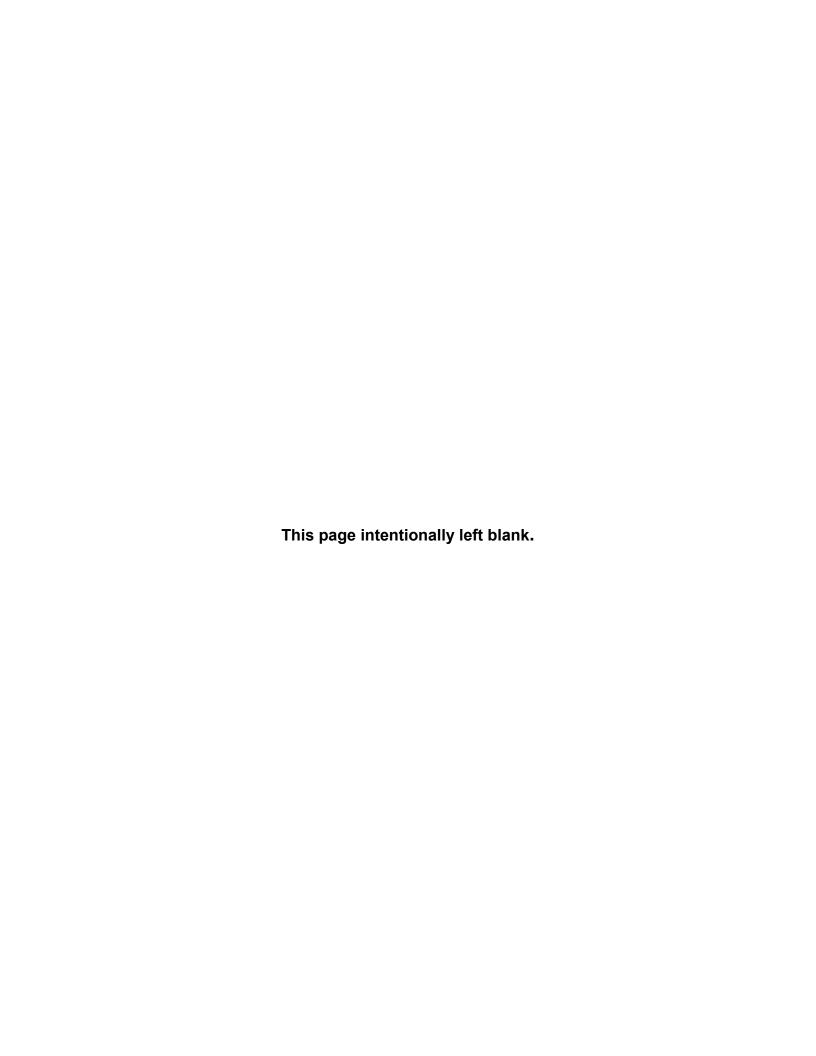




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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Ashtabula Township Ashtabula County 2718 North Ridge Road East Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ashtabula Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002. 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.

The Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described 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, 2003 and 2002, 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 February 24, 2005 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.

Voinovich Government Center / 242 Federal Plaza W. / Suite 302 / Youngstown, OH 44503 Telephone: (330) 797-9900 (800) 443-9271 Fax: (330) 797-9949 www.auditor.state.oh.us Ashtabula Township Ashtabula County Independent Accountant's Report Page 2

Butty Montgomery

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board 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 Auditor of State

February 24, 2005

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	Governmental Fund Types		
	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$87,911	\$2,995,121	\$3,083,032
Intergovernmental	240,114	591,638	831,752
Special Assessments		37,666	37,666
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	12,541	167,649	180,190
Earnings on Investments	58,823	1,847	60,670
Other Revenue	33,124	151,186	184,310
Total Cash Receipts	432,513	3,945,107	4,377,620
Cash Disbursements:			
Current: General Government	393,895		393,895
Public Safety	000,000	2,051,999	2,051,999
Public Works	28,192	1,040,021	1,068,213
Health		256,205	256,205
Conservation - Recreation	2,741		2,741
Other		350	350
Capital Outlay		162,502	162,502
Total Cash Disbursements	424,828	3,511,077	3,935,905
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	7,685	434,030	441,715
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Sale of Fixed Assets	108,752		108,752
Advances-In	200,000	200,000	400,000
Advances-Out	(200,000)	(200,000)	(400,000)
Other Uses	(480)		(480)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	108,272		108,272
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	445.057	424.000	F40 007
and Other Financing Disbursements	115,957	434,030	549,987
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	109,452	537,717	647,169
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$225,409	\$971,747	\$1,197,156

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

		Fiduciary Fund Types	
	Nonexpendable Trust	Agency	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Operating Cash Receipts: Interest Miscellaneous	\$5,249 45		\$5,249 45_
Total Operating Cash Receipts	5,294		5,294
Operating Cash Disbursements: Other Supplies and Materials Purchased Services	547 2,410 871		547 2,410 871
Total Operating Cash Disbursements Operating Income/(Loss)	3,828 1,466	·	3,828 1,466
Non-Operating Cash Receipts: Other Non-Operating Receipts		1,190	1,190
Total Non-Operating Cash Receipts		1,190	1,190
Net Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	1,466	1,190	2,656
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	150,877		150,877
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$152.343	\$1.190	\$153.533

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	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$81,444	\$2,495,603	\$2,577,047
Intergovernmental	219,826	537,143	756,969
Special Assessments	.,.	39,595	39,595
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	13,497	121,960	135,457
Earnings on Investments	7,132	2,677	9,809
Other Revenue	94,432	64,318	158,750
Total Cash Receipts	416,331	3,261,297	3,677,628
Cash Disbursements: Current:			
General Government	517,264		517,264
Public Safety	- · · · , · ·	1,810,086	1,810,086
Public Works	31,249	986,353	1,017,602
Health Conservation - Recreation	49,988 1,792	261,278	311,266 1,792
Capital Outlay	1,792	2,918	2,918
Total Cash Disbursements	600,293	3,060,635	3,660,928
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(183,962)	200,662	16,700
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Sale of Fixed Assets	35,000		35,000
Advances-In	161,000	161,000	322,000
Advances-Out	(161,000)	(161,000)	(322,000)
Other Uses	(2)		(2)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	34,998		34,998
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements			
and Other Financing Disbursements	(148,964)	200,662	51,698
•	(-,)	-,	- ,
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	258,416	337,055	595,471
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$109,452	\$537,717	\$647,169

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Fiduciary Fund Type
	Nonexpendable Trust
Operating Cash Receipts: Interest	\$767_
Total Operating Cash Receipts	767
Operating Cash Disbursements: Purchased Services	
Net Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	767
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	150,110
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$150.877

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Ashtabula Township, Ashtabula 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, 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, passbook savings accounts, and repurchase agreements 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:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002 (Continued)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (continued)

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 to pay for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Cemetery Fund – This fund receives property tax money for maintaining township cemeteries and purchasing equipment associated with same. In addition, monies are received by this fund for the sale of cemetery lots and grave openings/closings.

Fire Levy Fund – This fund receives property tax money for maintaining/purchasing equipment and covering costs for providing emergency fire services.

Ambulance Levy Fund - This fund's receipts are generated from a restricted Township levy and are only to be utilized to assist in providing the necessary equipment and emergency medical services for Township residents.

3. 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:

Cemetery Bequest Funds - The Township had various non-expendable trust funds that hold cemetery bequests and are used for gravesite maintenance and cemetery upkeep.

Unclaimed Monies Fund – An agency fund that accounts for stale-dated warrants that were removed from the reconciliation by the Clerk.

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 function 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002 (Continued)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

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

A summary of 2003 and 2002 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. 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 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:

	2003	2002
Demand Deposits	(\$25,438)	(\$129,419)
Certificate of Deposits	147,690	81,944
Passbook Savings	388	65,501
Total Deposits	122,640	18,026
Investments:		
Repurchase Agreements	1,228,049	780,020
Total Deposits and Investments	\$1,350,689	\$798,046

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

Investments: The Township's financial institution transfers securities to the Township's agent to collateralize repurchase agreements. The securities are not in the Township's name.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002 (Continued)

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2003 and 2002 follows:

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$465,220	\$541,265	\$76,045
Special Revenue	3,682,642	3,945,107	262,465
Trust and Agency Funds	767	6,484	5,717
Total	\$4,148,629	\$4,492,856	\$344,227

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$521,238	\$425,308	\$95,930
4,203,003	3,511,077	691,926
3,934	3,828	106
\$4,728,175	\$3,940,213	\$787,962
	Authority \$521,238 4,203,003 3,934	Authority Expenditures \$521,238 \$425,308 4,203,003 3,511,077 3,934 3,828

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$450,900	\$451,331	\$431
Special Revenue	3,393,376	3,261,297	(132,079)
Trust Funds	4,000	767	(3,233)
Total	\$3,848,276	\$3,713,395	(\$134,881)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary		
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance	
General	\$936,464	\$600,295	\$336,169	
Special Revenue	3,731,783	3,060,635	671,148	
Trust Funds	5,000	0	5,000	
Total	\$4,673,247	\$3,660,930	\$1,012,317	

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002 (Continued)

4. PROPERTY TAX (Continued)

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.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

The Government belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. 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. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, 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 \$100,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$1,250,000 for 2002. There is no aggregate for 2003 and future accident years. Beginning in 2003, OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding 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 township.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002 (Continued)

5. 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 2003 and 2002.

Casualty Coverage	2003	2002
Assets	\$27,792,223	\$23,757,036
Liabilities	(11,791,300)	(9,197,512)
Retained earnings	\$16,000,923	<u>\$14,559,524</u>

Property Coverage	<u>2003</u>	2002
Assets	\$6,791,060	\$6,596,996
Liabilities	<u>(750,956)</u>	(1,204,326)
Retained earnings	<u>\$6,040,104</u>	<u>\$5,392,670</u>

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's certified Fire Fighters belong to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). Other employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. OP&F and PERS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. These plans provide 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 2003, members of PFDPF participants contributed 10% of their wages. The Township contributed an amount equal to 24% of their wages to PFDPF. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2003 and 2002. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Ashtabula Township Ashtabula County 2718 North Ridge Road East Ashtabula. Ohio 44004

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Ashtabula Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated February 24, 2005 wherein we noted that the Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). Government Auditing Standards considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. 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 no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we noted one instance of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated February 24, 2005

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 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 February 24, 2005.

Voinovich Government Center / 242 Federal Plaza W. / Suite 302 / Youngstown, OH 44503 Telephone: (330) 797-9900 (800) 443-9271 Fax: (330) 797-9949 www.auditor.state.oh.us Ashtabula Township
Ashtabula County
Independent Accountant's Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by Government Auditing Standards
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This report is intended solely for the information and use 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

Butty Montgomery

Auditor of State

February 24, 2005

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
2001-411040-001	Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(B) & (D)	Yes	Corrective action was taken when current clerk took office April 1, 2003.
2001-411040-002	Ohio Revised Code § 5705.39	Yes	Corrective action was taken when current clerk took office April 1, 2003.
2001-411040-003	Financial reports were not presented to the Board for approval.	Yes	Corrective action was taken when current clerk took office April 1, 2003.
2001-411040-004	Accounting for cemetery bequests.	Yes	Corrective action was taken when current clerk took office April 1, 2003. Cited in current audit management letter.



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ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP ASHTABULA 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 MARCH 29, 2005