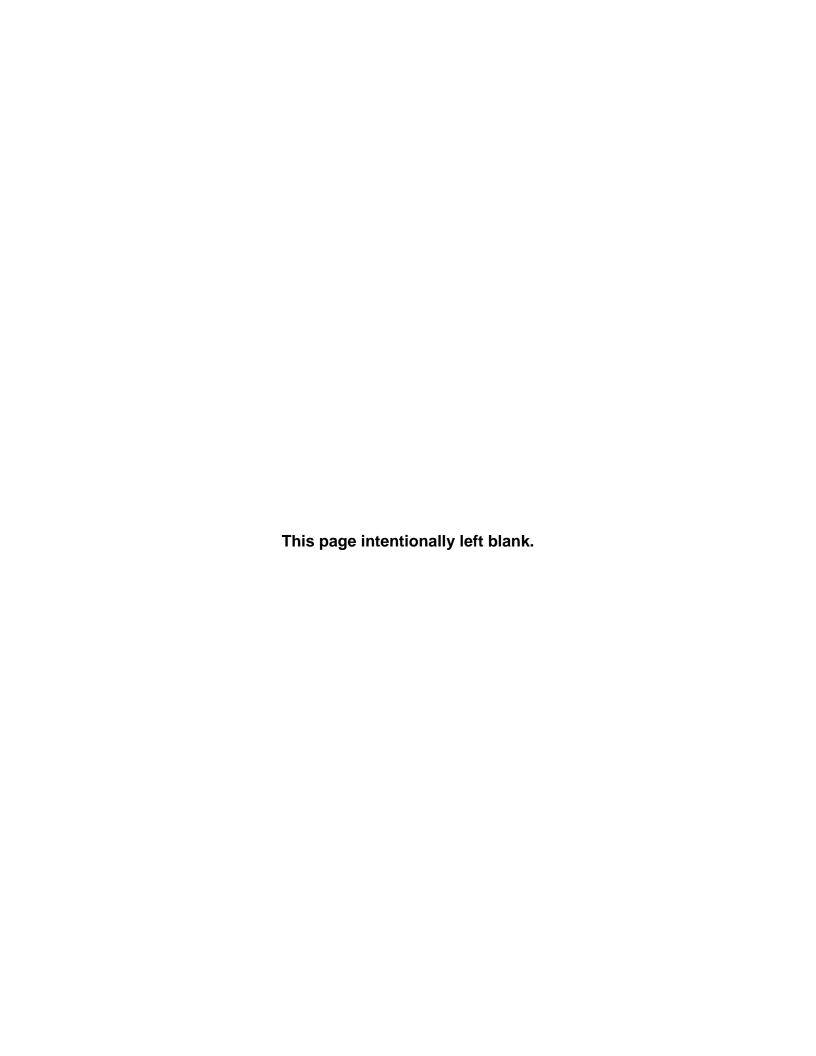




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Israel Township Preble County 5678 Israel Somers Road Camden, Ohio 45311

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

Butty Montgomeny

August 16, 2005

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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Israel Township Preble County 5678 Israel Somers Road Camden, Ohio 45311

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Israel Township, Preble County, Ohio (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.

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 this 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.

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Israel Township Preble County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

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 its 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 Israel Township, Preble 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.

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 August 16, 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

August 16, 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				
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Fiduciary Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Special Assessments	\$84,712 27,637	\$20,175 81,808	\$3,692		\$104,887 109,445 3,692
Licenses, Permits, and Fees Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	1,544 4,937	1,575 1,001 <u>900</u>		\$15	1,575 2,560 5,837
Total Cash Receipts	118,830	105,459	3,692	15	227,996
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Capital Outlay	75,786 9,750 36,288 12,967	77,692 621	3,974		75,786 9,750 117,954 12,967 621
Total Cash Disbursements	134,791	78,313	3,974	0	217,078
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(15,961)	27,146	(282)	15	10,918
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	95,486	120,656	4,087	3,015	223,244
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$79.525	\$147.802	\$3.805	\$3.030	\$234.162
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$10,000	\$41,807	\$0	\$0	\$51,807

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

	Governmental Fund Types				
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Fiduciary Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Special Assessments	\$81,551 17,527	\$19,436 69,089	\$4,105		\$100,987 86,616 4,105
Licenses, Permits, and Fees Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	1,787 1,000	2,375 776 3,000		\$36	2,375 2,599 4,000
Total Cash Receipts	101,865	94,676	4,105	36	200,682
Cash Disbursements: Current:					
General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Capital Outlay	72,038 9,450 50,000 14,102	63,669 4,123 9,250	3,974		72,038 9,450 117,643 18,225 9,250
Total Cash Disbursements	145,590	77,042	3,974	0	226,606
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(43,725)	17,634	131	36	(25,924)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	139,211	103,022	3,956	2,979	249,168
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$95.486	\$120.656	\$4.087	\$3.015	\$223.244

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 Israel Township, Preble County, Ohio (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with West College Corner Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to provide fire services to the west half of the Township and Camden Somers Fire and Rescue Protection District to provide fire services to the east half of the Township and ambulance services to the entire Township.

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 basis of accounting. 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 values certificates of deposit at cost. The investment in STAR Ohio (The State Treasurer's investment pool) is recorded at amounts reported by the State Treasurer.

#### 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 or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

<u>Road and Bridge Fund</u> - 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.

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

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

#### 3. Capital Project Funds

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant capital project funds:

<u>Morning Sun Lighting Fund</u> – This fund receives the special assessment taxes assessed on the benefiting property owners of Morning Sun.

<u>Fairhaven Lighting Fund</u> – This fund receives the special assessment taxes assessed on the benefiting property owners of Fairhaven.

<u>Lakeland Terrace Lighting Fund</u> – This fund receives the special assessment taxes assessed on the benefiting property owners of Lakeland Terrace.

#### 4. Fiduciary Funds (Non-Expendable Trust Funds)

These funds account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. If the agreement requires the Township to maintain the corpus of the trust, the fund is classified as a non-expendable trust. The Township had two Cemetery Bequest Funds.

#### 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 object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

#### 2. Estimated Resources

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

#### 3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law. However, there were no material encumbrances at December 31, 2004 and 2003.

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

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

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

#### 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.

#### 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	\$80,312	\$81,334
Certificates of deposit	2,050	2,050
Total deposits	82,362	83,384
STAR Ohio	151,800	139,860
Total deposits and investments	\$234,162	\$223,244

**Deposits:** Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**Investments:** Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

#### 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 Variance Receipts General \$88,300 \$118,830 \$30,530 Special Revenue 86,150 105,459 19,309 **Capital Projects** 3,861 3,692 (169)**Fiduciary** 30 15 (15)Total \$178,341 \$227,996 \$49,655

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

#### 3. **BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$183,700	\$144,791	\$38,909
206,650	120,120	86,530
7,800	3,974	3,826
985	0	985
\$399,135	\$268,885	\$130,250
	Authority \$183,700 206,650 7,800 985	Authority         Expenditures           \$183,700         \$144,791           206,650         120,120           7,800         3,974           985         0

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$103,300	\$101,865	(\$1,435)
Special Revenue	83,550	94,676	11,126
Capital Projects	3,861	4,105	244
Fiduciary	0	36	36
Total	\$190,711	\$200,682	\$9,971

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

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	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$242,881	\$145,590	\$97,291
Special Revenue	185,400	77,042	108,358
Capital Projects	6,400	3,974	2,426
Fiduciary	915	0	915
Total	\$435,596	\$226,606	\$208,990

#### 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.

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

#### 5. 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 plan's 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.

#### 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

#### **Risk Pool Membership**

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

#### Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss adjustment expenses. 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. Townships 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 in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500,000,000 per occurrence. 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:

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

#### 6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Casualty Coverage	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$30,687,203	\$27,792,223
Liabilities	(13,640,962)	(11,791,300)
Retained earnings	<u>\$17,046,241</u>	<u>\$16,000,923</u>

Property Coverage	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$7,799,073	\$6,791,060
Liabilities	(753,906)	<u>(750,956)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,045,167</u>	<u>\$6,040,104</u>



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

Israel Township Preble County 5678 Israel Somers Road Camden, Ohio 45311

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Israel Township, Preble County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004, and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated August 16, 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. 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 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*.

#### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures in order to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine 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 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 Township's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with management's assertions in the financial statements. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2004-001.

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. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered material weaknesses. However, we do not believe the reportable condition described above is a material weakness. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 16, 2005, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting which we did not deem reportable conditions.

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Preble County
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#### **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 audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2004-001. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 16, 2005, we reported another matter 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 Montgomery

August 16, 2005

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2004-001**

#### **Reportable Condition/Noncompliance Citation**

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41 (D), requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the obligation 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. This certificate need be signed only by the subdivision's fiscal officer. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

This Section also provides for two exceptions to the above requirements:

- 1. Then and Now Certificates If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was, both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Board 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.
- 2. If the amount involved is less than \$3,000, the Fiscal Officer may authorize payment through a Then and Now Certificate without affirmation of the Board, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds for 38% of expenditures tested. Neither of the two exceptions listed above were used.

Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances. Effort should be made by the Township to properly utilize the encumbrance method of accounting by certifying the availability funds on properly approved purchase orders. We recommend the Township obtain approved purchase orders, which contain the fiscal agent's certification indicated by a signature that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated and authorized, prior to making a commitment.

We also reported this comment in the management letter of the audit of the 2002 and 2001 financial statements.



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# ISRAEL TOWNSHIP PREBLE 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 SEPTEMBER 22, 2005