



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

February 9, 2007

The attached audit report was completed and prepared for release prior to the commencement of my term of office on January 8, 2007. Thus, I am certifying this audit report for release under the signature of my predecessor.

Mary Taylor

MARY TAYLOR, CPA
Auditor of State

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AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
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, 2004	5
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

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Board of Trustees
Auburn Township
Geauga County
11010 East Washington Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

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.

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Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

November 6, 2006

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Board of Trustees
Auburn Township
Geauga County
11010 East Washington Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Auburn Township, Geauga County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 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. The Township processes its financial transactions with 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 audit 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 services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. 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 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 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 year ended December 31, 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2004, or its 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 and reserves for encumbrances of Auburn Township, Geauga County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2004, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year 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 year ended December 31, 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 November 6, 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

November 6, 2006

AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA 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**

	Governmental Fund Types				Fiduciary Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Fiduciary Fund	
Cash Receipts:						
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$252,383	\$959,714	\$19,803	\$0	\$0	\$1,231,900
Intergovernmental	363,893	217,265	0	0	0	581,158
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	34,575	4,315	0	0	0	38,890
Earnings on Investments	15,875	200	0	0	161	16,236
Other Revenue	26,162	9,121	0	0	0	35,283
Total Cash Receipts	692,888	1,190,615	19,803	0	161	1,903,467
Cash Disbursements:						
Current:						
General Government	294,873	61,087	0	0	0	355,960
Public Safety	0	430,486	0	0	0	430,486
Public Works	9,478	626,773	0	0	0	636,251
Health	19,831	4,261	0	0	0	24,092
Debt Service:						
Redemption of Principal	0	0	16,400	0	0	16,400
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	0	3,144	0	0	3,144
Capital Outlay	847	55,076	0	88,900	0	144,823
Total Cash Disbursements	325,029	1,177,683	19,544	88,900	0	1,611,156
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	367,859	12,932	259	(88,900)	161	292,311
Other Financing Receipts:						
Transfers-In	0	0	0	226,956	0	226,956
Transfers-Out	(226,956)	0	0	0	0	(226,956)
Other Sources	(21,756)	0	0	0	0	(21,756)
Total Other Financing Receipts	(248,712)	0	0	226,956	0	(21,756)
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	119,147	12,932	259	138,056	161	270,555
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2004	71,954	141,924	0	621,326	12,015	847,219
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2004	\$191,101	\$154,856	\$259	\$759,382	\$12,176	\$1,117,774
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31, 2004	\$43,089	\$56,271	\$0	\$138,606	\$0	\$237,966

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

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**AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 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 Auburn Township, Geauga County, Ohio, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, including road and bridge maintenance, and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with Auburn Volunteer Fire Department for fire protection 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 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 or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively. The investment in STAR Ohio (the State Treasurer's investment pool) is valued at amounts reported by the State Treasurer.

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:

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

**AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Fire Fund – This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection for residents.

3. Debt Service Fund

This fund receives tax revenues to pay off the truck loan.

4. Capital Project Fund

This fund is used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects. The Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

Land/Acquisition Improvement Fund – This fund is used to acquire and make improvements to a passive park area and building for public meetings.

5. Fiduciary Funds (Trust and Agency Funds)

This fund is used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant Fiduciary Fund:

Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund is used for the beautification and maintenance of the Township's cemetery.

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. 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.

**AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process (Continued)

3. Encumbrances (Continued)

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. The Township did not encumber all commitments 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 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:

	<u>2004</u>
Demand deposits	<u>\$19,244</u>
Total deposits	19,244
STAR Ohio	<u>1,098,530</u>
Total investments	<u>1,098,530</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u><u>\$1,117,774</u></u>

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

Investments: Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2004:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$668,661	\$692,888	\$24,227
Special Revenue	1,166,760	1,190,615	23,855
Debt Service	19,803	19,803	0
Capital Projects	226,956	226,956	0
Total	\$2,082,180	\$2,130,262	\$48,082

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$740,615	\$616,830	\$123,785
Special Revenue	1,298,397	1,233,954	64,443
Debt Service	19,803	19,544	259
Capital Projects	848,280	227,506	620,774
Total	\$2,907,095	\$2,097,834	\$809,261

Contrary to Ohio law, twenty three percent of the Villages expenditures were not properly encumbered before the purchase was made.

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.

**AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY**

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

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Truck Loan	\$65,600	4.15%
Total	\$65,600	

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

	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2005	\$16,400	\$2,722	\$19,122
2006	16,400	2,042	18,442
2007	16,400	1,361	17,761
2008	16,400	381	16,781
Total	\$65,600	\$6,506	\$72,106

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

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, OPERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2004. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty insurance 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 Insurance

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured with APEEP 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.

**AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY**

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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>

The Township also provides health insurance coverage to full-time employees and elected officials through Geauga County Commissioner's insurance carrier.



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*

Board of Trustees
Auburn Township
Geauga County
11010 East Washington Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Auburn Township, Geauga County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated November 6, 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 also noted the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit 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 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 November 6, 2006, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem a reportable condition.

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 2004-001. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated November 6, 2006, we reported another matter related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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

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

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

November 6, 2006

**AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2004**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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Finding Number	2004-001
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Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) 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.

This section also provides several exceptions to the above requirements:

Certification of Availability of Appropriations

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 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 the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time 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 Board 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.

**AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2004
(Continued)**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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Finding Number	2004-001 (Continued)
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Noncompliance Citation (Continued)

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.

In violation of section 5705.41(D), 23 percent of the 2004 transactions tested were not certified by the Clerk-Treasurer at the time the commitment was incurred 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.

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 the Clerk-Treasurer certify that 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.

AUBURN TOWNSHIP
GEAUGA COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
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	Expenditures Exceeding Appropriations	Yes	



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

AUBURN TOWNSHIP

GEAUGA 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
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**