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Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Village of Wilson Monroe County 52433 East Drive Beallsville, Ohio 43716

To the Village Council:

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

Mary Taylor

October 10, 2008

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Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Village of Wilson Monroe County 52433 East Drive Beallsville, Ohio 43716

To the Village Council:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Village of Wilson, Monroe County, Ohio (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Village's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Village 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 Village's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Village 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 Villages to reformat their statements. The Village 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.

743 E. State St. / Athens Mall Suite B / Athens, OH 45701-2157 Telephone: (740) 594-3300 (800) 441-1389 Fax: (740) 594-2110 www.auditor.state.oh.us Village of Wilson Monroe 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 Village as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, or its changes in financial position or cash flows, where applicable 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 the Village of Wilson, Monroe County, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The Village 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 October 10, 2008, on our consideration of the Village's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. 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

Mary Taylor

October 10, 2008

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

	Governmen	tal Fund Types	_
	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Property and Local Taxes Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous	\$2,406 8,988 809 9	\$5,803 6,381 317	\$8,209 15,369 809 326
Total Cash Receipts	12,212	12,501	24,713
Cash Disbursements: Current: Security of Persons and Property	2,981	2.426	2,981
Transportation General Government	8,032	2,436 443	2,436 8,475
Total Cash Disbursements	11,013	2,879	13,892
Total Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	1,199	9,622	10,821
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	11,457	64,206	75,663
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$12,656	\$73,828	\$86,484

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

	Proprietary Fund Types
	Enterprise
Operating Cash Receipts: Charges for Services	\$9,702
Total Operating Cash Receipts	9,702
Operating Cash Disbursements: Personal Services Supplies and Materials	4,495 4,568
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	9,063
Operating Income	639
Non-Operating Cash Disbursements: Capital Outlay Redemption of Principal Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	1,000 1,957
Total Non-Operating Cash Disbursements	2,957
Net Receipts (Under) Disbursements	(2,318)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	5,101
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$2,783

COMBINED 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	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Property and Local Taxes Intergovernmental	\$2,186 9,257	\$5,675 6,052	\$7,861 15,309
Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous	213 11	57	213 68
Total Cash Receipts	11,667	11,784	23,451
Cash Disbursements: Current:			
Security of Persons and Property Transportation	3,763	1,168	3,763 1,168
General Government	11,540	159	11,699
Total Cash Disbursements	15,303	1,327	16,630
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(3,636)	10,457	6,821
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	15,093	53,749	68,842
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$11,457</u>	\$64,206	\$75,663

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

	Proprietary Fund Types
	<u>Enterprise</u>
Operating Cash Receipts: Charges for Services	\$10,063
Total Operating Cash Receipts	10,063
Operating Cash Disbursements: Personal Services Contractual Services Supplies and Materials	4,968 676 167
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	5,811
Operating Income	4,252
Non-Operating Cash Disbursements: Redemption of Principal Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	1,000 2,007
Total Non-Operating Cash Disbursements	3,007
Net Receipts Over Disbursements	1,245
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	3,856
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$5,101

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 Village of Wilson, Monroe County (the Village), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides sewer utilities. The Village contracts with the Beallsville and Community Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire protection services.

The Village participates in the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

The Village's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Village 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 Village 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 Village values certificates of deposit at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The Village uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is restricted as to use. The Village 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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

<u>Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund</u> - This fund receives gasoline tax and motor vehicle tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Village streets.

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

<u>Street Improvement Fund</u> – This fund receives property tax money for maintaining and repairing Village Streets.

3. Enterprise Funds

These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Funds:

<u>Sewer Fund</u> – This fund receives charges for services from residents to cover sewer service costs.

<u>Sewer Debt Service Fund</u> – This fund receives charges for services to retire bond principal and interest payments.

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 Village Council must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

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

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

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Village 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 Village 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	\$76,656	\$68,961
Certificates of deposit	12,611	11,803
Total deposits	\$89,267	\$80,764

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

3. Budgetary Activity

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

2007 Budgeted vs. Act	ual Receipts
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	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$12,061	\$12,212	\$151
Special Revenue	14,008	12,501	(1,507)
Enterprise	10,200	9,702	(498)
Total	\$36,269	\$34,415	(\$1,854)

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Expenditures

	Appropriation	Actual	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$12,737	\$11,013	\$1,724
Special Revenue	9,700	2,879	6,821
Enterprise	11,545	12,020	(475)
Total	\$33,982	\$25,912	\$8,070

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$11,517	\$11,667	\$150
Special Revenue	12,047	11,784	(263)
Enterprise	10,200	10,063	(137)
Total	\$33,764	\$33,514	(\$250)

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

3. Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Expenditures

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	Appropriation	Actual	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$14,787	\$15,303	(\$516)
Special Revenue	17,900	1,327	16,573
Enterprise	10,500	8,818	1,682
Total	\$43,187	\$25,448	\$17,739

4. Property Tax

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

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

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

5. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2007, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Mortgage Revenue Bonds	\$38,145	5%

In November 1988, the Village issued Sanitary Sewer System Mortgage Revenue Bonds. The bonds are collateralized by sewer receipts.

As required by the mortgage revenue bond covenant, the Village has established and funded a debt service reserve fund. The balance in the fund at December 31, 2007 is \$625.

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

5. Debt (Continued)

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

	Mortgage
	Revenue
Year ending December 31:	Bonds
2008	\$2,915
2009	3,065
2010	3,005
2011	2,945
2012	2,985
2013-2017	14,985
2018-2022	14,990
2023-2027	14,910
2028	2,785
Total	\$62,585

6. Risk Management

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

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

The Village belongs to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. PEP provides property and casualty coverage for its members. PEP is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund PEP. PEP 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 PEP retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. PEP 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. 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 PEP.

If losses exhaust PEP'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 (prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (on or subsequent to January 1, 2006) as noted above.

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

6. Risk Management (Continued)

Property Coverage

Beginning in 2005, APEEP established a risk-sharing property program. Under the program, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. This amount was increased to \$300,000 in 2007. For 2007, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$300,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. For 2006, 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 in 2006, or \$100,000 and \$300,000 in 2007, Travelers will then reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2007 was \$2,014,548.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge PEP'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

PEP'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, 2007 and 2006.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$37,560,071	\$36,123,194
Liabilities	(17,340,825)	(16,738,904)
Net Assets	<u>\$20,219,246</u>	<u>\$19,384,290</u>

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$15.9 million and \$15.0 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$15.0 million and \$14.4 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 443 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Government's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$2,760. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Village terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

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

6. Risk Management (Continued)

Based on discussions with PEP, the expected rates PEP 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 PEP for each year of membership.

Contributions to PEP	
2006	\$2,400
2007	\$2,400

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined PEP provided they provide written notice to PEP 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.

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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

Village of Wilson Monroe County 52433 East Drive Beallsville, Ohio 43716

To the Village Council:

We have audited the financial statements of the Village of Wilson, Monroe County, Ohio (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated October 10, 2008, wherein we noted the Village prepared its financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Village'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 Village's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Village'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 a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider a significant deficiency.

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 Village'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 Village's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

743 E. State St. / Athens Mall Suite B / Athens, OH 45701-2157 Telephone: (740) 594-3300 (800) 441-1389 Fax: (740) 594-2110 www.auditor.state.oh.us Village of Wilson Monroe County Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

We consider the following deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting: 2007-001.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Village'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 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 deficiency described above is a material weakness.

We noted certain matters that we reported to the Village's management in a separate letter dated October 10, 2008.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Village'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 instances of noncompliance or other matters 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 Village's management in a separate letter dated October 10, 2008.

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

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

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

October 10, 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 and Material Weakness

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.10(H) states that money paid into any fund shall be used only for the purposes for which such fund is established.

As the Village Mayor and Village Clerk/Treasurer's duties are administrative in nature, their salaries should be paid from the Village's General Fund.

During 2006, the Village paid \$350 of the Village Mayor's salary and \$700 of the Village Clerk/Treasurer's salary from the Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund.

The accompanying financial statements reflect this adjustment. Management was in agreement with this finding and on June 23, 2008, an adjustment was posted to the Village's accounting records decreasing the fund balance of the General Fund and increasing the fund balance in the Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund by \$1,050.

We recommend the Village pay the Village Mayor and Village Clerk/Treasurer future salaries from the Village's General Fund.

Officials' Response: Adjustment was posted to Village accounting records on June 23, 2008.

FINDING NUMBER 2007-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority 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. Further, contracts and orders for expenditures lacking prior certification shall be null and void.

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:

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 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 Village can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Village has 30 days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by resolution or ordinance.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

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

FINDING NUMBER 2007-002 (Continued)

Noncompliance Citation - Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)

Amounts of less than \$3,000, may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance of the Village 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 Village.

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.

Super Blanket Certificate – The Village may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line-item appropriation.

The Village did not obtain the Village Clerk/Treasurer's prior certification for 12.5% of transactions tested in 2007 and 22% of transactions tested in 2006. 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 Village's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Village Clerk/Treasurer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligations being incurred by the Village. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certifications should be used.

We recommend the Village certify purchases to which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include certification language Section 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Village Clerk/Treasurer should sign the certification prior to the Village incurring a commitment, and only when the requirements of Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Village Clerk/Treasurer should post approved purchase orders to the proper appropriation code to reduce the available appropriation.

Officials' Response: We did not receive a response from officials to this finding.



Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

VILLAGE OF WILSON

MONROE 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 NOVEMBER 18, 2008