



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**



LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Cover Letter .....	1
Independent Accountants' Report.....	3
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.....	5
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.....	6
Notes to the Financial Statements .....	7
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> .....	13
Schedule of Findings.....	15
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.....	17

**This page intentionally left blank.**



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

Lanier Township  
Preble County  
7597 Stock Road  
West Alexandria, Ohio 45381

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

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

**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

May 15, 2006

**This page intentionally left blank.**



## Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Lanier Township  
Preble County  
7597 Stock Road  
West Alexandria, Ohio 45381

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Lanier Township, Preble 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 its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2005 and 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.

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 its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Corporate Centre of Blue Ash / 11117 Kenwood Rd. / Blue Ash, OH 45242  
Telephone: (513) 361-8550 (800) 368-7419 Fax: (513) 361-8577  
[www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us)

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 Lanier Township, Preble 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 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 May 15, 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.



**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

May 15, 2006

**LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE 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>			<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>				
Local Taxes	\$27,567	\$223,214		\$250,781
Intergovernmental	76,747	122,441		199,188
Charges for Services		60,225		60,225
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		19,967		19,967
Earnings on Investments	3,856	390	\$86	4,332
Other Revenue	67	7,725		7,792
	<u>108,237</u>	<u>433,962</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>542,285</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>				
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>				
Current:				
General Government	144,643	108,407		253,050
Public Works	936	246,575		247,511
Health	7,694	65,624		73,318
Supplies and Materials			83	83
	<u>153,273</u>	<u>420,606</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>573,962</u>
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>				
<b>Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</b>	<u>(45,036)</u>	<u>13,356</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>(31,677)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>212,035</u>	<u>528,083</u>	<u>4,214</u>	<u>744,332</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><b>\$166,999</b></u>	<u><b>\$541,439</b></u>	<u><b>\$4,217</b></u>	<u><b>\$712,655</b></u>

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

**LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE 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>			<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>				
Local Taxes	\$27,399	\$218,905		\$246,304
Intergovernmental	115,954	107,455		223,409
Charges for Services		37,614		37,614
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		18,134		18,134
Earnings on Investments	2,454	818	\$132	3,404
Other Revenue	11	8,545		8,556
	<u>145,818</u>	<u>391,471</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>537,421</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>				
	<u>145,818</u>	<u>391,471</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>537,421</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>				
Current:				
General Government	110,339	93,938		204,277
Public Works	838	140,422		141,260
Health	7,694	60,027		67,721
Supplies and Materials			109	109
	<u>118,871</u>	<u>294,387</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>413,367</u>
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>				
	<u>118,871</u>	<u>294,387</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>413,367</u>
<b>Total Receipts Over Disbursements</b>	<u>26,947</u>	<u>97,084</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>124,054</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>	<u>185,088</u>	<u>430,999</u>	<u>4,191</u>	<u>620,278</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$212,035</u></u>	<u><u>\$528,083</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,214</u></u>	<u><u>\$744,332</u></u>
<b>Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$22,458</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$22,458</u></u>

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

**LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY**

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

**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 Lanier Township, Preble 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 the Village of West Alexandria to provide the Township with fire services and emergency medical 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 accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

**C. Cash and Deposits**

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

**D. Fund Accounting**

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

**1. General Fund**

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**2. Special Revenue Funds**

These funds account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

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

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

**LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY**

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

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

Cemetery Fund - This fund receives property tax money to pay for maintaining Township cemeteries. This fund also receives fees for burial services and sale of lots.

**3. Fiduciary Funds (Non-Expendable Trust Fund)**

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

Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund is used to account for three cemetery bequests given to the Township. The bequests are maintained in certificates of deposit.

**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 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. 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. The Township did not use the encumbrance method of accounting. However, a review was performed to determine the amount of encumbrances at year end which were not encumbered. Management has included audit adjustments in the accompanying budgetary presentations for material items that should have been encumbered at December 31, 2004. There were no material unreserved encumbrances outstanding at December 31, 2005.

A summary of 2005 and 2004 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.

**LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY**

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

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

**G. Accumulated Leave**

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

**2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND DEPOSITS**

The Township maintains a cash and deposits pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2005	2004
Demand deposits	\$558,905	\$590,582
Certificates of deposit	153,750	153,750
Total deposits	\$712,655	\$744,332

**Deposits:** Deposits are 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, 2005 and 2004 follows:

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$43,000	\$108,237	\$65,237
Special Revenue	327,000	433,962	106,962
Fiduciary	0	86	86
Total	\$370,000	\$542,285	\$172,285

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$255,035	\$153,273	\$101,762
Special Revenue	877,541	420,606	456,935
Fiduciary	4,214	83	4,131
Total	\$1,136,790	\$573,962	\$562,828

**LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY**

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

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$45,000	\$145,818	\$100,818
Special Revenue	313,000	391,471	78,471
Fiduciary	0	132	132
Total	\$358,000	\$537,421	\$179,421

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$230,087	\$118,871	\$111,216
Special Revenue	743,999	316,845	427,154
Fiduciary	4,191	109	4,082
Total	\$978,277	\$435,825	\$542,452

**4. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopt rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

**5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2005 and 2004, 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, 2005.

**LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY**

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

LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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



**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***

Lanier Township  
Preble County  
6597 Stock Road  
West Alexandria, Ohio 45381

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Lanier Township, Preble County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated May 15, 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 in order to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Township's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with management's assertions in the financial statements. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2005-001.

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. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered material weaknesses. However, we do not believe the reportable condition described above is a material weakness. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated May 15, 2006, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting which 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matter that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2005-001.

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



**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

May 15, 2006

LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

FINDING NUMBER 2005-001

Reportable Condition/Noncompliance

**Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41(D)(1)**, 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 Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 (\$1,000 prior to 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 Township.

2. **Blanket Certificate** – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. (Prior to September 26, 2003, blanket certificates were limited to \$5,000 and three months.) 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 Township 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 line item appropriation.

The Township did not certify the availability of funds and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

**FINDING NUMBER 2005-001  
(Continued)**

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 Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Clerk-Treasurer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the Township 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 Township 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.

LANIER TOWNSHIP  
PREBLE COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <b><i>Explain</i></b>
2003-001	Revised Code 5705.41(D), failure to properly certify funds	No	Not corrected – reissued as Finding 2005-001





**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

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

Telephone 614-466-4514  
800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

**LANIER TOWNSHIP**

**PREBLE 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 01, 2006**