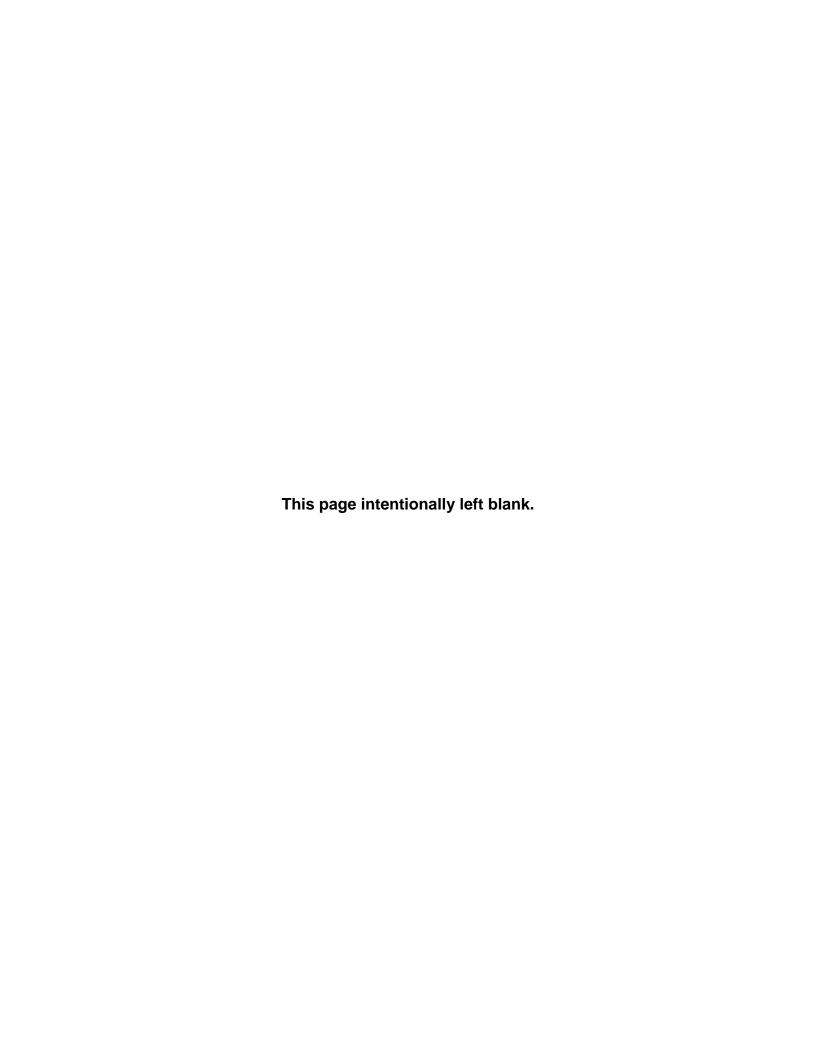




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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Morgan Township Ashtabula County 2139 Forman Road Jefferson, OH 44047

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Morgan 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 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other then the generally accepted accounting principles

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 Morgan Township, Ashtabula County, as of December 31, 2003 and December 31, 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 June 30, 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.

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 Morgan Township Ashtabula County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Butty Montgomery

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other then these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

June 30, 2005

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

	Governmen	tal Fund Types	Fiduciary Fund Type	
	General	Special Revenue	Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Licenses, Permits, and Fees Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$19,518 9,628 1,132 693 728	\$170,792 114,695 375 2,382	208	\$190,310 124,323 1,132 1,276 3,110
Total Cash Receipts	31,699	288,244	208	320,151
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Capital Outlay	29,126 6,530	1,591 41,565 143,370 17,292 67,848		30,717 41,565 143,370 23,822 67,848
Total Cash Disbursements	35,656	271,666		307,322
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(3,957)	16,578	208	12,829
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Sale of Fixed Assets Other Sources	71	5,151	_	5,151 71
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	71	5,151		5,222
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(3,886)	21,729	208	18,051
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	18,963	227,593	3,562	250,118
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$15.077	\$249.322	\$3.770	\$268.169

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 SIMILAR FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Gover	nmental Fund	Types	Fiduciary Funds	
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Licenses, Permits, and Fees Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$13,629 18,192 3,024 2,057 57	\$163,955 105,955 1,783 1,113	\$3,202	130 55	\$180,786 124,147 3,024 3,970 1,225
Total Cash Receipts	36,959	272,806	3,202	185	313,152
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Conservation - Recreation Debt Service: Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges Capital Outlay	42,669 5,711	145,584 108,513 14,865	3,000 202	185	42,669 145,584 108,513 20,576 185 3,000 202 16,806
Total Cash Disbursements	48,380	285,768	3,202	185	337,535
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(11,421)	(12,962)			(24,383)
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Other Sources	317				317
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(11,104)	(12,962)			(24,066)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	30,067	240,555		3,562	274,184
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$18.963	\$227.593		\$3.562	\$250.118
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$0	\$31,841	\$0	\$0	\$31,841

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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 Morgan Township, Ashtabula County, (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'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 and repurchase agreements 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 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.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

<u>Fire District Fund</u> – This fund receives property tax money for providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, or sites therefore, and paying firemen to operate the same.

3. Debt Service Fund

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bonds and note indebtedness. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

<u>General Note Retirement</u> – This fund receives property tax money for the repayment of notes issued to purchase a truck for the road department. The debt was paid off in 2002.

4. Fiduciary Fund (Trust Fund)

This fund accounts for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had one Expendable Trust fund:

<u>Sophie Root Fund</u> – This fund receives interest income for providing assistance to the indigent people of the Township.

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. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2003 and 2002 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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

	2003	2002
Demand deposits	\$6,008	\$246,556
Certificates of deposit	3,562	3,562
Total deposits	9,570	250,118
Investments:	_	
Repurchase agreement	258,599	
Total investments	258,599	0
Total deposits and investments	\$268,169	\$250,118

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or 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.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2003 Bud	2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts				
	Budgeted	Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance		
General	\$28,000	\$31,770	\$3,770		
Special Revenue	242,358	293,395	51,037		
Fiduciary	60	208	148		
Total	\$270,418	\$325,373	\$54,955		

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY – (Continued)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$43,637	\$35,656	\$7,981
Special Revenue	459,878	271,666	188,212
Fiduciary	3,621	0	3,621
Total	\$507,136	\$307,322	\$199,814

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$28,000	\$37,276	\$9,276
Special Revenue	219,600	272,806	53,206
Debt Service	3,202	3,202	0
Fiduciary	134	185	51
Total	\$250,936	\$313,469	\$62,533

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$58,120	\$48,380	\$9,740
460,102	317,609	142,493
3,202	3,202	0
3,695	185	3,510
\$525,119	\$369,376	\$155,743
	Authority \$58,120 460,102 3,202 3,695	Authority Expenditures \$58,120 \$48,380 460,102 317,609 3,202 3,202 3,695 185

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.

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, 2003 AND 2002 (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 plans' benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2003 and 2002, 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, 2003.

6. 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.

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.

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT - (Continued)

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



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

Morgan Township Ashtabula County 2139 Forman Road Jefferson, OH 44047

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Morgan Township (the Township), Ashtabula County, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 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. 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 a 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 2003-001.

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. We consider reportable condition 2003-001 listed above to be a material weakness. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated June 30, 2005, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

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 Morgan Township Ashtabula 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 audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed one instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2003-002. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated June 30, 2005, we reported one 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

June 30, 2005

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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

FINDING NUMBER 2003-001

Material Weakness

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-02(B) requires the Township's internal controls to reasonably assure that recorded transactions have occurred and are not fictitious. This includes maintaining sufficient documentation for all transactions.

The Township's financial records were not reconciled with the Township's depositories on a monthly basis for the period from April 2003 through December 2003. Numerous errors in posting created problems in performing cash reconciliations. Fund balances per the cash journal did not agree with amounts posted to the annual report. The cash balance in the annual report was overstated by \$1,352.71.

Without an accurate monthly reconciliation between the books and the banks utilized by the Township, and maintaining current and accurate posting of records, undetected errors or irregularities could occur and not be corrected on a timely basis.

In order to present an accurate account of the financial operations of the Township, monthly bank reconciliations need to be performed. Any errors to the reconciliation should be corrected and/or disclosed as soon as possible. Monthly reconciliations should be performed by the Clerk and any unusual adjustments needed to reconcile should be presented to the Board of Trustees.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-002

Noncompliance Citation

Certification of the Availability of Funds

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (D) states, in part, no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required for the order or contract has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances.

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 he is completing his certification "now", sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the taxing authority can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The taxing authority has 30 days from the receipt of such certificate to approve payment by resolution or ordinance. If approval is not made within 30 days, there is no legal liability on the part of the subdivision or taxing district.

Morgan Township Ashtabula County Schedule of Findings Page 2

FINDING NUMBER 2003-002

Noncompliance Citation

Certification of the Availability of Funds (continued)

- 2. <u>Blanket Certificate</u> 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.

The Township utilized purchase orders, but did not encumber the funds at the time the commitment was made in the appropriation journal, nor did they use the Then and Now Certificates. By not encumbering the amounts of the purchase order at the time the obligations are incurred could result in the Township spending more than appropriated.

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

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003-2002

Finding	Finding	Fully	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
Number	Summary	Corrected?	
2001-41101-001	Revised Code § 5705.41(B), Expenditures exceeded appropriations in the General Fund	Partially corrected	Issue II monies were not recorded properly by the Township. Management Letter comment.



88 East Broad Street P.O. Box 1140 Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140

Telephone 614-466-4514 800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

MORGAN 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 AUGUST 25, 2005