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Salt Creek Township Muskingum County 7340 Chandlersville Road Chandlersville, Ohio 43727

To the Board of Township 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

August 28, 2005

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Salt Creek Township Muskingum County 7340 Chandlersville Road Chandlersville, Ohio 43727

To the Board of Township Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Salt Creek Township, Muskingum 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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In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statement referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004, does 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 of Salt Creek Township, Muskingum 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 28, 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 Montgomeny

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

August 28, 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			
	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$24,350	\$20,657	\$45,007	
Intergovernmental	26,238	78,722	104,960	
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		5,275	5,275	
Earnings on Investments	96	41	137	
Other Revenue	815	1,100	1,915	
Total Cash Receipts	51,499	105,795	157,294	
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	31,009		31,009	
Public Safety	1,670	9,386	11,056	
Public Works	23,686	72,489	96,175	
Health	550	3,565	4,115	
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal		10,480	10,480	
Interest and Fiscal Charges		3,589	3,589	
Capital Outlay		46,235	46,235	
Total Cash Disbursements	56,915	145,744	202,659	
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(5,416)	(39,949)	(45,365)	
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt:				
Sale of Notes		33,000	33,000	
Sale of Fixed Assets	5,770		5,770	
Transfers-In		1,199	1,199	
Transfers-Out	0	(1,199)	(1,199)	
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	5,770	33,000	38,770	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements				
and Other Financing Disbursements	354	(6,949)	(6,595)	
	554	(0,949)	(0,090)	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	6,189	34,374	40,563	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$6,543	\$27,425	\$33,968	

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	\$23,393	\$20,226	\$43,619	
Intergovernmental	26,652	72,048	98,700	
Special Assessments			0	
Charges for Services			0	
Licenses, Permits, and Fees			0	
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties		2,750	2,750	
Earnings on Investments	86	47	133	
Other Revenue	28		28	
Total Cash Receipts	50,159	95,071	145,230	
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	34,955		34,955	
Public Safety	1,669	5,470	7,139	
Public Works	28,903	52,008	80,911	
Health		4,487	4,487	
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal		10,480	10,480	
Interest and Fiscal Charges		6,771	6,771	
Capital Outlay		4,822	4,822	
Total Cash Disbursements	65,527	84,038	149,565	
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(15,368)	11,033	(4,335)	
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Sale of Fixed Assets	881		881	
Transfers-In		700	700	
Transfers-Out	(700)	0	(700)	
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	181	700	881	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements				
and Other Financing Disbursements	(15,187)	11,733	(3,454)	
	(10,107)	11,700	(0,404)	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	21,376	22,641	44,017	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$6,189	\$34,374	\$40,563	

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 Salt Creek Township, Muskingum 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 Wayne Township to provide fire services and Harrison Township to provide ambulance services.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements 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. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is 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 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)

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 properly 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.

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 and investments at December 31 was as follows:

	2004	2003
Demand deposits	\$33,968	\$40,563

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending 2004 and 2003 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
	Budgeted Actual		
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$61,529	\$57,269	(\$4,260)
Special Revenue	110,629	139,994	29,365
Total	\$172,158	\$197,263	\$25,105
2004 Budgeted vs. A			es
	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$59,076	\$56,915	\$2,161
Special Revenue	128,973	146,943	(17,970)
Total	\$188,049	\$203,858	(\$15,809)
2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	
			Variance
General	\$54,289	\$51,040	Variance (\$3,249)
General	\$54,289	\$51,040	(\$3,249)
General Special Revenue	\$54,289 95,439 \$149,728 Actual Budgetary	\$51,040 95,771 \$146,811 Basis Expenditure	(\$3,249) 332 (\$2,917)
General Special Revenue Total 2003 Budgeted vs. A	\$54,289 95,439 \$149,728 Actual Budgetary Appropriation	\$51,040 95,771 \$146,811 Basis Expenditure Budgetary	(\$3,249) 332 (\$2,917) es
General Special Revenue Total 2003 Budgeted vs. A Fund Type	\$54,289 95,439 \$149,728 Actual Budgetary Appropriation Authority	\$51,040 95,771 \$146,811 Basis Expenditure Budgetary Expenditures	(\$3,249) 332 (\$2,917) es Variance
General Special Revenue Total 2003 Budgeted vs. A Fund Type General	\$54,289 95,439 \$149,728 Actual Budgetary Appropriation Authority \$73,660	\$51,040 95,771 \$146,811 Basis Expenditure Budgetary Expenditures \$66,227	(\$3,249) 332 (\$2,917) es Variance \$7,433
General Special Revenue Total <u>2003 Budgeted vs. A</u> Fund Type General Special Revenue	\$54,289 95,439 \$149,728 Actual Budgetary Appropriation Authority \$73,660 113,490	\$51,040 95,771 \$146,811 Basis Expenditure Budgetary Expenditures \$66,227 84,038	(\$3,249) 332 (\$2,917) es Variance \$7,433 29,452
General Special Revenue Total 2003 Budgeted vs. A Fund Type General	\$54,289 95,439 \$149,728 Actual Budgetary Appropriation Authority \$73,660	\$51,040 95,771 \$146,811 Basis Expenditure Budgetary Expenditures \$66,227	(\$3,249) 332 (\$2,917) es Variance \$7,433

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.

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

4. **PROPERTY TAX (Continued)**

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 - Storage Building	\$27,500	4.79%
General Obligation Notes - Backhoe	29,880	5.52%
General Obligation Notes - Dump Truck	33,000	5.63%
Total	\$90,380	

The Township issued general obligation notes to finance the construction of a storage building, purchase of a backhoe, and purchase of a new dump truck.

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

	General	General	General
	Obligation	Obligation	Obligation
	Notes -	Notes -	Notes - Dump
Year ending December 31:	Building	Backhoe	Truck
2005	\$6,836	\$6,652	\$5,184
2006	6,569	6,374	4,995
2007	6,301	6,095	4,807
2008	6,034	5,816	4,618
2009	5,767	5,537	4,430
2010 – 2014		5,259	19,326
Total	\$31,507	\$35,733	\$43,360

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's officers and 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 post retirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. 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.

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

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:

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

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

6. **RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

Financial Position (Continued)

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

The Township also provides health insurance coverage to its full time employees through a private carrier.



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

Salt Creek Township Muskingum County 7340 Chandlersville Road Chandlersville, Ohio 43727

To the Board of Township Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Salt Creek Township, Muskingum County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated August 28, 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 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. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 28, 2005, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

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 that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 28, 2005, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

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

Betty Montgomeny

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

August 28, 2005

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2002-001	The Township did not comply with Ohio Rev. Code §5705.41(D) since 88% of the expenditures tested did not have prior certification.	No	Partially corrected and issued as part of the management letter.
2002-002	The Township did not comply with Ohio Rev. Code §5705.39 appropriations exceeded estimated resources.	Yes	Corrected.
2002-003	The Township did not comply with Ohio Rev. Code §5705.36 failure to obtain an increased amended certificate.	No	Partially corrected and issued as part of the management letter.
2002-004	The Township did not comply with Ohio Rev. Code §5705.41(B) expenditures exceeding appropriations.	No	Partially corrected and issued as part of the management letter.
2002-005	Material Weakness for failing to record all financial activity of the Township.	No	Partially corrected and issued as part of the management letter.
2002-006	Reportable Condition for failing to properly update the Township's accounting system for budgeted receipts.	Yes	Corrected



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SALT CREEK TOWNSHIP

MUSKINGUM 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 Babbrtt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED NOVEMBER 10, 2005