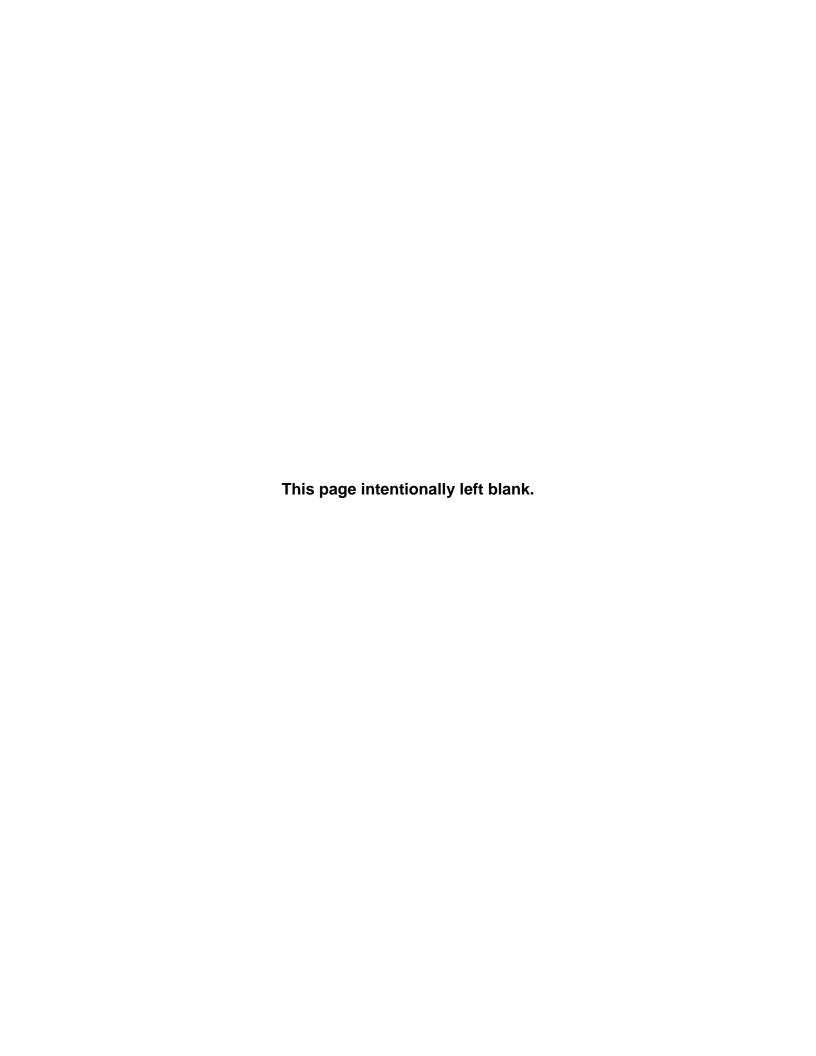




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Groton Township Erie County 9414 Portland Road Castalia, Ohio 44824-9261

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Betty Montgomery

April 13, 2005

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Groton Township Erie County 9414 Portland Road Castalia, Ohio 44824-9261

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Groton Township, Erie County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure 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 processes its financial transactions with 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 audit 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 § 117.101 requires 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 our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Groton Township Erie County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Revisions to GAAP would require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2004 (and 2003), the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since the Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2004, or their changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, 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 Groton Township, Erie County, as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

As discussed in Note 8, the Township changed the classification of the Fire Levy Fund during 2003.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 13, 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 grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Butty Montgomeny

April 13, 2005

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, 2004

	Governmental Fund Types							
	Ge	eneral	Special Revenue		•		Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:								
Local Taxes	\$	93,443	\$	95,858			\$	189,301
Intergovernmental		54,987	·	139,085			·	194,072
Charges for Services		4,000		5,000				9,000
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		18,551		3,000				21,551
Earnings on Investments		2,336		1,431	\$	2		3,769
Other Revenue		12,826		35				12,861
Total Cash Receipts		186,143		244,409		2		430,554
Cash Disbursements:								
Current:								
General Government		173,253						173,253
Public Safety		66,791		4,998				71,789
Public Works		250		156,776				157,026
Health		31						31
Debt Service:								
Redemption of Principal				35,574				35,574
Interest and Fiscal Charges				3,921				3,921
Capital Outlay		90,200		8,420				98,620
Total Cash Disbursements		330,525		209,689				540,214
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(144,382)		34,720		2		(109,660)
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt:								
Sale of Notes		30,000						30,000
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)		30,000						30,000
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)		30,000			-			30,000
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing								
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	,	444.000		0.4.700		_		(70.000)
and Other Financing Disbursements	(114,382)		34,720		2		(79,660)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		197,137		206,921		580		404,638
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	82,755	\$	241,641	\$	582	\$	324,978
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$	1,797	\$	910			\$	2,707

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, 2003

	Government	al Fund Types	_	
	General	Special Revenue	Fiduciary Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$ 92,403	\$ 91,192		\$ 183,595
Intergovernmental	127,317	69,990		197,307
Charges for Services	5,000			5,000
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	20,827			20,827
Earnings on Investments	3,878	898	\$ 3	4,779
Other Revenue	15,548			15,548
Total Cash Receipts	264,973	162,080	3	427,056
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	176,016			176,016
Public Safety	79,034			79,034
Public Works	1,792	64,289		66,081
Health	114		8	122
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal		18,389		18,389
Interest and Fiscal Charges		4,168		4,168
Capital Outlay	20,986	29,473		50,459
Total Cash Disbursements	277,942	116,319	8	394,269
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(12,969)	45,761	(5)	32,787
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):				
Transfers-In	4-1		9	9
Transfers-Out	(9)			(9)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(9)		9	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing				
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(12,978)	45,761	4	32,787
and other mananing blood combine	(:=,:::)	.0,. 0 .	·	0=,. 0.
Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated)	210,115	161,160	576	371,851
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 197,137	\$ 206,921	\$ 580	\$ 404,638
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$ 1,059	\$ 2,090		\$ 3,149

THE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Groton Township, Erie County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees Township directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance and fire protection services. The Township contracts with North Central EMS to provide 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Cash and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or disbursements investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The Township values certificates of deposit 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 reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

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

<u>Gasoline Tax Fund</u> – This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

<u>Fire Levy Fund</u> - This fund receives property tax money for the purpose of providing and maintaining land, buildings, and apparatus for providing fire protection services.

5. Fiduciary Funds (Trust and Agency Funds)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements and funds for which the Township is acting in an agency capacity. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

<u>Cemetery Trust Fund</u> – This nonexpendable trust fund receives interest on the balance to be used strictly for cemetery expenses.

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

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

A summary of 2004 and 2003 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

	 2004		2003
Demand deposits	\$ 182,879	\$	264,159
Certificates of deposit	 142,099		140,479
Total deposits	\$ 324,978	\$	404,638

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2004 and 2003 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts						
	Budgeted		Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts		Receipts		Variance	
General	\$	197,729	\$	216,143	\$	18,414
Special Revenue		173,168		244,409		71,241
Fiduciary		12		2		(10)
Total	\$	370,909	\$	460,554	\$	89,645

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures						
	Appropriation		Budgetary			
Fund Type	Authority		Expenditures		Variance	
General	\$	383,968	\$	332,322	\$	51,646
Special Revenue		279,810		210,599		69,211
Fiduciary		20				20
Total	\$	663,798	\$	542,921	\$	120,877

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Е	Budgeted		Actual		
Fund Type		Receipts	F	Receipts	\	/ariance
General	\$	221,717	\$	264,973	\$	43,256
Special Revenue		177,169		162,081		(15,088)
Capital Projects		101				(101)
Fiduciary		12		12		
Total	\$	398,999	\$	427,066	\$	28,067

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation		Budgetary			_
Fund Type		Authority	Ex	penditures	\	/ariance
General	\$	418,998	\$	279,010	\$	139,988
Special Revenue		216,036		118,409		97,627
Fiduciary		20		8		12
Total	\$	635,054	\$	397,427	\$	237,627

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopt rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, 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.

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	P	rincipal	Interest Rate
Commercial Loan - Heavy Rescue Vehicle	\$	51,038	4.50%
Commercial Loan - Snow Plow		25,120	4.00%
Total	\$	76,158	

The commercial loan was obtained to finance the purchase of a new heavy rescue vehicle to be used by the Township fire department. The loan is collateralized solely by the vehicle.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

The other commercial loan was obtained to help finance the purchase of a snow plow to be used by the Township road department. The loan is collateralized solely by the vehicle.

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

	Co	ommercial					
	Loa	an - Heavy	Co	mmercial			
		Rescue	Loan - Snov				
Year ending December 31:	Vehicle		Vehicle		Vehicle P		Plow
2005	\$	22,557	\$	10,916			
2006		22,557		10,512			
2007		9,213		5,223			
Total	\$	54,327	\$	26,651			

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plans' benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004 and 2003, OPERS members contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equaling 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

The Township 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

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.

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 (the latest information available):

Casualty Coverage	2003	 2002
Assets	\$ 27,792,223	\$ 23,757,036
Liabilities	(11,791,300)	(9,197,512)
Retained Earnings	\$ 16,000,923	\$ 14,559,524
Property Coverage	 2003	 2002
Assets	\$ 6,791,060	\$ 6,596,996
Liabilities	(750,956)	(1,204,326)
Retained Earnings	\$ 6,040,104	\$ 5,392,670

8. FUND RECLASSIFICATION

During fiscal year 2003 the Township changed the classification of the Fire Levy Fund from the Capital Projects fund type to the Special Revenue fund type to more accurately reflect the permitted use of these funds. This reclassification had the following effect on fund balances:

	Special Revenue		Capital Projects	
Fund Balance December 31, 2002	\$	154,390	\$ 6,770	
Fund Reclassification		6,770	 (6,770)	
Restated Fund Balance January 1, 2003	\$	161,160	\$ -	



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Groton Township Erie County 9414 Portland Road Castalia, Ohio 44824-9261

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Groton Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003, and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated April 13, 2005, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and wherein we noted the Township reclassified its Fire Levy Fund. We also noted that the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. 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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audits, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable 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 caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider material weaknesses. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated April 13, 2005, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting.

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Groton Township
Erie County
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect 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 an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated April 13, 2005, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Butty Montgomeny

April 13, 2005

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2002-001	Article XII, Section 5a, Ohio Const. interest derived from motor vehicle and fuel taxes incorrectly posted to the General Fund.	Yes	
2002-002	Ohio Revised Code § 135.21 and Ohio Revised Code § 5705.10, interest not properly posted to the General Fund.	Yes	
2002-003	Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(B), expenditures in excess of appropriations.	Yes	



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GROTON TOWNSHIP ERIE 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 MAY 24, 2005