



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Ross Township
Butler County
P.O. Box 31
Ross, Ohio 45061

To the Board of Trustees:

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 8, 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 management, the Board 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

April 8, 2004

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$110,834	\$593,225	\$704,059
Intergovernmental	311,512	206,115	517,627
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	0	525	525
Charges for Services	0	10,190	10,190
Fines and Forfeitures	9,228	1,215	10,443
Earnings on Investments	18,441	394	18,835
Other Revenue	1,092	7,491	8,583
Total Cash Receipts	451,107	819,155	1,270,262
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	291,470	85,121	376,591
Public Safety	1,256	158,634	159,890
Public Works	20,203	338,997	359,200
Health	3,407	0	3,407
Capital Outlay	200	52,440	52,640
Total Cash Disbursements	316,536	635,192	951,728
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	134,571	183,963	318,534
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Transfers-In		57,000	57,000
Transfers-Out	(57,000)		(57,000)
Advances-In	51,750	5,000	56,750
Advances-Out	(5,000)	(51,750)	(56,750)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(10,250)	10,250	0
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	124,321	194,213	318,534
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	1,254,538	395,029	1,649,567
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$1,378,859	\$589,242	\$1,968,101
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$854	\$34,314	\$35,168

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

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$98,997	\$558,701	\$657,698
Intergovernmental	244,990	217,203	462,193
Charges for Services	0	34,191	34,191
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	0	553	553
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties	10,924	1,145	12,069
Earnings on Investments	24,474	494	24,968
Other Revenue	29,878	29,429	59,307
Total Cash Receipts	409,263	841,716	1,250,979
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	230,295	92,669	322,964
Public Safety	81,448	206,663	288,111
Public Works	7,066	319,708	326,774
Health	3,645	0	3,645
Capital Outlay	0	55,268	55,268
Total Cash Disbursements	322,454	674,308	996,762
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	86,809	167,408	254,217
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Transfers-In	0	76,883	76,883
Transfers-Out	(76,883)	0	(76,883)
Advances-In	47,550	14,250	61,800
Advances-Out	(14,250)	(47,550)	(61,800)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(43,583)	43,583	0
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	43,226	210,991	254,217
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	1,211,312	184,038	1,395,350
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$1,254,538	\$395,029	\$1,649,567
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$1,659	\$6,221	\$7,880

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

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Ross Township, Butler 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 road and bridge maintenance, fire protection, emergency medical services, and police 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

The Townships holds only demand deposits.

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:

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 and intergovernmental revenue for the operation of the Township fire department.

Police District Fund - This fund receives property tax and intergovernmental revenue for the operation of the Township police department.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. 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.

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	1,968,101	1,649,567
Total deposits	<u>\$1,968,101</u>	<u>\$1,649,567</u>

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, (2) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$384,918	\$502,857	\$117,939
Special Revenue	801,226	881,155	79,929
Total	\$1,186,144	\$1,384,012	\$197,868

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,639,456	\$379,390	\$1,260,066
Special Revenue	1,196,254	721,256	474,998
Total	\$2,835,710	\$1,100,646	\$1,735,064

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$412,306	\$456,813	\$44,507
Special Revenue	868,234	932,849	64,615
Total	\$1,280,540	\$1,389,662	\$109,122

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,665,184	\$415,246	\$1,249,938
Special Revenue	1,041,423	728,079	313,344
Total	\$2,706,607	\$1,143,325	\$1,563,282

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.

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.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's full-time and part-time employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The 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. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2002 and 2003. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

6. RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP

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

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured with APEEP 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 \$10,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$700,000 for 2001 and \$1,250,000 for 2002. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$10,000 if the annual aggregate is reached and all specific losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Operating Fund and Guarantee Fund pay for losses and loss adjustment expenses should they exceed 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 government.

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, 2002 and 2001 (the latest information available):

ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY

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

6. RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Assets	\$23,757,036	\$23,703,776
Liabilities	(9,197,512)	(9,379,003)
Retained earnings	<u>\$14,559,524</u>	<u>\$14,324,773</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Assets	\$6,596,996	\$5,011,131
Liabilities	(1,204,326)	(647,667)
Retained earnings	<u>\$5,392,670</u>	<u>\$4,363,464</u>

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

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

Ross Township
Butler County
P.O. Box 31
Ross, Ohio 45061

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ross Township, Butler County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated April 8, 2004. 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 performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

However, we noted an immaterial instance of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated April 8, 2004.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting in order 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 a matter 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 April 8, 2004.

Ross Township
Butler 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.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

April 8, 2004

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

**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>
2001-40409-001	5705.41(D), the Township had expenditures in excess of appropriations.	Yes	Fully Corrected.
2001-40409-002	5705.09(F), the Township did not properly record CDBG grant proceeds.	Yes	Fully Corrected.

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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ROSS TOWNSHIP

BUTLER 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
MAY 6, 2004**