VILLAGE OF SOUTH LEBANON

Financial Statements December 31, 2001 and 2000 with Independent Auditors' Report

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

Village Council Village of South Lebanon South Lebanon, Ohio

We have reviewed the Independent Auditor's Report of the Village of South Lebanon, Warren County, prepared by Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., for the audit period January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Village of South Lebanon is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Betty Montgomery

BETTY MONTGOMERY Auditor of State

February 28, 2003

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VILLAGE OF SOUTH LEBANON

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For the Years Ended December 31, 2001 and 2000

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Independent Auditors' Report

Council Members Village of South Lebanon 99 High Street South Lebanon, Ohio 45065

We have audited the accompanying financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents of the Village of South Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio, (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000. 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 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 Village prepares its financial statements on a 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 Village of South Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio, 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 a report dated November 21, 2002 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 our audits.

Clack, Schafer, Hackell . C.

Middletown, Ohio November 21, 2002

Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types -For The Year Ended December 31, 2001

	General	Special <u>Revenue</u>	Totals (Memorandum <u>Only)</u>
Cash receipts:			
Local taxes	\$ 507,967	-	507,967
Intergovernmental	60,374	77,940	138,314
Fines, licenses, and permits	6,421	-	6,421
Miscellaneous	32,137	24,505	56,642
Operating transfers in	62,303	-	62,303
Total cash receipts	669,202	102,445	771,647
Cash disbursements:			
Current			-
Security of persons and property	348,154	-	348,154
Transportation	-	86,916	86,916
General government	250,830	-	250,830
Capital outlay	<u> </u>		
Total cash disbursements	598,984	86,916	685,900
Total cash receipts over/(under)			
cash disbursements	70,218	15,529	85,747
Fund cash balances, January 1, 2001	(67,788)	(50,229)	(118,017)
Fund cash balances, December 31, 2001	\$ 2,430	(34,700)	(32,270)

Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Enterprise Funds and Agency Fund -For the Year Ended December 31, 2001

FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE Totals (Memorandum Enterprise Agency Only) Operating cash receipts: Charges for services \$ 839,991 839,991 Miscellaneous 60,162 60.162 Total operating cash receipts 900,153 900,153 Operating cash disbursements: Personal services 292,459 292.459 Contractual services 179,779 179,779 Supplies and materials 241,320 241,320 Capital outlay 40,175 40,175 Total operating cash disbursements 753,733 753,733 Operating income 146,420 146,420 Non-operating cash receipts: Other non-operating revenues 82,695 13,175 95,870 Total non-operating cash receipts 13,175 82,695 95,870 Non-operating cash disbursements: Debt service 272,568 272,568 Operating transfers out 62,303 62,303 Other non-operating cash disbursements 10,009 22,436 32,445 Total non-operating cash disbursements 282,577 84,739 367,316 Net receipts over/(under) disbursements (122, 982)(2,044)(125,026)Fund cash balance, January 1, 2001 332,665 8,297 340,962 Fund cash balance, December 31, 2001 \$ 209,683 6,253 215,936

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Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types -For The Year Ended December 31, 2000

				Totals
		Special	Capital	(Memorandum
	<u>General</u>	Revenue	Projects	<u>Only</u>)
Cash receipts:				
Local taxes	\$ 448,859	-	-	448,859
Intergovernmental	63,671	75,367	138,884	277,922
Fines, licenses, and permits	12,170	-	-	12,170
Miscellaneous	56,707	38,520	-	95,227
Operating transfers in	55,223	4,000		59,223
Total cash receipts	636,630		138,884	893,401
Cash disbursements:				
Current:				
Security of persons and property	333,297	-	-	333,297
Transportation	-	167,327	-	167,327
General government	304,559	-	-	304,559
Capital outlay	32,126	-	138,884	171,010
Operating transfers out	4,000			4,000
Total cash disbursements	673,982	167,327	138,884	980,193
Total cash receipts under cash				
disbursements	(37,352)	(49,440)	-	(86,792)
Fund cash balances, January 1, 2000	(30,436)	(789)		(31,225)
Fund cash balances, December 31, 2000	\$ (67,788)	(50,229)		(118,017)

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Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Enterprise Funds and Agency Fund -For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE

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			Totals
			(Memorandum
	Enterprise	Agency	<u>Only</u>)
Operating cash receipts:			
Charges for services	\$ 864,874	-	864,874
Miscellaneous	51,744		51,744
Total operating cash receipts	916,618		916,618
Operating cash disbursements:			
Personal services	237,923	-	237,923
Contractual services	179,343	-	179,343
Supplies and materials	127,258	-	127,258
Capital outlay	326,331		326,331
Total operating cash disbursements	870,855		870,855
Operating loss	45,763		45,763
Non-operating cash receipts:			
Debt proceeds	250,000	-	250,000
Other non-operating revenues	9,345	77,358	86,703
Total non-operating cash receipts	259,345	77,358	336,703
Non-operating cash disbursements:			
Debt service	238,902	-	238,902
Other non-operating cash disbursements	10,317	21,869	32,186
Operating transfers out		55,223	55,223
Total non-operating cash disbursements	249,219	77,092	326,311
Net receipts over disbursements	55,889	266	56,155
Fund cash balance January 1, 2000	276,776	8,031	284,807
Fund cash balance, December 31, 2000	\$ 332,665	8,297	340,962

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Description of the Entity

The Village of South Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio, (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, sewer, and sanitation utilities, park operations (leisure time activities), and police 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

Village funds are pooled in a checking account with a local commercial bank. Interest earned is recognized and recorded when received.

D. Fund Accounting

The Village uses fund accounting to segregate cash and deposits that are restricted as to use. The Village classifies its funds into the following types:

General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required by law or contract to be restricted.

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 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 permissive tax monies for constructing, maintaining and repairing Village streets.

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:

Street Paving - This fund accounts for Issue II monies and local matching funds for the construction of the project.

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 - Receives charges for services from residents to cover the cost of providing this utility.

Sewer Fund - Receives charges for services from residents to cover the cost of providing this utility.

Sanitation Fund – Receives charges for services from residents to cover the cost of providing this utility.

Fiduciary Funds (Agency Fund)

Funds for which the Village is acting in an agency capacity are classified as agency funds. This includes Mayor's Court. This fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of court fines and forfeitures.

E. Budgetary Process

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

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 Members must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at yearend.

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.

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. There were no encumbrances as of December 31,2001.

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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.

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 and Deposits

Public depositories must give security for all public funds on deposit. These institutions may either specifically collateralize individual accounts in conjunction with amounts insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), or may pledge a pool of government securities, the market value of which is at least 110 percent of the total value of public monies on deposit at the institution. State law does not require that security for the public deposits be held in the name of the Village. The Village maintains a cash and deposit pool used by all funds. The Village also maintains a \$350 petty cash account which is not included in the deposit amounts below. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Demand deposits	\$ <u>183,666</u>	<u>222,945</u>

Deposits are either: (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, or (2) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool. Of the deposit amount above, \$100,000 was covered by FDIC as of December 31, 2001. The remaining amounts are not collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent.

3. Budgetary Activity

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

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General Special Revenue Capital Projects Enterprise	\$ 604,505 112,000 - <u>895,600</u>	669,202 102,445 <u>913,328</u>	64,697 (9,555) - <u>17,728</u>
Total	\$ <u>1,612,105</u>	<u>1,684,975</u>	<u>72,870</u>

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation <u>Authority</u>	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General Special Revenue Capital Projects Enterprise	\$ 697,652 126,443 	598,984 86,916 - <u>1,036,310</u>	(98,668) (39,527) - <u>212,254</u>
Total	\$ <u>1,648,151</u>	<u>1,722,210</u>	74,059

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General Special Revenue Capital Projects Enterprise	\$ 720,505 125,000 <u>1,145,600</u>	636,630 117,887 138,884 <u>1,175,963</u>	(83,875) (7,113) 138,884 <u>30,363</u>
Total	\$ <u>1,991,105</u>	<u>2,069,364</u>	<u>78,259</u>

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation <u>Authority</u>	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General Special Revenue Capital Projects Enterprise	\$ 757,556 127,800 <u>-</u> <u>982,150</u>	673,982 167,327 138,884 <u>1,120,074</u>	(83,574) 39,527 138,884 <u>137,924</u>
Total	\$ <u>1,867,506</u>	2,100,267	<u>232,761</u>

Issue II receipts and expenditures reflected in the Capital Projects Fund were not included in the annual budget.

4. Deficit Fund Balances

The General Fund had a negative (cash) fund balances of \$67,788 as of December 31, 2000. The Street Fund had a negative fund balance of \$57,612 and \$50,723 as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, respectively. The Permissive Tax Fund had a negative fund balance of \$8,248 as of December 31, 2000. The Water Fund had a negative balance of \$27,433 as of December 31, 2001.

5. Property Tax

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

6. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2001 was as follows:

	Princip	al <u>Interest</u>
Ohio Water Development Authority Loan – 0828	\$ 867,72	21 7.60%
Ohio Water Development Authority Loan – 2056	471,89	97 7.56%
Ohio Water Development Authority Loan - 2106	190,22	24 7.24%
Ohio Water Development Authority Loan – 2133	217,4	16 7.21%
Sanitary Sewer Improvement Bonds	240,00	0 6.50%
Water Treatment Plant Improvement Bonds	547,56	<u>65</u> 6.00%

Total

\$ <u>2,534,823</u>

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The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loans relate to sewer system, water tower, water lines and well projects that were mandated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The OWDA approved \$1,280,612 in loans to the Village for the project for the 0828 loan. The loan is to be repaid in semiannual installments of \$57,947, including interest, over a total of 25 years (the first payment was paid in July of 1988). The OWDA approved up to \$595,000 in loans to the Village for the project for the 2056 loan. The loan is to be repaid in semiannual installments, over a total of 25 years (the first payment was paid in July of 1988). The OWDA approved up to \$595,000 in loans to the Village for the project for the 2056 loan. The loan is to be repaid in semiannual installments of \$26,829, including interest, over a total of 25 years (the first payment was paid in January of 1992). The OWDA approved up to \$233,341 in loans to the Village for the project for the 2106 loan. The loan is to be repaid in January of 1993). The OWDA approved up to \$262,570 in loans to the Village for the project for the 2133 loan. The loan is to be repaid in semiannual installments of \$11,480, including interest, over a total of 25 years (the first payment was paid in January of 1993).

The Water Treatment Plant Improvement Bonds were issued February 19, 1998 and carry interest to be paid monthly beginning June 1, 1998. The first principal payment was due December 1, 1999 and the bonds are to be paid semiannually, in varying amounts, with final maturity on December 1, 2012.

The Sanitary Sewer Improvement Bonds were issued March 15, 2000 and carry interest to be paid monthly beginning June 1, 2000. The first principal payment was due December 1, 2000 with future principal payments due every December 1, in varying amounts, with final maturity on December 1, 2019. Interest is paid semiannually at 6.5%.

Amortization of the Village's debt, including interest, over the next five years, is scheduled as follows:

Year endin December 2	-	OWDA Loan <u>0828</u>	OWDA Loan <u>2056</u>	OWDA Loan <u>2106</u>	OWDA Loan <u>2133</u>	Sanitary Sewer Improvement <u>Bonds</u>	
2002	\$	115,894	53,658	20,458	22,959	20,600	68,780
2003		115,894	53,658	20,458	22,959	25,275	68,560
2004		115,894	53,658	20,458	22,959	24,625	68,220
2005		115,894	53,568	20,458	22,959	23,975	68,745
2006		115,894	53,658	20,458	22,959	23,325	68,605
Thereafter	-	753,311	<u>536,580</u>	225,038	264,029	<u>295,425</u>	<u>412,320</u>
Total	\$ <u>]</u>	.332,781	<u>804,870</u>	<u>327,328</u>	<u>378,824</u>	<u>455,400</u>	<u>755,230</u>

7. Retirement System

The Village's full-time employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost sharing, multiple-employer plan. The plan provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost of living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries.

Benefits are established by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. PERS issues a standalone financial report which may be obtained by writing to the Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2001 and 2000, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Village contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. For the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000, the Village contributed \$39,690 and \$42,795.

8. Risk Management

The Village has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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

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

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS BUSINESS CONSULTANTS Report on Compliance and Internal Control Required by Government Auditing Standards

Council Members Village of South Lebanon 99 High Street South Lebanon, Ohio 45065

We have audited the financial statements of the Village of South Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio, (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 and have issued our report thereon dated November 21, 2002. 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 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 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*. The instances of noncompliance are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2000-39210-001, 2000-39210-002, and 2000-39210-003. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to the management of the Village in a separate letter dated November 21, 2002.

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. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Village's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule-of findings as items 2000-39210-003.

Village of South Lebanon Report on Compliance and 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 considered to be material weaknesses. However, of the reportable conditions described above, we consider item 2000-39210-003 to be a material weakness.

We also noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Village in a separate letter dated November 21, 2002.

This report is intended for the information and use of management and Council and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Clark, Scharfer, Hackell . C.

Middletown, Ohio November 21, 2002

VILLAGE OF SOUTH LEBANON WARREN COUNTY FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2000-39210-001 (Compliance - Negative Fund Balances)

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.10, requires that money paid into any fund shall be used only for the purpose for which such fund is established.

The General Fund had a negative fund balance of \$67,788 as of December 31, 2000. The Street Fund had a negative fund balance of \$57,612 and \$50,723 as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, respectively. The Permissive Tax Fund had a negative fund balance of \$8,248 as of December 31. The Water Fund had a negative balance of \$27,433 as of December 31, 2001.

This is a repeat comment from the prior biannual audit.

2000-39210-002 (Compliance - Establishment of Special Funds)

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.09(F), requires the Village to establish a special fund for each class of revenues derived from a source other than the general property tax, which the law requires to be used for a particular purpose. Upon establishing a fund, estimated receipts should be certified to the County Auditor as available for expenditure and anticipated expenditures should be included in the Village appropriations.

Auditor of State Management Advisory Services Bulletin 89-17, dated July 17, 1989, outlines the required accounting treatment for infrastructure projects funded through the Ohio Public Works Commission. The Bulletin states, in part, the local governments participating in the Issue II Funding Program shall

- 1. establish a Capital Projects Fund to account for both Issue II monies and local matching funds;
- 2. include in its Official or Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources the amount of Issue II monies anticipated to be received into the Capital Projects Fund during the fiscal year along with its matching requirements, if appropriate. The fund appropriations should include the amount necessary to meet the obligations to be incurred during the fiscal year. If the project is not expected to be completed in the current year, the remainder of the project must be appropriated immediately in the subsequent year(s); and
- 3. record a receipt and expenditure equal to the amount disbursed by the State to the local government's Capital Projects Fund.

During 2000, the Village participated in the Ohio Public Works Commission's Issue II Funding Program. Under this Program, the State expended \$113,884 during 2000 on behalf of the Village. The Village did not establish a Capital Projects Fund and did not include these monies within its annual budget.

This is a report comment from the prior biannual audit.

2000-39210-003 (Compliance and Internal Control - Encumbrances)

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 If no certificate is furnished as receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Village Council 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 one thousand dollars, the fiscal officer may authorize it to be paid without the affirmation of the Village Council.

Of the expenditures we selected for testing, all liabilities, contracts, and open purchase commitments greater than \$100 were not certified by the former Clerk/Treasurer and were not encumbered until the time of payment. Although purchase orders did contain "prior certification language," the certification was not always completed in entirety as to the description of the expenditure, dollar amount and account to be charged, and/or the signature of the Clerk.

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41 (B), prohibits a subdivision from making an expenditure unless it has been properly appropriated. The following funds had expenditures plus encumbrances in excess of appropriations:

Fund	<u>Appropriations</u>	Expenditures	Variance
2000			
Street, Maintenance and Repair	\$ 97,800	113,330	(15,530)
Permissive Tax	30,000	53,997	(23,997)
Capital Projects - Issue II	-	113,884	(113,884)
Water	361,300	378,072	(16,772)
Sewer	487,850	640,123	(152,273)
Utilities Deopsit	<u>-</u>	10,317	(10,317)
Sanitation	70,000	83,346	(13,346)
2001			
DUI Fund	\$ -	3,521	(3,521)
Water	378,951	487,607	(108,656)
Sewer	361,501	452,439	(90,938)
Sanitation	83,604	86,256	(2,652)
Utilities Deposit	-	10,009	(10,009)

Failure to properly encumber expenditures and monitor appropriations can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances which the Village has experienced. Therefore, we recommend the Village obtain approved purchase orders, which contain the Clerk's certification that the amount require to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated and authorized, prior to making a commitment.

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Facsimile 614-466-4490

VILLAGE OF SOUTH LEBANON

WARREN 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 MARCH 13, 2003