.833	\$0	\$0	\$2.183

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

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### A. Description of the Entity

Mead Township, Belmont 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 road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance and fire protection. The Township contracts with the Shadyside Volunteer Fire Department 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:

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

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

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### C. Fund Accounting (Continued)

### 3. Debt Service Fund

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bonds and note indebtedness. The Township's debt service fund had no disbursements for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001.

### 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 Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

*Miscellaneous Capital Projects (Issue II) Fund* - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio through the Belmont County Engineer to resurface Township roads.

### D. Budgetary Process

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

### 1. Appropriations

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

### 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 reappropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2002 and 2001 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

### E. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### F. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	2002	2001
Demand deposits	\$273,241	\$255,762

**Deposits:** Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

### 3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2002 and 2001, follows:

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts				
Budgeted Actual				
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance	
General	\$115,301	\$119,158	\$3,857	
Special Revenue	313,954	324,123	10,169	
Total	\$429,255	\$443,281	\$14,026	

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
	Appropriation Budgetary		
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$165,968	\$138,894	\$27,074
Special Revenue	402,149	288,972	113,177
Debt Service	53	0	53
Capital Projects	40	0	40
Total	\$568,210	\$427,866	\$140,344

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### 3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
	Budgeted Actual		
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$115,792	\$140,667	\$24,875
Special Revenue	310,500	319,923	9,423
Capital Projects	0	22,205	22,205
Total	\$426,292	\$482,795	\$56,503

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
	Appropriation		
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$157,000	\$145,355	\$11,645
Special Revenue	368,966	324,597	44,369
Debt Service	53	0	53
Capital Projects	40	22,205	(22,165)
Total	\$526,059	\$492,157	\$33,902

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the Miscellaneous Capital Projects (Issue II) Fund by \$22,205 for the year ended December 31, 2001. Also contrary to Ohio law, an increased amended certificate from the County Budget Commission was not obtained for the Miscellaneous Capital Projects (Issue II) Fund in the amount of \$22,205 for the year ended December 31, 2001.

### 4. **PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by the 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.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### 5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. 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 2002 and 2001, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2002.

#### 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

#### Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

### Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured with APEEP up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000, from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

#### Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$10,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$700,000 for 2001 and \$1,250,000 for 2002. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$10,000 if the annual aggregate is reached and all specific losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Operating Fund and Guarantee Fund pay for losses and loss adjustment expenses should they exceed operating contributions.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### 6. **RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

### **Financial Position**

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31:

Casualty Coverage	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Assets	\$23,757,036	\$23,703,776
Liabilities	<u>(9,197,512)</u>	<u>(9,379,003)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$14,559,524</u>	<u>\$14,324,773</u>

Property Coverage	2002	2001
Assets	\$6,596,996	\$5,011,131
Liabilities	<u>(1,204,326)</u>	<u>(647,667)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$5,392,670</u>	<u>\$4,363,464</u>



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

Mead Township Belmont County 59300 Lockwood Run Road Shadyside, Ohio 43947

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Mead Township, Belmont County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated August 1, 2003. We conducted our audit 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 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 2002-001 through 2002-003. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated August 1, 2003.

### 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. However, we noted certain matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be reportable conditions. 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. Reportable conditions are described in the accompanying Schedule of FIndings as items 2002-004 and 2002-005.

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Mead Township Belmont County Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

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 to be material weaknesses. However, we believe none of the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of Township in a separate letter dated August 1, 2003.

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.

Betty Montgomeny

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

August 1, 2003

### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

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

### FINDING NUMBER 2002-001

### **Noncompliance Citation**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) states that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the same has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous 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 requirements:

- A. Then and Now Certificate This exception provides that, if the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time 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 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.
- B. If the amount involved is less than one thousand dollars, (which was increased to \$3,000 on April 7, 2003) the fiscal officer may authorize it to be paid without the affirmation of the Board of Trustees upon completion of the then and now certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful.

Seventeen percent of the transactions tested for 2002 and 2001 did not include the prior certification of the Clerk, nor was there evidence of a "Then and Now" certificate being used by the Clerk.

We recommend the Clerk certify the availability of funds prior to incurring obligations.

### FINDING NUMBER 2002-002

### **Noncompliance Citation**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) requires that no subdivision is to make an expenditure of money unless the same has been properly appropriated.

At December 31, 2001, the Township's Miscellaneous Capital Projects (Issue II) Fund had expenditures which exceeded appropriations as follows:

Appropriations	Expenditures	Excess
\$0	\$22,205	(\$22,205)

### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)

#### FINDING NUMBER 2002-002 (Continued)

#### Noncompliance Citation - Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) (Continued)

The Clerk should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations. The Clerk may request the Trustees to approve increased expenditure levels by increasing appropriations and amending estimated resources, if necessary. Township management should review Auditor of State Bulletin 2002-004 for recommended accounting and budgeting practices for Issue II money.

#### FINDING NUMBER 2002-003

#### Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36 allows all subdivisions to request increased amended certificates of estimated resources and reduced amended certificates upon determination by the fiscal officer that revenue to be collected will be greater or less than the amount in the official certificate of estimated resources. An increased amended certificate must be obtained from the budget commission if the legislative authority intends to appropriate and expend the excess revenue. A reduced amended certificate must be obtained if the amount of the deficiency will reduce available resources below the current level of appropriation.

In 2001, the Township received and expended Issue II monies in the amount of \$22,205 and did not obtain an amended certificate of estimated resources for this additional revenue.

Township management should review Auditor of State Bulletin 2002-004 for recommended accounting and budgeting practices for Issue II money.

### FINDING NUMBER 2002-004

### **Reportable Condition - Posting of Receipts**

Receipts should be posted to the fund and line item accounts as established by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-7-01.

Intergovernmental revenues were not posted into the correct receipt classification based on the source of receipt. As a result, reclassifications to the financial statements were required.

We recommend the Township Clerk consult the Ohio Administrative Code Section and/or the Township Handbook when monies are received to help ensure these transactions are posted to the correct receipt classification.

### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)

### FINDING NUMBER 2002-005

#### **Reportable Condition - Posting of Budgetary Amounts**

Appropriations as approved by the Board of Trustees and estimated receipts as approved by the County Budget Commission should be entered into the Township's computer system.

The Township Clerk did not accurately post appropriations and estimated receipts to the Uniform Accounting Network computer system. Because the information posted to the system was inaccurate, Township management was unable to effectively monitor budget versus actual activity. Adjustments were made to the budgetary activity reported in Note 3 to the financial statements in order to accurately present appropriations as approved by the Board of Trustees and estimated receipts as certified by the County Budget Commission.

To help ensure more useful comparisons of budget versus actual activity, we recommend the Township Clerk post appropriations and estimated receipts to the computer system, as approved by the Board of Trustees and certified by the County Budget Commission.

### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
2000-41007-001	The Township had appropriations in excess of the estimated revenue available for expenditures contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.39.	Yes	N/Å.
2000-41007-002	The Township did not encumber funds prior to incurring obligations contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D).	No	Not corrected. Reissued as Finding 2002-001.



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## **MEAD TOWNSHIP**

# **BELMONT 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 Babbett

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED SEPTEMBER 9, 2003