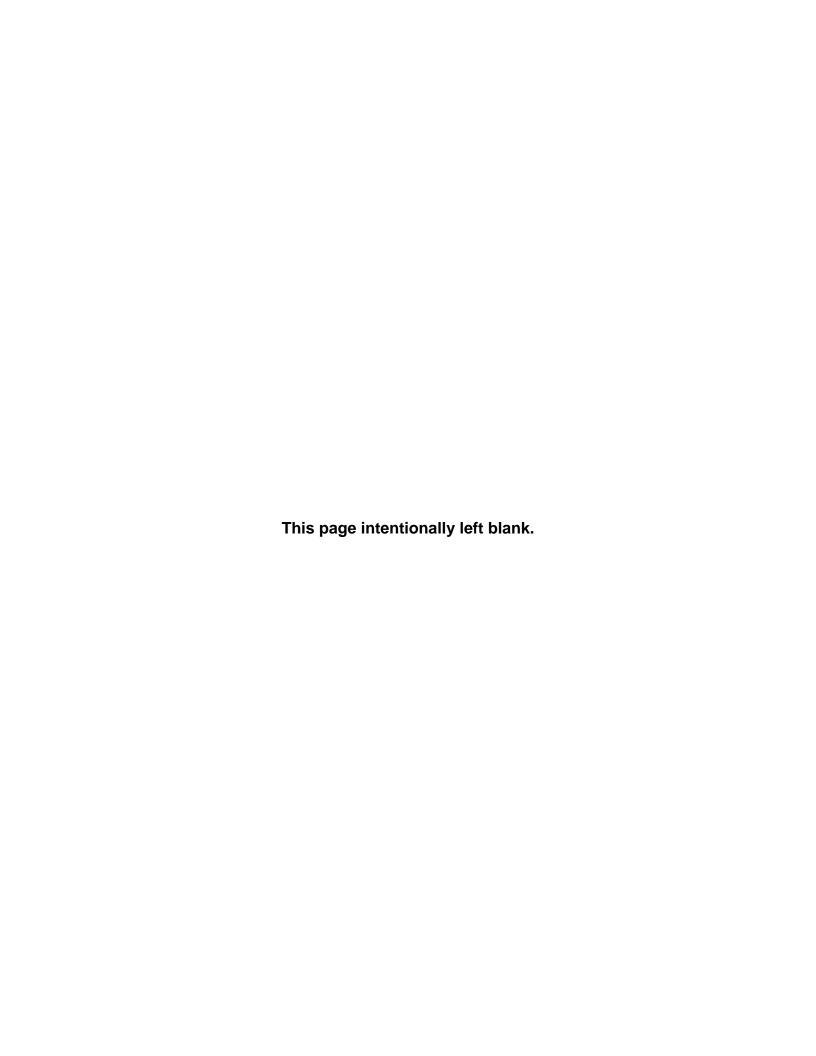




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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

West Township Columbiana County 7195 12th Street Minerva, Ohio 44657

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of West Township, Columbiana County (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 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 obtain reasonable assurance about 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's financial transactions were processed using 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 conduct the audit of 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 service, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than 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 the Township as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

West Township Columbiana County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Betty Montgomery

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 20, 2004 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 grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, 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 than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

December 20, 2004

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

	Governmental Fund Types		
	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes Intergovernmental	\$52,107 96,815	\$273,642 146,797	\$325,749 243,612
Special Assessments	90,013	4,570	4,570
Licenses, Permits and Fees		15,422	15,422
Earnings on Investments	4,857	149	5,006
Other Receipts	973	5,897	6,870
Total Cash Receipts	154,752	446,477	601,229
Cash Disbursements:			
Current: General Government	102,166	163	102,329
Public Safety	102,100	40,038	40,038
Public Works	49,897	281,689	331,586
Health	8,558	21,081	29,639
Capital Outlay		64,980	64,980
Total Cash Disbursements	160,621	407,951	568,572
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(5,869)	38,526	32,657
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Advances-In	10,000		10,000
Advances-Out	(55)	(10,000)	(10,000)
Other Financing Uses	(55)		(55)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	9,945	(10,000)	(55)
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing			
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	4,076	28,526	32,602
and Other Financing Disbursements	4,076	20,320	32,002
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	13,740	349,915	363,655
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$17,816</u>	\$378,441	\$396,257
Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	\$115	\$70,029	\$70,144

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - NONEXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	Fiduciary Fund Type
	Nonexpendable Trust
Operating Cash Receipts: Interest	\$622
Total Operating Cash Receipts	622
Operating Cash Disbursements: Supplies and Materials	200
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	200
Operating Income/(Loss)	422
Net Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	422
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	26,314
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$26.736
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Governmental Fund Types			<u>.</u>
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes Intergovernmental Special Assessments Licenses, Permits, and Fees	\$50,153 108,192	\$253,304 115,279 4,194 12,155	\$5,839	\$309,296 223,471 4,194 12,155
Earnings on Investments Other Receipts	7,507 88	284 9,433		7,791 9,521
Total Cash Receipts	165,940	394,649	5,839	566,428
Cash Disbursements:				
Current: General Government Public Safetv	93,923	17 42.883		93,940 42,883
Public Works Health	28,350 6,852	283,157 17,213		311,507 24,065
Debt Service:	0,002	17,213		
Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges			20,509 2,441	20,509 2,441
Capital Outlay	37,000	453		37,453
Total Cash Disbursements	166,125	343,723	22,950	532,798
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(185)	50,926	(17,111)	33,630
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Transfers-In		0.047		0.047
Transfers-in Transfers-Out		6,247	(6,247)	6,247 (6,247)
Advances-In Advances-Out	(10,000)	10,000		10,000 (10,000)
Other Financing Sources	756			756
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(9,244)	16,247	(6,247)	756
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements				
and Other Financing Disbursements	(9,429)	67,173	(23,358)	34,386
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	23,169	282,742	23,358	329,269
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$13,740	\$349,915	\$0	\$363,655
Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>	\$0	\$0	<u>\$0</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - NONEXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Fiduciary Fund Type
	Nonexpendable <u>Trust</u>
Operating Cash Receipts: Interest	\$897_
Total Operating Cash Receipts	897
Operating Cash Disbursements: Supplies and Materials	178_
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	178
Net Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	719
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	25,595
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$26,314</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

West Township, Columbiana County, (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township provides general governmental services including road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with Minerva Volunteer Fire Department, Hanoverton Volunteer Fire Department and Homeworth Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire protection 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 prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized 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 prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

Investments reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to 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:

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing of Township roads.

Road District Fund – This fund receives property tax money for maintenance of Township roads.

Fire Fund – This fund receives property tax money for the contracting of fire protection services.

3. Debt Service Funds

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bonds and note indebtedness. The General Bond (Note) Retirement Fund accounts for the retirement of the general obligation notes.

4. Fiduciary Funds (Nonexpendable Fund)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

Cemetery Trust Fund – This fund is classified as a nonexpendable trust fund. Interest from the trust is used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

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. 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.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process (Continued)

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 2003 and 2002 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a cash and investments pool used by all funds. 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	\$320,670	\$290,311
Certificates of deposit	102,323	99,658
Total deposits	422,993	389,969

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Budgeted	Actual	
Receipts	Receipts	Variance
\$162,316	\$154,752	(\$7,564)
400,818	446,477	45,659
800	622	(178)
\$563,934	\$601,851	\$37,917
	Receipts \$162,316 400,818 800	Receipts Receipts \$162,316 \$154,752 400,818 446,477 800 622

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$208,400	\$160,791	\$47,609
710,913	477,980	232,933
800	200	600
\$920,113	\$638,971	\$281,142
	Authority \$208,400 710,913 800	Authority Expenditures \$208,400 \$160,791 710,913 477,980 800 200

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$155,612	\$166,696	\$11,084
Special Revenue	385,287	400,896	15,609
Debt Service	0	5,839	5,839
Fiduciary	1,049	897	(152)
Total	\$541,948	\$574,328	\$32,380

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$190,838	\$166,125	\$24,713
Special Revenue	608,220	343,723	264,497
Debt Service	11,679	29,197	(17,518)
Fiduciary	880	178	702
Total	\$811,617	\$539,223	\$272,394

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D) – The Township did not properly certify expenditures or properly encumber purchase orders as required by this section.

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(B) – The Township had expenditures and outstanding encumbrances that exceeded appropriations in the Debt Service Fund.

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

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, 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.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2003 and 2002, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2003 and 2002. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Government belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the "Plan"), an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to approximately 500 Ohio governments ("Members").

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Plan is a separate legal entity. The Plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages, modified for each Member's needs. The Plan pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the Member's deductible.

The Plan issues its own policies and reinsures with A- VII or better rated carriers, except for a 5% portion the Plan retains. With policies effective September 1, 2003 and after, The Plan pays the lesser of 5% or \$25,000 for casualty losses up to the coverage limit and the lesser of 5% or \$50,000 for property losses up to the coverage limit. The individual members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member.

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

The Pool's financial statements (audited by other auditors) 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):

	2003	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$5,402,167	\$5,584,592
Liabilities	(1,871,123)	(2,441,793)
Members' Equity	\$3,531,044	\$3,142,799

You can read the complete audited financial statements for The Ohio Government Risk Management Plan at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

West Township Columbiana County 7195 12th Street Minerva, Ohio 44657

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of West Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated December 20, 2004 wherein we noted that the Township's financial transactions were processed using 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 conduct the audit of 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed two instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of finding as items 2003-001 and 2003-002.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a 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 in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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 West Township
Columbiana County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*Page 2

However, we noted a matter involving the internal control over financial reporting that does not require inclusion in this report that we have reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated December 20, 2004.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management, audit committee, and Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Betty Montgomery

December 20, 2004

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

Noncompliance Citations

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D) states that no subdivision shall make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless the certificate of the fiscal officer is attached. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet such a commitment 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 encumbrance. The amount so certified shall be recorded against the applicable appropriation account.

This section also provides two exceptions to the above requirements:

- A. Then and Now Certificate If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was, both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Township may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within 30 days from the receipt of such certificate, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.
- B. If the amount involved is less than three thousand dollars, the fiscal officer issues a then and now certificate, but may authorize it to be paid without the affirmation of the Board of Trustees.

Incurring obligations prior to the fiscal officer's certification of the availability of funds to pay such obligations could result in the Township spending more than what was appropriated. We noted that in year 2003 there were a total of 8 out of the 30 items tested in which the purchase orders were dated subsequent to the invoice date. We noted that in year 2002 there were a total of 13 out of the 30 items tested in which the purchase orders were dated subsequent to the invoice date.

We recommend that the Township implement policies and procedures to ensure that purchase orders including the fiscal officer's certification are issued prior to the obligation of monies.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-002

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(B) states in part that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated.

For 2002, the Township had expenditures and outstanding encumbrances that exceeded appropriations in the Debt Service Fund.

We recommend that Township officials implement policies to provide assurance that expenditures and encumbrances are properly appropriated as prescribed by Section 5705.41(B).

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS FISCAL YEAR END

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain :
2001-41215-001	Township records were damaged by contaminates.	Yes	Finding No Longer Valid



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

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WEST TOWNSHIP COLUMBIANA 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 JANUARY 18, 2005