



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Amherst Township
Lorain County
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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's financial transactions were processed using 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 conduct the audit of 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 17, 2004, 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 grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

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This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 17, 2004

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Fiduciary Fund</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Agency Fund</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$42,085	\$532,691	\$0	\$574,776
Intergovernmental	190,304	214,689	0	404,993
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	56,985	400	317	57,702
Earnings on Investments	909	0	0	909
Other Revenue	5,177	4,555	0	9,732
	<u>295,460</u>	<u>752,335</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>1,048,112</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	158,702	27,871	0	186,573
Public Safety	0	124,016	0	124,016
Public Works	17,573	326,614	0	344,187
Health	14,883	914	0	15,797
Human Services	13,020	0	0	13,020
Conservation - Recreation	14,522	0	0	14,522
Miscellaneous	0	0	317	317
Capital Outlay	10,086	128,315	0	138,401
	<u>228,786</u>	<u>607,730</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>836,833</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>66,674</u>	<u>144,605</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>211,279</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2003	<u>254,009</u>	<u>564,125</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>818,134</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2003	<u>\$320,683</u>	<u>\$708,730</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,029,413</u>

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

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<u>Fiduciary Fund</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Agency Fund</u>	
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$41,381	\$523,780	\$0	\$0	\$565,161
Intergovernmental	143,780	197,196	55,392	0	396,368
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	46,828	1,600	0	179	48,607
Earnings on Investments	2,813	0	0	0	2,813
Other Revenue	11,242	4,175	0	0	15,417
	<u>246,044</u>	<u>726,751</u>	<u>55,392</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>1,028,366</u>
Total Cash Receipts					
	<u>246,044</u>	<u>726,751</u>	<u>55,392</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>1,028,366</u>
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	141,908	45,853	0	0	187,761
Public Safety	1,470	105,535	0	0	107,005
Public Works	9,081	347,376	0	0	356,457
Health	14,740	555	0	0	15,295
Human Services	25,693	0	0	0	25,693
Conservation - Recreation	3,440	0	0	0	3,440
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	179	179
Capital Outlay	1,606	0	55,392	0	56,998
	<u>197,938</u>	<u>499,319</u>	<u>55,392</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>752,828</u>
Total Cash Disbursements					
	<u>197,938</u>	<u>499,319</u>	<u>55,392</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>752,828</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>48,106</u>	<u>227,432</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>275,538</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2002	<u>205,903</u>	<u>336,693</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>542,596</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2002	<u>\$254,009</u>	<u>\$564,125</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$818,134</u>

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND DECEMBER 31, 2002**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio, (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township provides general governmental services including road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township's police protection is provided by the Lorain County Sheriff, emergency medical services are provided by the Sandstone Joint Ambulance District, and the Township contracts with the Village of South Amherst and the City of Amherst to provide fire protection services.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized 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 prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts.

Certificates of deposit are 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 is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND DECEMBER 31, 2002
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

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 property tax money to pay for fire protection services provided by outside sources.

Garbage and Waste Disposal District Fund - This fund receives grant money from the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District to provide waste collection services to the Township.

3. Capital Project Funds

This fund is used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects. The Township had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

Public Works Commission Projects Fund – This fund accounts for Issue II grants received from the State of Ohio for Township road projects in 2002. The Township did not have any projects in 2003.

4. Fiduciary Funds (Agency Funds)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements and funds for which the Township is acting in an agency capacity. The Township had the following significant Agency Fund:

Commercial Building Permit Fund – This fund is used to collect and remit a three percent assessment of permit fees to the Board of Building Standards.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund 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.

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND DECEMBER 31, 2002
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process (Continued)

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 carried over, and need not be reappropriated. There were no outstanding encumbrances for these years.

A summary of 2003 and 2002 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Demand deposits	\$939,413	\$728,134
Certificate of Deposit	90,000	90,000
Total deposits and investments	<u>\$1,029,413</u>	<u>\$818,134</u>

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

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND DECEMBER 31, 2002
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002 follows:

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$315,533	\$295,460	(\$20,073)
Special Revenue	1,020,076	752,335	(267,741)
Capital Projects	93,155	0	(93,155)
Total	\$1,428,764	\$1,047,795	(\$380,969)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$600,201	\$228,786	\$371,415
Special Revenue	1,512,354	607,730	904,624
Capital Projects	93,155	0	93,155
Total	\$2,205,710	\$836,516	\$1,369,194

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$281,284	\$246,044	(\$35,240)
Special Revenue	1,028,947	726,751	(302,196)
Capital Projects	93,155	55,392	(37,763)
Total	\$1,403,386	\$1,028,187	(\$375,199)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$517,492	\$197,938	\$319,554
Special Revenue	1,335,335	499,319	836,016
Capital Projects	93,155	55,392	37,763
Total	\$1,945,982	\$752,649	\$1,193,333

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND DECEMBER 31, 2002
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due 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 SYSTEMS

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

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2003 and 2002, members of OPERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2003 and 2002. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Government belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. 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

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss 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 \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000 from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND DECEMBER 31, 2002
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$1,250,000 for 2002. There is no aggregate for 2003 and future accident years. Beginning in 2003, OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding operating contributions.

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 township.

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, 2003 and 2002:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$27,792,223	\$23,757,036
Liabilities	(11,791,300)	(9,197,512)
Retained earnings	<u>\$16,000,923</u>	<u>\$14,559,524</u>
<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$6,791,060	\$6,596,996
Liabilities	(750,956)	(1,204,326)
Retained earnings	<u>\$6,040,104</u>	<u>\$5,392,670</u>



Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Amherst Township
Lorain County
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035

We have audited the financial statements of Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated September 17, 2004, wherein we noted that the Township's financial transactions were processed using 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 conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report that we have reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated September 17, 2004.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 17, 2004



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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**AMHERST TOWNSHIP
LORAIN 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
NOVEMBER 9, 2004**