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Portage Joint Fire District Ottawa County 242 West Water Street, P.O. Box 240 Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449-0240

Mary Saylor

#### 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.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

May 30, 2008

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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Portage Joint Fire District Ottawa County 242 West Water Street, P.O. Box 240 Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449-0240

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Portage Joint Fire District, Ottawa County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits 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 audits to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District 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 funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the District's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the District 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 districts to reformat their statements. The District 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.

One Government Center / Suite 1420 / Toledo, OH 43604-2246 Telephone: (419) 245-2811 (800) 443-9276 Fax: (419) 245-2484 www.auditor.state.oh.us Portage Joint Fire District Ottawa County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

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, 2007 and 2006, do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, 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 fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of the Portage Joint Fire District, Ottawa County, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The District has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 30, 2008, on our consideration of the District'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 audits.

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

May 30, 2008

## STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	Governmental Fund Types		_	
	General	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$261,947		\$261,947	
Charges for Services	2,500		2,500	
Intergovernmental	44,157	\$2,408	46,565	
Earnings on Investments	5,615		5,615	
Miscellaneous	5,503		5,503	
Total Cash Receipts	319,722	2,408	322,130	
Cash Disbursements:				
Current Disbursements:				
Security of Persons and Property:				
Salaries	46,437		46,437	
Fringe Benefits	18,333		18,333	
Materials and Supplies	5,353		5,353	
Equipment	16,122		16,122	
Other	60,883		60,883	
Capital Outlay		1,255	1,255	
Total Cash Disbursements	147,128	1,255	148,383	
Total Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	172,594	1,153	173,747	
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):				
Transfers-In		100,000	100,000	
Transfers-Out	(100,000)		(100,000)	
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	(100,000)	100,000		
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing				
Receipts Over Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	72,594	101,153	173,747	
and Other Financing Dispulsements	72,394	101,153	173,747	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	67,749	87,658	155,407	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$140,343	\$188,811	\$329,154	
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$24,428		\$24,428	

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

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

	Governmental Fund Types		
	General	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$147,627		\$147,627
Charges for Services	2,500		2,500
Intergovernmental	25,255	\$3,010	28,265
Earnings on Investments	3,622		3,622
Miscellaneous	3,816		3,816
Total Cash Receipts	182,820	3,010	185,830
Cash Disbursements:			
Current Disbursements:			
Security of Persons and Property:			
Salaries	42,742		42,742
Fringe Benefits	28,414		28,414
Materials and Supplies	13,911		13,911
Equipment	16,039		16,039
Other	89,280		89,280
Capital Outlay		4,252	4,252
Total Cash Disbursements	190,386	4,252	194,638
Total Cash Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements	(7,566)	(1,242)	(8,808)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	75,315	88,900	164,215
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$67,749	\$87,658	\$155,407
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$12,526		\$12,526

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

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

#### 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 Portage Joint Fire District, Ottawa County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. The District is comprised of the Village of Oak Harbor and Salem Township. A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. The Mayor of the Village of Oak Harbor (the Village) and the Salem Township Trustees (the Township) each appoint one member. The third member is a citizen of the District and is approved jointly by the Village and Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District 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 District 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

The District's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The District values certificates of deposit at cost.

#### D. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The District 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. Capital Project Fund

This fund accounts for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects. The District had the following significant capital project fund:

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (Continued)

<u>Capital Project Fund</u> – This fund receives taxes and General Fund transfers to be used for the purchase of fire fighting equipment.

#### 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. 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.

#### 3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2007 and 2006 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

#### F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

#### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

The District 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:

	2007	2006
Demand deposits	\$140,251	\$71,308
Certificates of deposit	188,903	84,099
Total deposits	\$329,154	\$155,407

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

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

#### 3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2007 and 2006 follows:

2007 Budgeted v	/s. Actual	Receipts
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	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$305,074	\$319,722	\$14,648
Capital Projects		102,408	102,408
Total	\$305,074	\$422,130	\$117,056

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$306,587	\$271,556	\$35,031
Capital Projects	4,648	1,255	3,393
Total	\$311,235	\$272,811	\$38,424

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Budgeted	Actual	
Receipts	Receipts	Variance
\$141,690	\$182,820	\$41,130
	3,010	3,010
\$141,690	\$185,830	\$44,140
	Receipts \$141,690	Receipts Receipts \$141,690 \$182,820 3,010

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$211,300	\$202,912	\$8,388
Capital Projects		4,252	(4,252)
Total	\$211,300	\$207,164	\$4,136

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the Capital Projects fund by \$4,252 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.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

#### 4. PROPERTY TAX – (Continued)

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

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 District.

#### 5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

#### A. Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Officials of the District and part-time firefighters in their position prior to May 4, 1992 whom provided notice to the retirement system belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which includes postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007 and 2006, OPERS members contributed 9.5 and 9 percent, respectively, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 13.85 and 13.7 percent, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

#### **B.** Social Security

All employees not otherwise covered by the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System contribute to Social Security. The District's liability is 6.2 percent of wages paid.

#### 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

#### **Commercial Insurance**

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Commercial property;
- General and management liability;
- Portable equipment;
- Auto; and
- Umbrella.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

#### 7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

#### 8. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The District's Fire Chief is 48 percent owner of an auto parts store from which the District acquired parts and supplies during the audit period. The District paid \$1,306 during 2006 and \$2,681 during 2007 for these items.

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

Portage Joint Fire District Ottawa County 242 West Water Street, P.O. Box 240 Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449-0240

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Portage Joint Fire District, Ottawa County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated May 30, 2008, wherein we noted the District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audits 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 audits, we considered the District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of 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 District'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 District's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

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We consider the following deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting: 2007-001 and 2007-003.

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

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

We also noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated May 30, 2008.

#### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District'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 audits and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2007-001 and 2007-002.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated May 30, 2008.

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

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

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Saylor

May 30, 2008

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2007-001**

#### **Noncompliance Citation / Material Weakness**

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.10(C) states that all revenue derived from a special levy shall be credited to a special fund for the purpose for which the levy was made.

During 2006 and 2007, the Clerk-Treasurer receipted the Capital Project fund's portion of the public utility tax reimbursement into the General fund. As stated above, all revenue derived from a special levy should be credited to the appropriate special fund. The Clerk-Treasurer should have receipted the Capital Project fund's portion of the public utility tax reimbursement in the Capital Projects fund.

To reflect the proper recording of the public utility tax reimbursement, the following audit adjustments have been made to the financial statements:

From Fund / Account	To Fund / Account	Amount
Year Ending December 31, 2007: General / Intergovernmental	Capital Projects / Intergovernmental	\$2,408
Year Ending December 31, 2006: General / Intergovernmental	Capital Projects / Intergovernmental	\$3,010

The practice of recording receipts from a special levy into a fund not related to the levy could cause material misstatements in the financial statements. The District might not have the resources to make the proper adjustment when the receipt errors are discovered at a later date. These adjustments were corrected by the Fire District Clerk-Treasurer on May 30, 2008.

#### **Client Response:**

The proper adjustment has been made and any future revenues that come in will be properly accounted and receipted to the Capital Project Fund.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2007-002**

#### **Noncompliance Citation**

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits a subdivision from making an expenditure unless it has been properly appropriated.

As of December 31, 2006, the following fund had expenditures exceeding appropriations:

Fund	Appropriations	Expenditures	Excess
Capital Projects Fund		4,252	(4,252)

Portage Joint Fire District Ottawa County Schedule of Findings Page 2

## FINDING NUMBER 2007-002 (Continued)

Our test of budgetary compliance at the legal level of control throughout the fiscal year indicated expenditures exceeded appropriations in General Fund's County Auditor Deductions account during August, September and October, 2007. These instances of non-compliance were corrected prior to December 31 through appropriation transfers.

The Clerk-Treasurer should not certify the availability of funds and should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations. The Clerk-Treasurer may request the Board of Trustees to approve increased expenditure levels by increasing appropriations and amending estimated resources, if necessary.

#### **Client Response:**

The appropriation was not made at the time of the expenditure. In the future, appropriations will be made at the time of the expenditure.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2007-003**

#### **Material Weakness**

#### **Financial Reporting**

We found the following errors requiring adjustment to the financial statements:

- We reclassified various intergovernmental receipts, which totaled \$4,346 in 2007 and \$4,104 in 2006, that were incorrectly classified as property and other local taxes in the General fund.
- We reclassified a General fund expenditure of \$100,000 that was paid to the Capital Project fund as a transfer-out of the General fund and a transfer-in of the Capital Project fund.
- We adjusted estimated receipts in the General fund \$17,074 in 2007 and \$60,724 in 2006 to properly reflect estimated receipts per the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources.
- We adjusted appropriations in the Capital Projects fund by \$8,991 during 2006 in order to bring reported appropriations in line with Board-authorized amounts.

Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Clerk-Treasurer and Board of Trustees and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statements and accompanying notes is complete and accurate.

To ensure the District's financial statements and notes to the statements are complete and accurate, the District should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the statements and notes by the Clerk-Treasurer and Board of Trustees, to identify and correct errors and omissions. These adjustments were corrected by the Fire District Clerk-Treasurer on May 30, 2008.

#### Client Response:

As in 2007-001, Capital Project receipts was not posted correctly, but has been corrected. When we purchase a Certificate of Deposit for a Capital Project we will transfer the money to that project from the General Fund.



## PORTAGE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT OTTAWA 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 JULY 1, 2008**