Benton Township Pike County, Ohio

Regular Audit

For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 Fiscal Years Audited Under GAGAS: 2008 and 2007





Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Board of Trustees Benton Township 4176 Greenbridge Road Peebles, Ohio 45660

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Benton Township, Pike County, prepared by Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Auditor's Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Independent Auditor's Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State permits

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Benton Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Mary Jaylor

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

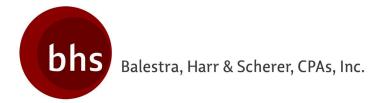
October 12, 2009

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Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Trustees Benton Township Pike County 4176 Greenbridge Road Peebles, Ohio 45660

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Benton Township, Pike County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. 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. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed 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 require 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 Government's to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirement. 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, 2008 and 2007 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, 2008 and 2007, 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 Benton Township, Pike County, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

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Benton Township Pike County Independent Auditors' Report

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 12, 2009, 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.

Balistra, Harr & Scherur

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc. August 12, 2009

Benton Township, Pike County

Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Cash Balances

Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

	(General Fund	Spec	al Revenue Fund	(Me	Total morandum Only)
Receipts Property and Other Local Taxes Charges for Services Intergovernmental Interest	\$	17,212 - 35,491 778	\$	32,835 8,904 103,385 104	\$	50,047 8,904 138,876 882
Other Total Receipts		3,259 56,740		8,153 153,381		11,412 210,121
Disbursements Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health		81,808 - - -		10,774 17,904 121,642 7,236		92,582 17,904 121,642 7,236
Total Disbursements		81,808		157,556		239,364
Excess of Receipts Over / (Under) Disbursements		(25,068)		(4,175)		(29,243)
Other Financing Sources (Uses) Other Financing Sources				4,800		4,800
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)		-		4,800		4,800
Net Change in Fund Balances		(25,068)		625		(24,443)
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year		127,022		83,306		210,328
Fund Balances - End of Year	\$	101,954	\$	83,931	\$	185,885

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Benton Township, Pike County

Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Cash Balances Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

		eneral Fund	Spec	al Revenue Fund	(Me	Total morandum Only)
Receipts Property and Other Local Taxes	\$	13,946	\$	31,927	\$	45,873
Charges for Services	Ф	15,940	Ф	8,843	Ф	43,873
Intergovernmental		95,318		99,656		194,974
Interest		673		265		938
Other		387		1,700		2,087
Total Receipts		110,324		142,391		252,715
Disbursements						
Current: General Government		51,454		4,339		55,793
Public Safety		51,454		4,339		22,250
Public Works		-		126,534		126,534
Health		1,484		16,807		18,291
Total Disbursements		52,938		169,930		222,868
Excess of Receipts Over / (Under) Disbursements		57,386		(27,539)		29,847
Other Financing Sources						
Other Financing Sources		-		3,750		3,750
Total Other Financing Sources		-		3,750		3,750
Net Change in Fund Balances		57,386		(23,789)		33,597
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year		69,636		107,095		176,731
Fund Balances - End of Year	\$	127,022	\$	83,306	\$	210,328

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2008 AND 2007 (Continued)

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 Benton Township, Pike County, Ohio (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 provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection

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. The basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Cash and Investment

The Township has a checking account which is valued at cost.

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 the 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:

<u>Gasoline Tax Fund</u> – This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay constructing, maintaining, and repairing township roads.

<u>Fire Fund</u> – This fund received grant money for the purchase of a fire truck.

<u>Fire Levy 2 Fund</u> – This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection for the Township residents.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2008 AND 2007 (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 2008 and 2007 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

The Township records disbursements for acquisition of property, plant and equipments when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

 2008
 2007

 Demand Deposits
 \$ 185,885
 \$ 210,328

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2008 AND 2007 (Continued)

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2008 and 2007 follows:

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts						
	В	udgeted				
Fund Type	F	Receipts		Receipts		ariance
General	\$	42,440	\$	56,740	\$	14,300
Special Revenue		240,506		158,181		(82,325)
Total	\$	282,946	\$	214,921	\$	(68,025)

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures							
	App	propriation					
Fund Type	Authority		Exp	Expenditures		/ariance	
General	\$	158,428	\$	81,808	\$	76,620	
Special Revenue		315,137		157,556		157,581	
Total	\$	473,565	\$	239,364	\$	234,201	

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts							
	В	udgeted					
Fund Type	F	Receipts Receipts		Receipts			/ariance
General	\$	129,270	\$	110,324	\$	(18,946)	
Special Revenue		172,430		146,141		(26,289)	
Total	\$	301,700	\$	256,465	\$	(45,235)	

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	App	Appropriation		Budgetary			
Fund Type	A	Authority Expenditures		Authority			/ariance
General	\$	121,682	\$	52,938	\$	68,744	
Special Revenue		279,522		169,930		109,592	
Total	\$	401,204	\$	222,868	\$	178,336	
		,			_	,	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2008 AND 2007 (Continued)

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 property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due to the following June 20.

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

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

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Township officials and employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2008 and 2007, OPERS members contributed 10 and 9.5% respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 and 13.85%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2008.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

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 risksharing 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2008 AND 2007 (Continued)

6. **RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

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.

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 member' 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 2007 was \$2,014,548.

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, 2007 and 2006:

	2007	2006
Assets	\$ 9,620,148	\$ 8,219,430
Liabilities	(3,329,620)	(2,748,639)
Member's Equity	\$ 6,290,528	\$ 5,470,791

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, 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 \$11.6 million and \$10.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 958 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2008 and

2007, 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 \$21,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Township terminates participation, ad described in the last paragraph below.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2008 AND 2007 (Continued)

6. **RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)**

The Township's contributions to OTARMA for the past three years are as follows:

Contributions to OTARMA	
2006	\$ 10,642
2007	\$ 5,472
2008	\$ 5,642

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.

7. Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. 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.



Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

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

Board of Trustees Benton Township Pike County 4176 Greenbridge Road Peebles, Ohio 45660

We have audited the financial statements of Benton Township, Pike County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America and have issued our report thereon dated August 12, 2009. 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 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 to be 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 the accounting basis described in Note 1 such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal controls 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. These items are identified in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2008-001.

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.

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Benton Township Pike County Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)

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 internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated August 12, 2009.

We intended 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.

Balistra, Harr & Scherur

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

August 12, 2009

BENTON TOWNSHIP PIKE COUNTY DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007 SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

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

FINDING NUMBER 2008-001

Significant Deficiency

The Township had estimated receipts in excess of actual revenues in the Motor Vehicle fund by \$27,992, Gasoline Tax fund by \$57,299 and the Road and Bridge fund by \$7,930 at December 31, 2008 and in the General fund by \$18,333, Motor Vehicle fund by \$13,832, Gasoline Tax fund by \$20,323, Road and Bridge fund by \$1,168 and the Cemetery fund by \$749at December 31, 2007

Since the expenditures of Township funds are based on the estimated receipts, instances when actual receipts do not meet budgetary estimates could lead to overspending.

The Township's Fiscal Officer should monitor estimated receipts and actual receipts. When it is apparent that actual receipts will fall short of budgetary estimates, the Fiscal Officer should obtain a reduced amended certificate from the County Budget Commission. Furthermore, in that instance, the Board of Trustees should make corresponding reductions in appropriations.

Client Response:

We received no response from officials regarding the above findings.

BENTON TOWNSHIP PIKE COUNTY DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain:
	ORC 135.18(A) Pooled collateral		
2006-001	requirements	Yes	
2006-002	ORC 5549.21 Competitive bidding		
		Yes	
2006-003	ORC 5705.41 (B) disbursements in excess of appropriations	No	Reissued as a management letter citation
2006-004	ORC 5705.41(D) Properly		
	encumbering funds	Yes	
2006-005	Significant Deficiency estimated		
	receipts in excess of actual receipts	No	Reissued as Finding 2008-002





BENTON TOWNSHIP

PIKE 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 Babbett

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED NOVEMBER 5, 2009

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