



Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State



**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

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# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

Cheshire Township  
Gallia County  
1908 Turkey Run Road  
Cheshire, Ohio 45620

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 an 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 adverse 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 "Mary Taylor".

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

August 14, 2007

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# Mary Taylor, CPA

## Auditor of State

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Cheshire Township  
Gallia County  
1908 Turkey Run Road  
Cheshire, Ohio 45620

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Cheshire Township, Gallia County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005. 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 Section 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code Sections 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.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e., major) funds separately. 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 GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require townships to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. 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, 2006 and 2005 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, 2006 and 2005, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Cheshire Township, Gallia County, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

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 August 14, 2007, 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.



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

August 14, 2007



**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 63,647	\$ 80,165	\$ 143,812
Intergovernmental	50,801	188,474	239,275
Earnings on Investments	618	133	751
Miscellaneous	5,582	6,429	12,011
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	120,648	275,201	395,849
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>			
Current:			
General Government	86,513		86,513
Public Safety	915		915
Public Works		103,670	103,670
Health	11,714		11,714
Capital Outlay	983	65,048	66,031
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	100,125	168,718	268,843
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,523	106,483	127,006
<b>Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):</b>			
Sale of Fixed Assets		25,000	25,000
Transfers-In	2,040	59,506	61,546
Transfers-Out		(61,546)	(61,546)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	2,040	22,960	25,000
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,563	129,443	152,006
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41,097	60,772	101,869
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<hr/> <b>\$ 63,660</b>	<hr/> <b>\$ 190,215</b>	<hr/> <b>\$ 253,875</b>

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

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL 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>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 64,047	\$ 79,604	\$ 143,651
Intergovernmental	51,968	141,738	193,706
Earnings on Investments	499	140	639
Miscellaneous	6,141	2,581	8,722
	<u>122,655</u>	<u>224,063</u>	<u>346,718</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>			
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>			
Current:			
General Government	74,513		74,513
Public Safety	5,940		5,940
Public Works		286,331	286,331
Health	11,350		11,350
	<u>91,803</u>	<u>286,331</u>	<u>378,134</u>
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>			
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>30,852</u>	<u>(62,268)</u>	<u>(31,416)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):</b>			
Transfers-In		30,000	30,000
Transfers-Out	(30,000)		(30,000)
	<u>(30,000)</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)</b>			
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	852	(32,268)	(31,416)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>40,245</u>	<u>93,040</u>	<u>133,285</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><b>\$ 41,097</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 60,772</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 101,869</b></u>

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

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

**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 the Cheshire Township, Gallia County (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 and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Village of Middleport to provide fire services.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

**B. Accounting Basis**

These financial statements follow the accounting basis 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**

The Township had one primary checking account during the audit period.

**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 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 private-purpose 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 for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**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 or 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. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2006 and 2005 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.

**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**

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

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Demand deposits	\$ 253,875	\$ 101,869

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

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

**3. Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2006 and 2005 follows:

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 120,088	\$ 122,688	\$ 2,600
Special Revenue	275,181	359,707	84,526
Total	\$ 395,269	\$ 482,395	\$ 87,126

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 159,225	\$ 100,125	\$ 59,100
Special Revenue	486,143	230,264	255,879
Total	\$ 645,368	\$ 330,389	\$ 314,979

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 117,326	\$ 122,655	\$ 5,329
Special Revenue	257,809	254,063	(3,746)
Total	\$ 375,135	\$ 376,718	\$ 1,583

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 153,670	\$ 121,803	\$ 31,867
Special Revenue	357,736	286,331	71,405
Total	\$ 511,406	\$ 408,134	\$ 103,272

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriations exceeded estimated resources in the FEMA Fund by \$6,890 for the year ended December 31, 2005 and in the Gasoline Tax Fund by \$34,505, Road and Bridge Fund by \$64,999, and in the FEMA Fund by \$50,686 for the year ended December 31, 2006.

**4. Property Tax**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax 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.

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

**4. Property Tax (Continued)**

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 System**

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 these plans' benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2006 and 2005, OPERS members contributed 9% and 8.5%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 13.7% and 13.55%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2006.

**6. Risk Management**

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

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

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006 OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim 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 \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP provides excess of funds available coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000 (for claims prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (for claims on or after January 1, 2006) as noted above.

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

**6. Risk Management (Continued)**

Property Coverage

Through 2004, OTARMA retained property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsured losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500 million per occurrence.

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable values. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2006 was \$1,901,127.

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 government.

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

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, 2006 and 2005:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$ 32,031,312	\$ 30,485,638
Liabilities	<u>(11,443,952)</u>	<u>(12,344,576)</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 20,587,360</u>	<u>\$ 18,141,062</u>
<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$ 10,010,963	\$ 9,177,796
Liabilities	<u>(676,709)</u>	<u>(1,406,031)</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 9,334,254</u>	<u>\$ 7,771,765</u>

At December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively, casualty coverage liabilities noted above include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 958 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$10,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Township terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

**6. Risk Management (continued)**

Based on discussions with OTARMA, the expected rates OTARMA charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to OTARMA for each year of membership.

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>		
2004	\$	5,181
2005	\$	5,193
2006	\$	5,211

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA provided they give written notice to OTARMA 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's budgetary contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.





# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

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

Cheshire Township  
Gallia County  
1908 Turkey Run Road  
Cheshire, Ohio 45620

To the Township Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Cheshire Township, Gallia County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated August 14, 2007, 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 as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider significant deficiencies.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Township's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

We consider the following deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting: 2006-001 and 2006-002.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. We do not believe the significant deficiencies described above are material weaknesses.

We also noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter August 14, 2007.

### **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 we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2006-001 and 2006-002.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated August 14, 2007.

The Township's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. We did not audit the Township's responses and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

August 14, 2007

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</b>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2006-001**

**Noncompliance Finding – Significant Deficiency**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.39 states, in part, that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total estimated resources. No appropriation measure is effective until the County Auditor files a certificate that the total appropriations from each fund do not exceed the total official estimate or amended official estimate.

Further, Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(2) allows all subdivisions to request increased amended certificates of estimated resources and reduced amended certificates upon determination by the fiscal officer that revenue to be collected will be greater or less than the amount in the official certificate of estimated resources. Section 5705.36(A)(3) requires obtaining an increased amended certificate from the Budget Commission if the legislative authority intends to appropriate and expend excess revenue.

In 2005, the Township received FEMA funds in the amount of \$6,890 that were not expected when the original budgets were made. The Fiscal Officer amended the appropriations when the FEMA funds were received, but she did not file a new amended certificate of estimated resources which caused the appropriations to exceed the estimated resources.

Amendments were made in 2006 to the Gasoline Tax Fund, Road and Bridge Fund, and FEMA Fund appropriations, but amendments were not made to the amended certificate of estimated resources which caused the appropriations in these funds to exceed estimated resources by \$34,505, \$64,999, and \$50,686, respectively.

We recommend the Township file amended certificates of estimated resources when it is determined that actual resources will be greater than the amount in the official certificate of estimated resources if the township intends to appropriate the excess.

**Client Response:** No response was received from the Township.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-002**

**Noncompliance Finding –Significant Deficiency**

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.

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-002 (Continued)**

**Noncompliance Finding –Significant Deficiency (Continued)**

**Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)**

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 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. 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.

12 percent of the transactions tested in 2006 and 2005 were not certified by the Fiscal Officer at the time the commitment was incurred and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions.

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 Township Fiscal Officer 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.

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-002 (Continued)**

**Noncompliance Finding –Significant Deficiency (Continued)**

**Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)**

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 Section 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Township Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Township Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

**Client Response:** No response was received from the Township.

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP  
GALLIA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

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>
2004-001	A material noncompliance citation was issued under Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B) for disbursements exceeding appropriations.	Yes	N/A



Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State

**CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP**

**GALLIA 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  
OCTOBER 4, 2007**