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Plymouth Township Ashtabula County 3899 State Road South Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

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 Montgomeny

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

June 15, 2005

Voinovich Government Center / 242 Federal Plaza W. / Suite 302 / Youngstown, OH 44503 Telephone: (330) 797-9900 (800) 443-9271 Fax: (330) 797-9949 www.auditor.state.oh.us This page intentionally left blank.



# INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Plymouth Township Ashtabula County 3899 State Road South Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Plymouth Township, Ashtabula 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 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.

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 Plymouth Township Ashtabula 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 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 Plymouth Township, Ashtabula 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 June 15, 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

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

June 15, 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

	Gover	nmental Fund	Types	Fiduciary Funds	<b>T</b> .(.).
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Agency	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Special Assessments Charges for Services Licenses, Permits, and Fees Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$73,847 46,921 1,325 5,690 1,857	\$195,026 142,609 3,263 23,204 1,188 736 20,384	\$56,836	10,000	\$325,709 189,530 3,263 24,529 1,188 6,426 32,241
Total Cash Receipts	129,640	386,410	56,836	10,000	582,886
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Miscellaneous Debt Service: Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges Capital Outlay	82,073 322 18,871 28,058	59,189 33,004 186,864 3,100 5,961	51,976 4,860	10,000	141,262 33,004 187,186 21,971 10,000 51,976 4,860 34,019
Total Cash Disbursements	129,324	288,118	56,836	10,000	484,278
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	316	98,292			98,608
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	176,544	226,540			403,084
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$176.860	\$324.832	\$0	<u>\$0</u>	\$501.692
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31		\$27			\$27

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			Fiduciary Funds	
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Agency	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes	\$73,135	\$180,657	\$57,402		\$311,194
Intergovernmental Special Assessments Charges for Services	89,331	132,868 3,206 24,555			222,199 3,206 24,555
Licenses, Permits, and Fees Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	975 3,346 1,824	1,955 370 13,776		1,780	2,930 3,716 17,380
Total Cash Receipts	168,611	357,387	57,402	1,780	585,180
Cash Disbursements: Current:					
General Government Public Safety Public Works	78,626 322	59,539 21,211 223.070			138,165 21,211
Health Miscellaneous Debt Service:	17,353	3,000		1,780	223,392 20,353 1,780
Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges Capital Outlay	997	18,532	50,431 6,971		50,431 6,971 19,529
Total Cash Disbursements	97,298	325,352	57,402	1,780	481,832
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	71,313	32,035			103,348
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	105,231	194,505			299,736
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$176.544</u>	\$226.540	\$0	<u>\$0</u>	\$403.084

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 Plymouth 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 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.

STAR Ohio is recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

#### 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, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

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

<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 tax money generated by a vote to provide fire protection and ambulance services to residents.

#### 3. Debt Service Funds

These funds account for resources the Township accumulates to pay bond and note debt. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund.

<u>Note Retirement Fund</u> - This fund receives tax money to repay debt issued for the purchase of a fire truck

#### 4. Fiduciary Funds (Agency Funds)

These funds are established for the purpose in which the Township is acting in an agency capacity. The Township had the following significant Fiduciary Fund:

<u>Demolition Fund</u> - This fund holds insurance proceeds as a security against the cost of removing, repairing, or securing damaged property.

#### 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.

#### 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:

	2003	2004
Interest Bearing Checking Account	\$27,409	\$144,593
Interest Bearing Savings Account	304,649	257,909
Total deposits	332,058	402,502
STAR Ohio	71,026	99,190
Total deposits and investments	\$403,084	\$501,692

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

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

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

# 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	\$127,638	\$129,640	\$2,002
Special Revenue	352,685	386,410	33,725
Debt Service	56,846	56,836	(10)
Fiduciary	10,000	10,000	0
Total	\$547,169	\$582,886	\$35,717

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$304,182	\$129,324	\$174,858
Special Revenue	579,226	288,145	291,081
Debt Service	56,846	56,836	10
Fiduciary	10,000	10,000	0
Total	\$950,254	\$484,305	\$465,949

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$157,007	\$168,611	\$11,604
Special Revenue	326,622	357,387	30,765
Debt Service	57,465	57,402	(63)
Fiduciary	780	1,780	1,000
Total	\$541,874	\$585,180	\$43,306

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$262,238	\$97,298	\$164,940
Special Revenue	521,110	325,352	195,758
Debt Service	57,465	57,402	63
Fiduciary	1,780	1,780	0
Total	\$842,593	\$481,832	\$360,761

#### 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. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Notes	\$79,484	3.88%

The Township issued general obligation notes to finance the purchase of a new fire truck. The note was issued in 2001 and is paid from the debt service fund with a maturity date of October 2006. The General Obligation Notes are collateralized by the Township's taxing authority.

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

	General
	Obligation
Year ending December 31:	Notes
2005	\$41,560
2006	41,824
Total	\$83,384

#### 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 these plans' 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.

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

#### 7. 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 (the latest information available):

Casualty Coverage	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$27,792,223	\$23,757,036
Liabilities	<u>(11,791,300)</u>	<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>	<u>(1,204,326)</u>
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*

Plymouth Township Ashtabula County 3899 State Road South Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Plymouth Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated June 15, 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 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.

#### **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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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 Plymouth 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

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

Betty Montgomery

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

June 15, 2005



88 East Broad Street P.O. Box 1140 Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140 Telephone 614-466-4514 800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

# **PLYMOUTH 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.

Susan Babbett

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED JULY 5, 2005