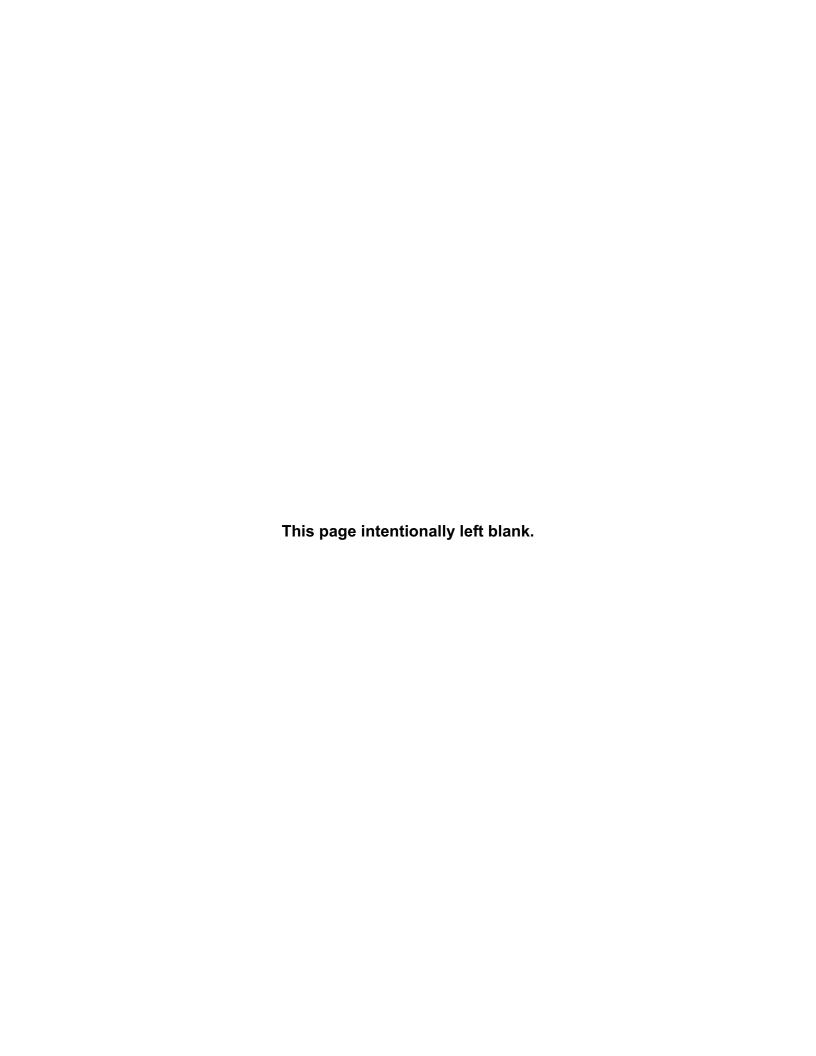




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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Rochester Township Lorain County 52185 Griggs Road Wellington, Ohio 44090

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Rochester 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 fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of Rochester Township, Lorain County, Ohio as of December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Rochester Township Lorain County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

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In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 12, 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.

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.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

November 12, 2004

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

	Governmental Fund Types				
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$12,659	\$39,716	\$0	\$52,375	
Intergovernmental	22,642	74,047	74,336	171,025	
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	1,395	900	0	2,295	
Earnings on Investments	450	417	0	867	
Other Revenue	3,834	41,995	0	45,829	
Total Cash Receipts	40,980	157,075	74,336	272,391	
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	43,663	6,937	0	50,600	
Public Safety	1,580	14,844	0	16,424	
Public Works	3,763	82,672	0	86,435	
Health	8,146	362	0	8,508	
Capital Outlay		25,349	74,336	99,685	
Total Cash Disbursements	57,152	130,164	74,336	261,652	
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(16,172)	26,911	0	10,739	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2003	41,891	75,622	0	117,513	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2003	\$25,719	\$102,533	\$0	\$128,252	
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31, 2003	\$0	\$2,540	\$0_	\$2,540	

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, 2002

	Governmental Fund Types				
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$12,949	\$40,456	\$0	\$53,405	
Intergovernmental	32,204	69,265	81,250	182,719	
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	2,545	0	0	2,545	
Earnings on Investments	871	1,069	0	1,940	
Other Revenue	2,462	4,619	0	7,081	
Total Cash Receipts	51,031	115,409	81,250	247,690	
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	39,545	8,056	0	47,601	
Public Safety	0	16,116	0	16,116	
Public Works	5,575	88,074	0	93,649	
Health	7,395	609	0	8,004	
Capital Outlay	0	12,786	81,250	94,036	
Total Cash Disbursements	52,515	125,641	81,250	259,406	
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(1,484)	(10,232)	0	(11,716)	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2002	43,375	85,854	0	129,229	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2002	<u>\$41,891</u>	\$75,622	\$0	\$117,513	

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Rochester Township, Lorain County, (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, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection. The Township's police protection is provided by the Lorain County Sheriff and emergency medical services are provided by the South Lorain County Joint Ambulance District.

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.

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 for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Fire Levy Fund – This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection to Township residents.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

3. Capital Project Fund

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:

Issue II Fund - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio to upgrade/repair Quarry Road.

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 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.

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.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

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

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

	2003	2002
Demand deposits	\$128,252	\$117,513
Total deposits	\$128,252	\$117,513

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$37,040	\$40,980	\$3,940
Special Revenue	132,493	157,075	24,582
Capital Projects	0	74,336	74,336
Total	\$169,533	\$272,391	\$102,858

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$91,857	\$57,152	\$34,705
193,805	132,704	61,101
0	74,336	(74,336)
\$285,662	\$264,192	\$21,470
	Authority \$91,857 193,805 0	Authority Expenditures \$91,857 \$57,152 193,805 132,704 0 74,336

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$36,959	\$51,031	\$14,072
Special Revenue	111,469	115,409	3,940
Capital Projects	0	81,250	81,250
Total	\$148,428	\$247,690	\$99,262

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

2002 Badgotod Vo. Notaal Badgotal y Badio Experiantico				
	Appropriation	Budgetary		
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance	
General	\$88,518	\$52,515	\$36,003	
Special Revenue	189,138	125,641	63,497	
Capital Projects	0	81,250	(81,250)	
Total	\$277,656	\$259,406	\$18,250	

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code 5705.41(D) the Township did not properly encumber expenditures prior to receiving goods or services.

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.09(F), the Township did not establish a fund nor did they account for Issue II Program Grants in either year under audit. Additionally, the Township did not budget for these revenues paid on behalf of the Township which is contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.36 and 5705.40.

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

The Township's 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. OPERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2003. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

Effective August 3, 1992, any new part-time Township firefighters are no longer covered by OPERS and must contribute to social security. The Township's liability is 6.2 percent of wages paid.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

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.

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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.

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:

Casualty Coverage	<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>
Property Coverage	<u>2003</u>	2002
Assets	\$6,791,060	\$6,596,996
Liabilities	(750,956)	(1,204,326)
Retained earnings	<u>\$6,040,104</u>	\$5,392,670

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

Rochester Township Lorain County 52185 Griggs Road Wellington, Ohio 44090

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Rochester 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 November 12, 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, and 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 instances of noncompliance we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2003-001 and 2003-002.

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 management of the Township in a separate letter dated November 12, 2004.

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Rochester Township Lorain County Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

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.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Butty Montgomery

November 12, 2004

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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

FINDING NUMBER 2003-001

Noncompliance Citation

Encumbrance of Funds

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) states that no subdivision shall make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless the certificate of the fiscal officer is attached. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet such a commitment has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. Further, contracts and orders for expenditure lacking prior certification should be void.

There are several exceptions to the above requirement 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 <u>main</u> 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 no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that both at the time that the contract or order was made, and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification, that a sufficient sum was appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Trustees may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within 30 days from the receipt of such certificate (a then and now certificate), if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

If the amount involved is less than three thousand dollars (increased from \$1,000 on April 7, 2003), the fiscal officer may authorize it to be paid without the affirmation of the Trustees, 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. (Prior to September 26, 2003, blanket certificates were limited to \$5,000 and three months.) 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 fiscal year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any one particular line-item appropriation.

During testing we noted 56 out of the 60 non-payroll expenditures were not encumbered prior to receiving the goods or services, and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002 (Continued)

FINDING NUMBER 2003-001 (Continued)

Noncompliance Citation (Continued)

Encumbrance of Funds (Continued)

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Village's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend the Clerk/Treasurer certify/encumber the funds for all expenditures in accordance with the above revised code section. When prior certification is not possible, the Township should utilize "then and now" certification.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-002

Noncompliance Citation

Issue II Project Accounting

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.09(F) provides that each subdivision is required to establish a special fund for each class of revenues derived from a source other than the general property tax, which the law requires to be used for a particular purpose. Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.36(A)(3) allows all subdivisions to request an increased amended certificate of estimated resources upon determination by the fiscal officer that revenue to be collected will be greater than the amount included in an official certificate. An increased amended certificate must be obtained from the budget commission if the legislative authority intends to appropriate and expend the excess revenue. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.40 provides that any appropriation measure may be amended or supplemented as long as the entity complies with the same provisions of the law as are used in making the original appropriation. However, no appropriation for any purpose may be reduced below an amount sufficient to cover all unliquidated and outstanding contracts or obligations certified from or against the appropriation.

During 2003 and 2002, the Ohio Public Works Commission expended \$74,336 and \$81,250 respectively, for Issue II grant projects on behalf of the Township. The Township did not establish the proper fund and the payments were not included on the Township's records or annual financial report. In accordance with Auditor of State Bulletins 2000-008 and 2002-004, both the revenue and expenditure activity of the grant should have been included. The Township failed to certify available resources to the County budget commission, and account for all appropriations to and from each appropriations fund. This resulted in the understatement of budgetary revenue and expenditure activity for the Issue II project. The accompanying financial statements have been adjusted to reflect the grant activity in a capital projects fund.

We recommend the Township follow the budgetary plan of Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code and monitor appropriations, amending them as appropriate to record these funds. When the Township receives notice that it has been approved for funding by a State or Federal agency, it should review the reporting requirements established by Auditor of State Bulletins 2000-008 and 2002-004, create the required fund(s), certify the available resources to the County budget commission, amend its appropriations measure to account for the grant funds, and when notified that funds have been expended on its behalf, make memo entries to post the revenues and expenditures to the Township's books.

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
2001-40847-001	Certification of	Yes	
	revenue		
2001-40847-002	Encumbrance of funds	No	Not corrected, repeated in current audit as finding 2003-001



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ROCHESTER 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.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED DECEMBER 28, 2004