



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Franklin Township
Warren County
P.O. Box 364
Franklin, Ohio 45005

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

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Auditor of State

November 23, 2009

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Franklin Township
Warren County
P.O. Box 364
Franklin, OH 45005

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Franklin Township, Warren 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. The Township processes its financial transactions with the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

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, 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, 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 and reserves for encumbrances of Franklin Township, Warren County, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, 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 November 23, 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.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

November 23, 2009

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>				<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Permanent</u>	
Cash Receipts:					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$425,410	\$549,581	\$0	\$0	\$974,991
Charges for Services	0	2,075	0	0	2,075
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	109,992	67,618	0	0	177,610
Intergovernmental	223,294	229,369	88,006	0	540,669
Special Assessments	0	30,336	0	0	30,336
Earnings on Investments	25,895	3,264	0	817	29,976
Miscellaneous	16,053	84,763	10,000	0	110,816
Total Cash Receipts	<u>800,644</u>	<u>967,006</u>	<u>98,006</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>1,866,473</u>
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	437,764	0	0	0	437,764
Public Safety	132,153	177,250	0	0	309,403
Public Works	105,138	483,471	0	0	588,609
Health	61,373	119,964	0	0	181,337
Human Services	0	69,158	0	0	69,158
Conservation - Recreation	47,493	0	0	0	47,493
Capital Outlay	48,379	97,957	98,006	0	244,342
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>832,300</u>	<u>947,800</u>	<u>98,006</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,878,106</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(31,656)</u>	<u>19,206</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>(11,633)</u>
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):					
Transfers-In		10,000	0	0	10,000
Transfers-Out	(10,000)	0	0	0	(10,000)
Advances-In	25,000	25,000	0	0	50,000
Advances-Out	(25,000)	(25,000)	0	0	(50,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(41,656)	29,206	0	817	(11,633)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	613,701	421,140	0	52,654	1,087,495
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$572,045</u>	<u>\$450,346</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$53,471</u>	<u>\$1,075,862</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$19,821</u>	<u>\$4,865</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$24,686</u>

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

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>				Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Permanent</u>	
Cash Receipts:					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$411,703	\$435,411	\$0	\$0	\$847,114
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	106,332	57,124	0	0	163,456
Intergovernmental	186,402	208,648	6,324	0	401,374
Special Assessments	0	30,316	0	0	30,316
Earnings on Investments	46,861	5,184	0	381	52,426
Miscellaneous	7,659	67,485	20,418	0	95,562
Total Cash Receipts	758,957	804,168	26,742	381	1,590,248
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	407,347	0	0	0	407,347
Public Safety	120,279	150,852	0	0	271,131
Public Works	35,339	436,638	0	0	471,977
Health	56,323	108,818	0	0	165,141
Human Services	0	37,524	0	0	37,524
Conservation - Recreation	43,834	0	0	0	43,834
Capital Outlay	181,661	58,656	26,742	0	267,059
Total Cash Disbursements	844,783	792,488	26,742	0	1,664,013
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(85,826)	11,680	0	381	(73,765)
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):					
Transfers-In	0	40,000	0	0	40,000
Transfers-Out	(40,000)	0	0	0	(40,000)
Advances-In	15,000	15,000	0	0	30,000
Advances-Out	(15,000)	(15,000)	0	0	(30,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	(40,000)	40,000	0	0	0
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(125,826)	51,680	0	381	(73,765)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	739,527	369,459	0	52,273	1,161,259
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$613,701	\$421,139	\$0	\$52,654	\$1,087,494
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$17,482	\$6,520	\$0	\$0	\$24,002

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

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

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 Franklin Township, Warren 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 contracts with the City of Franklin to provide fire protection services.

The Township participates in one joint venture, one jointly governed organization and the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for OTARMA. These organizations are:

Joint Venture:

The Township is involved in a joint venture pertaining to a joint recreation facility owned by the City of Franklin and Franklin Township. The facility is managed by a board of ten trustees, five appointed by each of the participating governments. The City and the Township each commit approximately \$25,000 per year plus upkeep and expenses.

Jointly Governed Organization:

The Joint Emergency Medical Service (JEMS), is a jointly governed organization, which provides ambulance services to the City of Franklin, City of Carlisle and Franklin Township. Each of the three political subdivisions appoint one member of the three member board of trustees. JEMS owns and operates assets in its own name. JEMS has authority to levy taxes and approve its own budget. Funding for operations comes from the participants in the District, charges for services and a tax levy.

Public Entity Risk Pool:

The Township participates in 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.

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).

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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

C. Deposits and Investments

The Township'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 Township values certificates of deposit and U.S. Savings Bonds at cost. Money market mutual funds (including STAR Ohio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

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.

Fire District Fund - This fund receives the proceeds from the property tax fire levy to pay for fire protection.

3. Capital Project Funds

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant capital project funds:

CDBG Fund - This fund is used to record the related receipts and expenditures of benefits received from the Warren County's CDBG grant for road projects.

LOEB Foundation Grant - This fund is used to record the related receipts and expenditures of benefits received from the local grant for fire equipment.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Fund - This fund is used to record the related receipts and expenditures of benefits received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant for the Hunter Pond project.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

4. Permanent Funds

These funds account for assets held under a trust agreement that are legally restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, are available to support the Township's programs. The Township had the following significant permanent funds:

Cemetery Bequest Funds – These funds are used to account for the funds bequeathed to the Township for cemetery care.

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 Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2008 and 2007 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.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

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

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits and Investments

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

	2008	2007
Demand deposits	\$496,734	\$523,661
Certificates of deposit	10,491	9,911
Savings accounts	40,981	40,743
Total deposits	548,206	574,315
U.S. Savings Bonds	2,000	2,000
STAR Ohio	525,656	511,179
Total investments	527,656	513,179
Total deposits and investments	\$1,075,862	\$1,087,494

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

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

3. Budgetary Activity

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

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$787,644	\$800,644	\$13,000
Special Revenue	975,946	977,006	1,060
Capital Projects	111,006	98,006	(13,000)
Permanent	837	817	(20)
Total	\$1,875,433	\$1,876,473	\$1,040

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,282,946	\$862,121	\$420,825
Special Revenue	1,091,521	952,665	138,856
Capital Projects	98,006	98,006	0
Permanent	1,400	0	1,400
Total	\$2,473,873	\$1,912,792	\$561,081

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

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

3. Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$831,058	\$758,957	(\$72,101)
Special Revenue	811,939	844,168	32,229
Capital Projects	26,742	26,742	0
Permanent	377	381	4
Total	\$1,670,116	\$1,630,248	(\$39,868)

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,392,154	\$902,265	\$489,889
Special Revenue	999,752	799,008	200,744
Capital Projects	26,743	26,742	1
Permanent	1,400	0	1,400
Total	\$2,420,049	\$1,728,015	\$692,034

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.

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 Systems

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 the plans benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

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.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

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

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. 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 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).

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. This amount 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. 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 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.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

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

6. Risk Management (continued)

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 (the latest information available):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$43,210,703	\$42,042,275
Liabilities	<u>(13,357,837)</u>	<u>(12,120,661)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$29,852,866</u>	<u>\$29,921,614</u>

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, liabilities above include approximately \$12.5 million and \$11.3 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$11.6 million and \$10.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 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 Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$26,935. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Township terminates participation, as 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.

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
2006	\$33,929
2007	\$28,582
2008	\$28,654

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

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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*

Franklin Township
Warren County
P.O. Box 364
Franklin, Ohio 45005

To the Township Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Franklin Township, Warren County (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated November 23, 2009 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. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We 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.

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.

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

We noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated November 23, 2009.

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 that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2008-001.

We did note certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated November 23, 2009.

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



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

November 23, 2009

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

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

FINDING NUMBER 2008-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41(D)(1), requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. This certificate need be signed only by the subdivision's fiscal officer. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

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.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds for purchase commitments for 28% of expenditures tested for 2008 and 16% of expenditures tested for 2007 and none of the exceptions above applied. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

Unless the Township uses the exceptions noted above, prior certification is not only required by statute

**FINDING NUMBER 2008-001
(Continued)**

but also 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 Fiscal Officer certify that funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the Township officials and employees obtain the Fiscal Officer's certification of the availability of funds prior to the commitment being incurred. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase orders to the proper appropriation code to reduce the available appropriation.

Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from officials for this finding.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2006-001	ORC 5705.10- proper posting of taxes and intergovernmental receipts	No	Partially corrected; moved to management letter.



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FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

WARREN 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
DECEMBER 8, 2009**