



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Village of Palestine
Darke County
P.O. Box B
Palestine, Ohio 45352

To the Village Mayor and Council:

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery".

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

August 9, 2005

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Village of Palestine
Darke County
P.O. Box B
Palestine, Ohio 45352

To the Village Mayor and Council:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Village of Palestine, Darke County, (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Village'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 Village 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 Village 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 Village 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 Village has elected not to reformat its statements. Since this Village 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.

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 Village as of December 31, 2004, or its changes in financial position or the year then ended.

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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 the Village of Palestine, Darke 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 Village to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Village 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 9, 2005, on our consideration of the Village'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

August 9, 2005

**VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property Tax and Other Local Taxes	\$3,404		\$3,404
Intergovernmental Receipts	33,060	\$10,569	43,629
Earnings on Investments	139	15	154
Miscellaneous	132		132
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	36,735	10,584	47,319
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property	6,443		6,443
Leisure Time Activities		3,100	3,100
Transportation	14,115	4,655	18,770
General Government	16,000		16,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	36,558	7,755	44,313
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	177	2,829	3,006
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	30,146	17,044	47,190
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$30,323</u>	<u>\$19,873</u>	<u>\$50,196</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	\$937	\$0	\$937
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

**VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property Tax and Other Local Taxes	\$3,323		\$3,323
Intergovernmental Receipts	32,724	\$8,773	41,497
Charges for Services		170	170
Earnings on Investments	228	25	253
Miscellaneous	182	466	648
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	36,457	9,434	45,891
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property	8,013		8,013
Leisure Time Activities	2,939	1,891	4,830
Transportation	12,016	3,728	15,744
General Government	16,620		16,620
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	39,588	5,619	45,207
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(3,131)	3,815	684
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	33,277	13,229	46,506
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$30,146	\$17,044	\$47,190
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	\$716	\$0	\$716
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

**VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY**

**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 Village of Palestine, Darke County, (the Village) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected six-member Council governs the Village. The Village provides general governmental services and park operations (leisure time activities). The Village contracts with the Darke County Sheriff's department to provide security of persons and property. Liberty Township provides fire and emergency medical services.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. This basis 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 adequately disclose material matters the Auditor of State prescribes.

C. Cash and Investments

The Village maintains interest bearing checking and money market savings accounts.

D. Fund Accounting

The Village uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Village 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 Fund

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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Street Construction, Maintenance, and Repair Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax and motor vehicle tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Village streets.

Park Fund - This fund receives grants and donations to fund maintenance of the Village Park.

**VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY**

**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. Village Council 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 Village to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over and need not be reappropriated. The Village did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law. Management has included audit adjustments in the accompanying budgetary presentations for material items that should have been encumbered.

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

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Village records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Village 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:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Demand deposits	\$50,196	\$47,190
Total deposits	<u>50,196</u>	<u>47,190</u>

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

**VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY**

**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			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$35,900	\$36,735	\$835
Special Revenue	8,230	10,584	2,354
Total	<u>\$44,130</u>	<u>\$47,319</u>	<u>\$3,189</u>

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$66,150	\$37,495	\$28,655
Special Revenue	25,100	7,755	17,345
Total	<u>\$91,250</u>	<u>\$45,250</u>	<u>\$46,000</u>

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$36,600	\$36,457	(\$143)
Special Revenue	7,835	9,434	1,599
Total	<u>\$44,435</u>	<u>\$45,891</u>	<u>\$1,456</u>

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$69,630	\$40,304	\$29,326
Special Revenue	19,710	5,619	14,091
Total	<u>\$89,340</u>	<u>\$45,923</u>	<u>\$43,417</u>

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Village Council adopts tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The State pays the Village amounts equaling these deductions. The Village includes these with Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half payment 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 Village.

Property owners assess tangible personal property tax. They must file a list of tangible 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 the Village's behalf.

**VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY**

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Four of the Village Council members and one employee belong to Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes the plans' retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004 and 2003, OPERS members contributed 8.5 percent of their wages. The Village contributed an amount equal to 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Village has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive Property and General Liability;
- Comprehensive Vehicle Liability; and
- Inland Marine



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Village of Palestine
Darke County
P.O. Box B
Palestine, Ohio 45352

To the Village Mayor and Council:

We have audited the financial statements of the Village of Palestine, Darke County, (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated August 9, 2005, wherein we noted the Village 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 Village'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 Village's management dated August 9, 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 Village's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2004-001. In a separate letter to the Village's management dated August 9, 2005, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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Village of Palestine
Darke 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, and Village Council. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

August 9, 2005

**VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY**

**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) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

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 Village can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Village has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$1,000 (\$3,000 effective 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 Village.

2. **Blanket certificate** – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates not exceeding \$5,000 (an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by the legislative authority, effective September 26, 2003) against any specific line item account over a period not exceeding three months (three month limitation was eliminated effective September 26, 2003) or running beyond the current year. 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 Village 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 one line item appropriation.

The Village did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 100% of the 2004 and 2003 disbursements, and there was no evidence that the Village followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending and negative cash fund balances.

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. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Village's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Village's Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to the obligation by the Village. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the Village certify purchases to which section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The fiscal officer should sign the certification at the time the Village incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

VILLAGE OF PALESTINE
DARKE COUNTY

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	Revised Code § 5705.41(D), failure to certify the availability of funds prior to incurring obligations.	No	Repeated as Finding 2004-001



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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VILLAGE OF PALESTINE

DARKE 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 Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005**