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Noble Township Noble County 14453 County Road 12 Ava, Ohio 43711

#### To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

May 12, 2009

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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Noble Township Noble County 14453 County Road 12 Ava. Ohio 43711

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Noble Township, Noble 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.

Noble Township Noble 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, 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 Noble Township, Noble 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 May 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.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

nary Taylor

May 12, 2009

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

	Governmental Fund Types			_	
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$26,380	\$38,544	\$0	\$64,924	
Intergovernmental	10,957	106,773	8,880	126,610	
Earnings on Investments	97	69		166	
Miscellaneous		3,924		3,924	
Total Cash Receipts	37,434	149,310	8,880	195,624	
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	32,237	3,313		35,550	
Public Safety	2,625	11,466		14,091	
Public Works	500	152,620		153,120	
Health		11,345		11,345	
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal			6,197	6,197	
Interest and Fiscal Charges			2,644	2,644	
Total Cash Disbursements	35,362	178,744	8,841	222,947	
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	2,072	(29,434)	39	(27,323)	
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):					
Other Financing Sources	392	246		638	
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	392	246	0	638	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing					
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	2,464	(29,188)	39	(26,685)	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	16,635	52,055	5,091	73,781	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$19,099	\$22,867	\$5,130	\$47,096	

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

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

	Governmental Fund Types			
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$27,444	\$39,517	\$0	\$66,961
Intergovernmental	9,875	104,846	8,880	123,601
Earnings on Investments	175	236		411
Miscellaneous		3,339		3,339
Total Cash Receipts	37,494	147,938	8,880	194,312
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	31,764	2,054		33,818
Public Safety	2,625	11,500		14,125
Public Works	500	132,093		132,593
Health		12,000		12,000
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal			5,858	5,858
Interest and Fiscal Charges			2,984	2,984
Total Cash Disbursements	34,889	157,647	8,842	201,378
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	2,605	(9,709)	38	(7,066)
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Other Financing Sources	273			273
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	273	0	0	273
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing				
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements				
and Other Financing Disbursements	2,878	(9,709)	38	(6,793)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	13,757	61,764	5,053	80,574
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$16,635	\$52,055	\$5,091	\$73,781

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

#### 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 Noble Township, Noble County (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Belle Valley and Caldwell Volunteer fire departments to provide fire protection services.

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

#### **B.** Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

#### C. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is 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:

<u>Gasoline Tax Fund</u> - This fund receives gasoline tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

<u>Road and Bridge Fund</u> - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

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

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

#### C. Fund Accounting (Continued)

#### 3. Debt Service Funds

These funds account for resources the Township accumulates to pay bond and note debt. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

<u>Note Retirement Fund</u> - This fund was established to retire notes issued for the purchase of a truck and tractor to be used for road maintenance.

#### D. 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 object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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 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.

A summary of 2008 and 2007 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

#### E. 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.

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

#### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS

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

	2008	2007
Demand deposits	\$47,096	\$73,781

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

#### 3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$37,446	\$37,826	\$380
Special Revenue	141,966	149,556	7,590
Debt Service	8,880	8,880	0
Total	\$188,292	\$196,262	\$7,970

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$41,138	\$35,362	\$5,776
Special Revenue	186,900	178,744	8,156
Debt Service	8,845	8,841	4
Total	\$236,883	\$222,947	\$13,936

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$36,910	\$37,767	\$857
Special Revenue	134,439	147,938	13,499
Debt Service	8,880	8,880	0_
Total	\$180,229	\$194,585	\$14,356

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

#### 3. **BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$40,526	\$34,889	\$5,637
Special Revenue	163,728	157,647	6,081
Debt Service	8,843	8,842	1
Total	\$213,097	\$201,378	\$11,719

#### 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. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2008 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Promissory Note (Tractor)	\$29,638	5.99%
Promissory Note (Truck)	9,923	4.95%
Total	\$39,561	

The Township issued a promissory note in 2003 to finance the purchase of a 2003 Ford truck and in 2005 issued a promissory note to purchase a New Holland Tractor with loader and bush hog to be used for Township road maintenance. The Township's equipment is pledged as collateral for these promissory notes.

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

#### 5. DEBT (Continued)

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

	Promissory
Year ending December 31:	Notes
2009	\$8,841
2010	8,841
2011	8,841
2012	8,841
2013	6,042
2014	6,042
Total	\$47,448

#### 6. 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 this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007, OPERS members contributed 9.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equaling 13.85 percent of participants' gross salaries. For 2008, OPERS members contributed 10.00 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equaling 14.00 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2008.

#### 7. 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.

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

#### 7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

#### 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.

#### **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):

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

#### 7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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

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 \$2,700. 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.

Contributions to OTARMA			
2006	\$3,213		
2007	\$2,674		
2008	\$2,867		

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

Noble Township Noble County 14453 County Road 12 Ava, Ohio 43711

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Noble Township, Noble County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated May 12, 2009, wherein we noted the Township 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 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.

Noble Township
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Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over
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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 matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated May 12, 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We did note certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated May 12, 2009.

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

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

May 12, 2009

#### 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	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) - Expenditures exceeded appropriations at December 31, 2005.	No	Partially Corrected. Reissued in the management letter.
2006-002	Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-02(C)(1) - Estimated receipts and appropriations posted to the system did not agree to amounts approved by the Budget Commission or Board of Trustees.	No	Partially Corrected. Reissued in the management letter.
2006-003	Significant Deficiency for not posting debt proceeds and corresponding expenditure in the Township's records.	Yes	Finding No Longer Valid. Adjustments with which the Board of Trustees' agree were posted to the Township's books and were reflected in the financial statements for 2006-2005 audit.



#### **NOBLE TOWNSHIP**

#### **NOBLE 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 JUNE 23, 2009