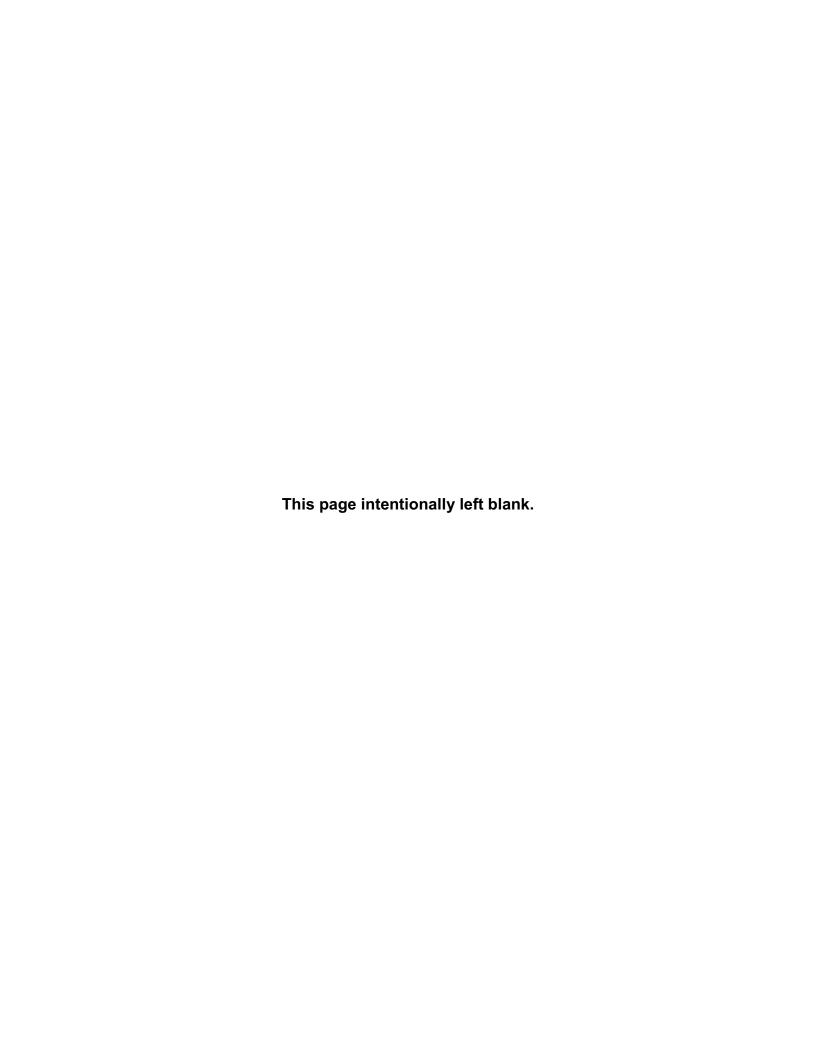




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Knox Township Holmes County 13709 Township Road 224 Big Prairie, Ohio 44611

#### 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

July 22, 2005

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#### **INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT**

**Knox Township Holmes County** 13709 Township Road 224 Big Prairie, Ohio 44611

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Knox Township, Holmes 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. 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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Knox Township Holmes 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 Knox Township, Holmes 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 July 22, 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

July 22, 2005

## COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	Governmental Fund Types		Totals
	General	Special Revenue	(Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Charges for Services Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$25,735 28,405 77 1,350	\$39,686 83,350 11,405 85 4,485	\$65,421 111,755 11,405 162 5,835
Total Cash Receipts	55,567	139,011	194,578
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Works Health	82,504 5,216	69,651	82,504 69,651 5,216
Total Cash Disbursements	87,720	69,651	157,371
Total Cash Receipts Over (Under) Cash Disbursements	(32,153)	69,360	37,207
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	37,637	15,505	53,142
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$5,484	\$84,865	\$90,349

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 FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	Governmental Fund Types		, .
	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Charges for Services Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$24,422 26,648 294 513	\$29,518 67,780 3,653 105 8,110	\$53,940 94,428 3,653 399 8,623
Total Cash Receipts	51,877	109,166	161,043
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Works Health Debt Service:	92,218 4,816	109,481	92,218 109,481 4,816
Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges Capital Outlay		18,765 463 6,675	18,765 463 <u>6,675</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	97,034	135,384	232,418
Total Cash Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements	(45,157)	(26,218)	(71,375)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	82,794	41,723	124,517
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$37,637</u>	<b>\$15,505</b>	<u>\$53,142</u>

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 Knox Township, Holmes County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services and road and bridge maintenance. The Township contracts with the Western Holmes County Fire District to provide fire and ambulance services. The township contracts with the Holmes County Sheriff's Department for police protection.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

The Township is associated with certain organizations which are defined as Jointly Governed Organizations under Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14, Reporting Entity. These organizations are presented in Notes 8 through 11 and include:

- Holmes County Emergency Management Council
- Holmes County Health District Advisory Council
- Western Holmes County Fire District Board
- Holmes County Planning Commission

#### 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

Certificates of deposit and the Township's Money Market account 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 reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

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

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

#### D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

#### 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 District Fund</u> - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

<u>Gasoline Tax Fund</u> - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing 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. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

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.

#### 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.

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

#### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	2004	2003
Demand deposits	\$90,349	\$53,142

**Deposits:** 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 ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	_
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$52,140	\$55,567	\$3,427
Special Revenue	109,243	139,011	29,768
Total	\$161,383	\$194,578	\$33,195

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$89,775	\$87,720	\$2,055
Special Revenue	124,530	69,651	54,879
Total	\$214,305	\$157,371	\$56,934

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$50,740	\$51,877	\$1,137
Special Revenue	104,450	109,166	4,716
Total	\$155,190	\$161,043	\$5,853

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$133,500	\$97,034	\$36,466
Special Revenue	145,900	135,384	10,516
Total	\$279,400	\$232,418	\$46,982

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D), certain 2004 and 2003 expenditures were not certified prior to incurring an obligation.

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

#### 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. LOCAL EXCISE TAX

The Township levies a local excise tax on hotel lodging for transient guests. The tax, in the amount of three percent, is levied on all hotels within the Township on all transactions by which lodging by a hotel is or is to be furnished to transient guests.

Hotels within the Township collect from the transient guest, the full and exact amount of the tax payable on each taxable transaction. Hotels pay these taxes to the Township on a monthly basis with a completed Monthly Lodging Excise Tax Report.

#### 6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004 and 2003, members of OPERS 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

#### **Commercial Insurance**

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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

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

#### 8. HOLMES COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Agency is a statutorily created political subdivision of the State. The Agency is jointly governed among Holmes County, municipalities and townships. The Agency establishes a program for emergency management that includes development of an emergency operations plan which is applicable to all political subdivisions that have entered into the county-wide agreement.

#### 9. HOLMES COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Council is a body politic and corporate established under Section 3709.01, Revised Code, for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Council operates under the direction of a five-member appointed board and appointed health commissioner. Services provided by the Council include referrals to Bureau of Crippled Children Services Program, communicable disease investigations, immunization clinics, tuberculosis screening, home visits, various licenses and permits, including inspections, birth and death certificates and related services.

#### 10. WESTERN HOLMES COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

The District 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 District is directed by an appointed four-member Board of Trustees. One board member is appointed by each political subdivision within the District. The District provides fire protection services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

#### 11. HOMES COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Commission is governed by an eleven member board, of which seven are appointed by the County. The Commission makes studies, maps, plans, recommendations and reports concerning the physical, environmental, social economical and governmental characteristics, functions and social, economical and governmental characteristics, functions and services of the County.

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

Knox Township Holmes County 13709 Township Road 224 Big Prairie, Ohio 44611

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Knox Township, Holmes County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated July 22, 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 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 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.

However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated July 22, 2005.

#### **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 instances of noncompliance we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2004-001 and 2004-002.

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

In addition, we noted certain other immaterial instances of noncompliance that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated July 22, 2005.

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

July 22, 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**

#### **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.

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.

- 1. "Then and Now" Certificate If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that 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 Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.
  - Amounts of less than \$3,000 (\$1,000 prior to 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 Township.
- 2. Blanket Certificate Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. (Prior to September 26, 2003, blanket certificates were limited to \$5,000 and three months.) The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
- 3. Super Blanket Certificate The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

During 2004 and 2003, 46 out of 55 or 84% of the expenditures tested were not certified by the Clerk prior to incurring the obligation. It was also found that neither of the two exceptions above were utilized for the items found to be in noncompliance. The Township should certify the availability of funds for expenditure and also implement the use of Then and Now Certificates as further means to certify funds pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D).

Knox Township Holmes County Schedule of Findings Page 2

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2004-002**

#### **Finding for Recovery Repaid Under Audit**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 505.60 states, in pertinent part, that "the board of township trustees of any township may negotiate and contract for the purchase of a policy of long-term care insurance for township officers and employees pursuant to section 124.841 of the Revised Code." Ohio Revised Code Section 124.841 states "As used in this section, 'long-term care insurance' has the same meaning as in Ohio Revised Code Section 3923.41. Ohio Revised Code Section 3923.41 (A) states, in pertinent part, that "long term care insurance does not include any insurance policy that is offered primarily to provide...hospital confinement indemnity coverage...specified disease, etc."

During 2003, the Township procured AFLAC long-term hospital intensive care and cancer – specified disease insurance policies on behalf of Carl J. Strausbaugh, Trustee which were not permissible pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3923.41 (A). Payments made during 2003 directly to AFLAC by the Township totaled \$306.

In accordance with the foregoing facts, and pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code 117.28, a Finding for Recovery for public money illegally expended is hereby issued against Carl J. Strausbaugh, Trustee, Wilbur Miller, Trustee, Robert Reiheld, Trustee and Cynthia Reiheld, Clerk-Treasurer, and the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority, their bonding company, jointly and severally, in the amount of \$306 in favor of the General Fund.

On September 19, 2005, Carl J. Strausbaugh paid the finding for recovery in full to Knox Township (check no. 4545) and it was subsequently deposited and recorded by the Township on September 21, 2005 at The Commercial and Savings Bank.

#### 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	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) – During 2002 and 2001, 17% of expenditures tested were not properly certified by the Township Clerk prior to incurring the commitment.	No	Not Corrected. Refer to Finding Number 2004-001.
2002-002	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38 – The Township did not adopt a permanent appropriation measure for 2002.	Yes	Finding No Longer Valid.



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#### **KNOX TOWNSHIP**

#### **HOLMES 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 OCTOBER 4, 2005