

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY
Regular Audit
December 31, 2005 and 2004**



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Board of Trustees
Bethel Township
32467 Long Run Road
Sycamore Valley, Ohio 43789

We have reviewed the *Report of Independent Accountants* of Bethel Township, Monroe County, prepared by Perry & Associates for the audit period January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State's Office (AOS). Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Report of Independent Accountants* on your financial statements. While the 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. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Report of Independent Accountants* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the AOS permits.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Bethel Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

BETTY MONTGOMERY
Auditor of State

June 7, 2006

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**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

June 2, 2006

Bethel Township
Monroe County
32467 Long Run Road
Sycamore Valley, Ohio 43789

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Bethel Township, Monroe County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. 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. 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 years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2005 and 2004, the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present it's larger (i.e. major) funds separately beginning in 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 the 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.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 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, 2005 and 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 of Bethel Township, Monroe County, as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, 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 years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. The Government 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 2, 2006, 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

**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, 2005**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$ 7,314	\$ 8,639	\$	\$ 15,953
Intergovernmental	8,331	113,460		121,791
Earnings on Investments	386	1,607	27	2,020
Other Revenue	800	6,645		7,445
	<u>16,831</u>	<u>130,351</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>147,209</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	14,878	11,251		26,129
Public Safety		2,395		2,395
Public Works		96,904		96,904
Health	2,986		421	3,407
Conservation - Recreation	300			300
	<u>18,164</u>	<u>110,550</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>129,135</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>18,164</u>	<u>110,550</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>129,135</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(1,333)</u>	<u>19,801</u>	<u>(394)</u>	<u>18,074</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Transfers-In	4,355	6,364		10,719
Transfers-Out		(10,719)		(10,719)
	<u>4,355</u>	<u>(4,355)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>4,355</u>	<u>(4,355)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	3,022	15,446	(394)	18,074
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>741</u>	<u>127,768</u>	<u>8,965</u>	<u>137,474</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 3,763</u>	<u>\$ 143,214</u>	<u>\$ 8,571</u>	<u>\$ 155,548</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the financial statements

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

**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**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$ 7,771	\$ 8,883	\$	\$ 16,654
Intergovernmental	8,238	82,412		90,650
Earnings on Investments	239	1,520	448	2,207
Other Revenue	1,823	3,017		4,840
Total Cash Receipts	<u>18,071</u>	<u>95,832</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>114,351</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	14,575	7,641		22,216
Public Safety		4,265		4,265
Public Works		80,555		80,555
Health	3,083			3,083
Conservation - Recreation	1,038			1,038
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>18,696</u>	<u>92,461</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>111,157</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(625)</u>	<u>3,371</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>3,194</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>1,366</u>	<u>124,397</u>	<u>8,517</u>	<u>134,280</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 741</u>	<u>\$ 127,768</u>	<u>\$ 8,965</u>	<u>\$ 137,474</u>

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

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Bethel Township, Monroe 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 road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance and fire protection. The Township contracts with the Monroe County Emergency Management Agency to provide an emergency operation plan.

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

The certificate of deposit is valued at cost. Money market mutual funds are recorded at share values reported by the mutual fund.

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.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township has the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund – This fund receives motor vehicle license tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

Federal Emergency Management Agency – (FEMA) Fund – This fund received money from the Federal and State Emergency Management Agencies to provide flood damage relief.

3. Fiduciary Funds (Trust Funds)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. If the agreement requires the Township to maintain the corpus of the trust, the fund is classified as a Nonexpendable Trust Fund. The Township had the following significant Nonexpendable Trust Fund:

Forest O. Parks Trust Fund – The interest earned is used to pay for the cost of maintaining the Township's 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, function, and 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 cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(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 commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2005 and 2004 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.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Demand deposits	\$ 147,048	\$ 128,974
Certificates of Deposit	1,000	1,000
Total demand deposits	<u>148,048</u>	<u>129,974</u>
Mutual Funds	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u>\$ 155,548</u>	<u>\$ 137,474</u>

Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, or (3) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

Investments in mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 follows:

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$21,649	\$21,186	(\$463)
Special Revenue	121,002	136,715	15,713
Fiduciary	530	27	(503)
Total	\$143,181	\$157,928	\$14,747

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$19,514	\$18,164	\$1,350
Special Revenue	242,304	121,269	121,035
Fiduciary	994	421	573
Total	\$262,812	\$139,854	\$122,958

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$18,603	\$18,071	(\$532)
Special Revenue	87,974	95,832	7,858
Fiduciary	425	448	23
Total	\$107,002	\$114,351	\$7,349

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$20,162	\$18,696	\$1,466
Special Revenue	212,177	92,461	119,716
Fiduciary	443	0	443
Total	\$232,782	\$111,157	\$121,625

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(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.

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. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multi-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including post retirement 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 2005 and 2004, members of PERS contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2005.

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.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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 are reinsured with APEEP 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 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, 2004 and 2003 (the latest information available):

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<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>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<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>

Perry & Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

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

June 02, 2006

Bethel Township
Monroe County
32467 Long Run Road
Sycamore Valley, Ohio 43789

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Bethel Township, Monroe County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated June 2, 2006, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. 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 June 02, 2006, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

Bethel Township
Monroe County
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated June 2, 2006, we reported one matter related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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BETHEL TOWNSHIP

MONROE 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
JUNE 20, 2006**