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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Seneca Township Noble County 51702 TR 140 Sarahsville, Ohio 43779

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Seneca Township, Noble 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 of Seneca Township, Noble 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 December 15, 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 Seneca Township Noble 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

December 15, 2003

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, 2002

	Governmental Fund Types				
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Fiduciary Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$9,531	\$2,801	\$	\$	\$12,332
Intergovernmental	7,775	60,910			68,685
Earnings on Investments	156	75			231
Other Revenue	1,285	2,294			3,579
Total Cash Receipts	18,747	66,080	0	0	84,827
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	17,645				17,645
Public Safety	1,195				1,195
Public Works	899	58,763			59,662
Miscellaneous		1,450			1,450
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal		6,395			6,395
Interest and Fiscal Charges		805			805
Total Cash Disbursements	19,739	67,413	0	0	87,152
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(992)	(1,333)	0	0	(2,325)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	3,728	11,026	0	2,865	17,619
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$2,736	\$9,693	\$0	\$2,865	\$15,294

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 AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

	Governmental Fund Types				
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Fiduciary Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$10,015	\$2,973	\$	\$	\$12,988
Intergovernmental	8,018	60,724	26,332		95,074
Earnings on Investments	262	196	0	17	475
Other Revenue	995		0		995
Total Cash Receipts	19,290	63,893	26,332	17	109,532
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	21,012		0		21,012
Public Safety	1,149		0		1,149
Public Works	981	52,039	26,332		79,352
Health	372		0		372
Miscellaneous			_	150	150
Debt Service:			0		
Redemption of Principal		6,085	0		6,085
Interest and Fiscal Charges	045	1,115	0		1,115
Capital Outlay	815	270	8,976		10,061
Total Cash Disbursements	24,329	59,509	35,308	150	119,296
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(5,039)	4,384	(8,976)	(133)	(9,764)
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):					
Transfers-In			8,976		8,976
Transfers-Out	(8,976)				(8,976)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(8,976)	0	8,976	0	0
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements					
and Other Financing Disbursements	(14,015)	4,384	0	(133)	(9,764)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1 , Restated (See Note 3)	17,743	6,642	0	2,998	27,383
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$3,728	\$11,026	\$0	\$2,865	\$17,619

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

Seneca Township, Noble 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 and a publicly-elected Clerk. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance (public works), cemetery maintenance (health), fire protection and emergency medical services (public safety). The Township contracts with the Villages of Belle Valley, Caldwell, Senecaville and Summerfield to provide fire and ambulance 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

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 Fund:

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

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

3. Capital Projects Fund

This fund is 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:

Public Works Commission Projects Fund - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio for the paving of Township roads.

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2002 and 2001 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

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.

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

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:

	2001	2002
Demand deposits	\$17,619	\$15,294

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

3. RESTATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES

Certain adjustments have resulted in fund balance restatements as of January 1, 2001. These restatements are due to posting errors in the prior period.

Fund	12/31/00 Balance	Adjustment	1/1/01 Balance
General	\$11,067	\$6,676	\$17,743
Special Revenue	\$13,318	\$(6,676)	\$6,642

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$17,374	\$18,747	\$1,373
Special Revenue	63,285	66,080	2,795
Total	\$80,659	\$84,827	\$4,168

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$20,427	\$19,739	\$688
Special Revenue	79,542	67,413	12,129
Fiduciary	123		123
Total	\$100,092	\$87,152	\$12,940

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

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$25,353	\$19,290	(\$6,063)
Special Revenue	61,855	63,893	2,038
Capital Projects	0	35,308	35,308
Fiduciary	0	17	17
Total	\$87,208	\$118,508	\$31,300

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$29,501	\$33,305	(\$3,804)
Special Revenue	74,598	59,509	15,089
Capital Projects	0	35,308	(35,308)
Fiduciary	255	150	105
Total	\$104,354	\$128,272	(\$23,918)

The Township did not obtain prior certification for expenditures, contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (D)

The Township failed to establish a fund for monies received from Ohio Public Work Commission, contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09.

The Township had expenditures which exceeded appropriations in the General Fund, Cemetery Fund, Special Revenue Fund type, and the Issue II Fund, Capital Projects Fund type, contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B).

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.

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

6. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2002 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Business Loan - Tractor	\$8,414	6.00%

The business loan was issued to finance the purchase of a tractor to be used for Township road maintenance. The loan is secured by pledging the tractor as collateral.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest of \$342, is scheduled as follows:

	Business Loan
Year ending December 31:	
2003	\$6,967
2004	1,789
Total	\$8,756

7. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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

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.

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

8. **RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

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.

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	<u>2001</u>
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

Seneca Township Noble County 51702 TR 140 Sarahsville, Ohio 43779

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Seneca Township, Noble County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated December 15, 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 December 15, 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. Our consideration of 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 the internal control over financial reporting and its operation of ore financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated December 15, 2003.

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 Seneca Township Noble County Independent Accountants' Report 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.

Betty Montgomery

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

December 15, 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 5705.09 states, in part, each subdivision is required 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 for a particular purpose.

During the audit period, the Township did not establish a capital project fund for Issue II monies spent on their behalf by the Noble County Engineer's office. The Township did not record this financial activity on their accounting records.

We recommend the Township create an Issue II Fund, Capital Project Fund type, and memo entry the Issue II monies received from Ohio Public Works Commission spent on their behalf by the Noble County Engineer. The Township should also budget and appropriate for these moneys. The Clerk should refer to Auditor of State Audit Bulletins 2002-004 and 2000-008 for descriptions of proper accounting of this fund. The financial statements have been adjusted to reflect this activity.

FINDING NUMBER 2002-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) states that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any expenditure of money unless the same has been properly appropriated.

The Township had expenditures which exceeded appropriations in the following funds in 2001:

General Fund	\$ 3,804
Cemetery Fund	\$ 144
Capital Projects	\$35,308

A portion (\$26,332) of the Capital Projects amount of \$35,308 is the result of an audit adjustment to properly reflect transactions. We recommend the Township appropriate and review the appropriation balances each month and approve appropriation amendments as needed, prior to expending funds in excess of existing appropriations.

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 2002-003

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

"Then and Now" certificate – If the fiscal officer can certify both at the time the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that 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 for the payment of the amount due. The taxing authority has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$1,000 (which was increased to \$3,000 as of April 7, 2003) may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance 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.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for twentyseven percent of expenditures tested in 2002 and fifty percent of expenditures tested in 2001, and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash balances.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Township certify the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

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> :
2000-41061-001	O.R.C. Section 5705.41 (B)	No	Repeated as Finding 2002-002.



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SENECA TOWNSHIP

NOBLE 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 JANUARY 20, 2004