Village of Syracuse

Meigs County, Ohio

Regular Audit

For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

BALESTRA, HARR & SCHERER, CPAs, INC.

528 South West Street, P.O. Box 687 Piketon, Ohio 45661

> Telephone (740) 289-4131 Fax (740) 289-3639 www.bhscpas.com



Village Council Village of Syracuse P.O. Box 266 2581 Third Street Syracuse, Ohio 45776

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditors' Report* of the Village of Syracuse, Meigs County, prepared by Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. 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. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Auditors' Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State 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 *Independent Auditors' Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State 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. The Village of Syracuse is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Betty Montgomeny

BETTY MONTGOMERY Auditor of State

December 7, 2006



Village of Syracuse, Ohio For the Year Ended December 31, 2004 Table of Contents

Title	Page
Independent Auditors' Report	1
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances – All Governmental Fund Types –	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2004.	3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances –Proprietary and Similar Fiduciary Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2004	4
Notes to the Financial Statements.	
Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements in Accordance With Government Auditing Standards	11
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	12



BALESTRA, HARR & SCHERER, CPAs, INC.

528 South West Street, P.O. Box 687 Piketon, Ohio 45661

> Telephone (740) 289-4131 Fax (740) 289-3639 www.bhscpas.com

Member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants

Independent Auditors' Report

Village of Syracuse Meigs County P.O. Box 266 2581 Third Street Syracuse, OH 45779-0266

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Village of Syracuse, Meigs County, (the Village) for the year ended December 31, 2004. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP 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, 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 require 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 the Village does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts are materially misstated under 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 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 cash flows for the proprietary funds for the year then ended.

Village of Syracuse Meigs County Independent Auditors' Report Page 2

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of the Village of Syracuse, Meigs County, as of December 31, 2004, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Village to include Management's Discussion & Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Village has not presented Management's Discussion & 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 14, 2006, 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. That report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing. It does not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. The 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.

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Balistra, Harr & Scheru

August 14, 2006

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

Governmental Fund Type

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 27,613	\$ 10,559	\$ 38,172
Intergovernmental	36,348	48,795	85,143
Charges for Services	2,016	9,783	11,799
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	19,346	12,663	32,009
Earnings on Investments	1,511	387	1,898
Donations & Contributions	6,123	4,355	10,478
Miscellaneous	5,014	704	5,718
Total Cash Receipts	97,971	87,246	185,217
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
Security of Persons & Property	73,924	42,264	116,188
Leisure Time Acivities	15,905	-	15,905
Transportation	-	44,095	44,095
General Government	48,870	3,143	52,013
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal	6,496	5,817	12,313
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	4,070	4,070
Total Cash Disbursements	145,195	99,389	244,584
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(47,224)	(12,143)	(59,367)
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt:			
Other Debt Proceeds	25,855	10,500	36,355
Advances-In	24,503	-	24,503
Transfers-Out	(1,361)	-	(1,361)
Advances-Out	(13,746)	(23,753)	(37,499)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	35,251	(13,253)	21,998
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing			
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements			
and Other Financing Disbursements	(11,973)	(25,396)	(37,369)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	16,324	54,065	70,389
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 4,351	\$ 28,669	\$ 33,020

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

Village of Syracuse Meigs County

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES PROPRIETARY AND SIMILAR FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Type	
	Enterprise	Agency	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Operating Cash Receipts:			
Charges for Services	\$ 92,508	\$ -	\$ 92,508
Miscellaneous	512		512
Total Operating Cash Receipts	93,020		93,020
OperatingCash Disbursements:			
Personal Services	54,349	-	54,349
Employee Fringe Benefits	11,650	-	11,650
Contractual Services	26,684	-	26,684
Supplies and Materials	26,125	-	26,125
Other	30		30
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	118,838		118,838
Operating Income/(Loss)	(25,818)		(25,818)
Non-Operating Receipts/(Disbursements):			
Other Non-Operating Receipts	-	31,339	31,339
Other Non-Operating Disbursements		(30,149)	(30,149)
Total Non-Operating Receipts/(Disbursements)		1,190	1,190
Income/(Loss) Before Interfund Transfers and Advances	(25,818)	1,190	(24,628)
Transfers - In	1,361	-	1,361
Advances - In	16,746	-	16,746
Advances - Out	(3,750)		(3,750)
Net Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(11,461)	1,190	(10,271)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	75,578		75,578
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 64,117	\$ 1,190	\$ 65,307

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2004

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The Village of Syracuse, Meigs County (the Village), 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 Village is directed by a publicly-elected six-member Council. The Village provides general governmental services, including maintenance of roads, fire protection services, police services, water utilities, cemetery maintenance and park operations. The Village is involved with the Syracuse-Racine Regional Sewer District which is defined as a jointly governed organization. Additional information concerning the jointly governed organization is presented in Note 8.

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 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

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

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 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 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.

Fire Fund – This fund receives tax money for fire protection as well as money from a contract with Sutton Township to provide fire protection to residents of the Township.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBERE 31, 2004 (Continued)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

3. Enterprise Funds

These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises where management intends that the significant cost of providing certain goods or services will be recovered though user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Funds:

Water Fund – This fund receives charges for services from residents to cover the cost of providing this utility.

Swimming Pool Fund – This fund receives charges for services form residents to cover the cost of running the swimming pool.

4. Fiduciary Funds (Trust and Agency Funds)

Trust funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. If the agreement requires the Village to maintain the corpus of the trust, the fund is classified as a nonexpendable trust fund. Other trust funds are classified as expendable. Funds for which the Village is acting in an agency capacity are classified as agency funds. The Village had the following significant Fiduciary Fund:

Mayor's Court Fund – This Agency Fund receives fines from police department citations. These monies are divided between the Village and the State, as prescribed by law.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) 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 Council 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBERE 31, 2004 (Continued)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Village to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Village did not encumber all commitments as required by Ohio law.

A summary of 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.

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 Village's basis of accounting.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Village 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:

	2004
Demand deposits	\$40,130
Certificates of Deposit	58,197_
Total deposits and investments	\$98,327

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2004 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

2001 2 4486464 (871104441 140441)				
	Budgeted	Actual		
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance	
General	\$148,329	\$148,329	\$0	
Special Revenue	85,081	97,746	12,665	
Enterprise	111,127	111,127	0	
Total	\$344,537	\$357,202	\$12,665	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBERE 31, 2004 (Continued)

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$160,302	\$160,302	\$0
Special Revenue	123,142	123,142	0
Enterprise	125,582	122,588	2,994
Total	\$409,026	\$406,032	\$2,994

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by the Village Council. 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 Village.

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
G.O. Note Fire Truck	\$64,520	5.25%
G.O. Note Police Cruiser	25,855	4.00%
G.O. Note Fire Equipment	9,535	4.00%
Total	\$99,910	

The General Obligation Note was for a fire truck that the Village purchased in 2000. The note was for \$117,000 with semiannual payments of \$7,603. The note is collateralized by the Village's taxing authority.

The General Obligation Note was for a Police cruiser that the Village purchased in 2004. The note was for \$25,855 with annual payments of \$5,817. The note is collateralized by the Village's taxing authority.

The General Obligation Note was for fire equipment that the Village purchased in 2004. The note was for \$10,500 with semiannual payments of \$1,176. The note is collateralized by the Village's taxing authority.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBERE 31, 2004 (Continued)

5. DEBT (Continued)

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

Year ending	GO Note	GO Note	GO Note
December 31:	Fire Truck	Fire Equipment	Police Cruiser
2005	\$15,205	\$2,352	\$5,817
2006	15,205	2,352	5,817
2007	15,205	2,352	5,817
2008	15,205	2,352	5,817
2009	13,137	1,176	5,817
	\$73,957	\$10,584	\$29,085

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Village's elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) of Ohio. OPERS 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 2004, members of OPERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Village contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all employer contributions required through December 31, 2004.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Village has obtained commercial insurance for Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability and Liability and Police Professional Liability.

Risk Pool Membership

The Village belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the "Plan"), an unincorporated non-profit association with approximately 600 governmental entity members providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Plan is deemed 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 coverage, 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 uses conventional insurance coverages and reinsures these coverages. Effective September 1, 2002, the Plan retains 5% of the premium and losses on the first \$500,000 casualty treaty (up to \$25,000 of a loss) and 5% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty (up to \$500,000 of a loss). The Plan also participates in a loss corridor in its first \$500,000 casualty reinsurance. The corridor includes losses paid between 55% and 65% or premiums earned under this treaty. (Reinsurance coverage would resume after a paid loss ratio of 65% is exceeded). The individual members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBERE 31, 2004 (Continued)

8. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATION

Syracuse-Racine Regional Sewer District – The Syracuse-Racine Regional Sewer District is a regional sewer district organized under Chapter 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code. The District operates under the direction of a three member Board of Trustees whose membership composed of one appointment from each of the participating political subdivisions: Sutton Township, Village of Syracuse, and Village of Racine. The membership elects a President, Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer, who are responsible for fiscal control of the financial resources of the district.

To obtain financial information, write to the Syracuse-Racine Regional Sewer District, Dennie Hill, Secretary-Treasurer, at P.O. Box 201, Racine, Ohio 45771. During 2004, the Village paid the District \$549 for sewer services.

BALESTRA, HARR & SCHERER, CPAs, INC.

528 South West Street, P.O. Box 687 Piketon, Ohio 45661

> Telephone (740) 289-4131 Fax (740) 289-3639 www.bhscpas.com

Member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Village of Syracuse Meigs County P.O. Box 266 2581 Third Street Syracuse, Ohio 45779-0266

To the Village Council:

We have audited the financial statements of Village of Syracuse, Meigs County, Ohio (the Village), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated August 14, 2006 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Village'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 that might be material weaknesses. 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 reportable condition in which the design or operating of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amount caused by error or fraud 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.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Village's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, 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 no instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We noted certain matters that we reported to management of the Village in a separate letter dated August 14, 2006.

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

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Balistra, Harr & Scherur

August 14, 2006

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
2003-001	ORC Section 5705.41 (D) states that certification of funds was not always obtained prior to the incurring of the obligation.	Yes	
2003-002	Timely posting of financial activity to the UAN system as well as to use the UAN system to process checks for the Village.	Yes	



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

Telephone 614-466-4514

800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

VILLAGE OF SYRACUSE MEIGS 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 DECEMBER 19, 2006