



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Shortcreek Township
Harrison County
77330 Branson Road
Cadiz, Ohio 43907

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Shortcreek Township, Harrison County, (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. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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.

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 Shortcreek Township, Harrison County, as of December 31, 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 14, 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.

Shortcreek Township
Harrison County
Independent Accountants' Report
Page 2

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, the Board and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 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 14, 2004

**SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON 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**

| | <u>Governmental Fund Types</u> | | | Totals (Memorandum Only) |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | <u>General</u> | <u>Special Revenue</u> | <u>Capital Projects</u> | |
| Cash Receipts: | | | | |
| Property Tax and Other Local Taxes | \$7,231 | \$29,753 | | \$36,984 |
| Intergovernmental Receipts | 14,093 | 68,071 | \$18,500 | 100,664 |
| Fines, Licenses, and Permits | 1,050 | | | 1,050 |
| Earnings on Investments | 242 | 426 | | 668 |
| Miscellaneous | 60 | 1,425 | | 1,485 |
| Total Cash Receipts | <u>22,676</u> | <u>99,675</u> | <u>18,500</u> | <u>140,851</u> |
| Cash Disbursements: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| General Government | 29,106 | | | 29,106 |
| Public Safety | 450 | 17,710 | | 18,160 |
| Public Works | 6,118 | 87,577 | | 93,695 |
| Health | 3,190 | 275 | | 3,465 |
| Capital Outlay | | | 18,500 | 18,500 |
| Total Cash Disbursements | <u>38,864</u> | <u>105,562</u> | <u>\$18,500</u> | <u>162,926</u> |
| Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements | <u>(16,188)</u> | <u>(5,887)</u> | | <u>(22,075)</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | <u>24,193</u> | <u>38,413</u> | | <u>62,606</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | <u>\$8,005</u> | <u>\$32,526</u> | | <u>\$40,531</u> |

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

SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

| | <u>Nonexpendable Trust</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Operating Cash Receipts: | |
| Earnings on Investments | \$285 |
| Total Operating Cash Receipts | <u>285</u> |
| Operating Cash Disbursements: | |
| Salaries | 47 |
| Supplies and Materials | <u>150</u> |
| Total Operating Cash Disbursements | <u>197</u> |
| Operating Income/(Loss) | <u>88</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | <u>11,406</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | <u><u>\$11,494</u></u> |

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

SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON 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**

| | <u>Governmental Fund Types</u> | | <u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | <u>General</u> | <u>Special Revenue</u> | |
| Cash Receipts: | | | |
| Property Tax and Other Local Taxes | \$6,666 | \$29,610 | \$36,276 |
| Intergovernmental Receipts | 33,577 | 68,542 | 102,119 |
| Charges for Services | 300 | | 300 |
| Earnings on Investments | 455 | 804 | 1,259 |
| Miscellaneous | 60 | 358 | 418 |
| | <u>41,058</u> | <u>99,314</u> | <u>140,372</u> |
| Total Cash Receipts | | | |
| | <u>41,058</u> | <u>99,314</u> | <u>140,372</u> |
| Cash Disbursements: | | | |
| Current: | | | |
| General Government | 31,575 | | 31,575 |
| Public Safety | 29 | 19,685 | 19,714 |
| Public Works | 2,916 | 72,180 | 75,096 |
| Health | 2,018 | | 2,018 |
| Capital Outlay | 340 | 1,500 | 1,840 |
| | <u>36,878</u> | <u>93,365</u> | <u>130,243</u> |
| Total Cash Disbursements | | | |
| | <u>36,878</u> | <u>93,365</u> | <u>130,243</u> |
| Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements | <u>4,180</u> | <u>5,949</u> | <u>10,129</u> |
| Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): | | | |
| Other Financing Sources | 1,185 | | 1,185 |
| | <u>1,185</u> | | <u>1,185</u> |
| Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements) | | | |
| | <u>1,185</u> | | <u>1,185</u> |
| Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements | 5,365 | 5,949 | 11,314 |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | <u>18,828</u> | <u>32,464</u> | <u>51,292</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | <u>\$24,193</u> | <u>\$38,413</u> | <u>\$62,606</u> |

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

SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE - NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

| | <u>Nonexpendable Trust</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Operating Cash Receipts: | |
| Earnings on Investments | \$504 |
| Total Operating Cash Receipts | <u>504</u> |
| Operating Cash Disbursements: | |
| Salaries | 537 |
| Supplies and Materials | <u>59</u> |
| Total Operating Cash Disbursements | <u>596</u> |
| Operating Income/(Loss) | <u>(92)</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | <u>11,498</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | <u><u>\$11,406</u></u> |

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

**SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Shortcreek Township, Harrison 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 government, public safety, public works, road and bridge maintenance, and cemetery maintenance services. The Township contracts with the following Volunteer Fire Departments to provide fire protection: Adena, Cadiz, and Harrisville.

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. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

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 Fund:

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

**SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Capital Project Funds

These funds are used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

Community Development Block Grant Fund - The Township received a grant from the county for community improvements.

4. Fiduciary Funds (Trust Funds)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant Fiduciary Fund:

Cemetery Bequest Trust Fund – This fund is a nonexpendable trust fund which receives interest from a bequest to maintain a Township cemetery.

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. Appropriations lapse at year end. Contrary to Ohio Revised Code, expenditures exceeded appropriation at the legal level of control in some funds.

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 canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not encumber all commitments as required by Ohio law.

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

**SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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:

| | 2003 | 2002 |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Demand deposits | \$42,025 | \$64,012 |
| Certificates of deposit | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Total deposits | \$52,025 | \$74,012 |

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

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 | \$28,701 | \$22,676 | (\$6,025) |
| Special Revenue | 105,768 | 99,675 | (6,093) |
| Capital Projects | 26,786 | 18,500 | (8,286) |
| Fiduciary | 700 | 285 | (415) |
| Total | \$161,955 | \$141,136 | (\$20,819) |

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

| Fund Type | Appropriation Authority | Budgetary Expenditures | Variance |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| General | \$54,510 | \$38,864 | \$15,646 |
| Special Revenue | 146,413 | 105,562 | 40,851 |
| Capital Projects | 0 | 18,500 | (18,500) |
| Fiduciary | 12,106 | 197 | 11,909 |
| Total | \$213,029 | \$163,123 | \$49,906 |

**SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

| 2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Fund Type | Budgeted Receipts | Actual Receipts | Variance |
| General | \$44,711 | \$42,243 | (\$2,468) |
| Special Revenue | 110,474 | 99,314 | (11,160) |
| Fiduciary | 680 | 504 | (176) |
| Total | \$155,865 | \$142,061 | (\$13,804) |

| 2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Fund Type | Appropriation Authority | Budgetary Expenditures | Variance |
| General | \$44,133 | \$36,878 | \$7,255 |
| Special Revenue | 139,447 | 93,365 | 46,082 |
| Fiduciary | 12,178 | 596 | 11,582 |
| Total | \$195,758 | \$130,839 | \$64,919 |

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 proceeding 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.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Township's employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS 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 prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2003 and 2002, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

**SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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 to generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31 2002 and 2001 (the latest information available):

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

SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Shortcreek Township
Harrison County
77330 Branson Road
Cadiz, Ohio 43907

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Shortcreek Township, Harrison County (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated April 14, 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 required, 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 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 instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2003-001 and 2003-002. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated April 14, 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 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 April 14, 2004.

Shortcreek Township
Harrison 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 the audit committee, 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 14, 2004

**SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

**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

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

- A. Then and Now Certificate – If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Board 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, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.
- B. If the amount involved is less than \$1,000 (\$3,000 after April 7, 2003), the fiscal officer may authorize payment through a Then and Now Certificate without affirmation of the Board, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

The Township did not certify or record the amount against the applicable appropriation accounts for 30% of the tested expenditures during 2003 and 5% of tested expenditures during 2002. The Township did not utilize the certification exceptions described above for those expenditures lacking prior or simultaneous certification.

Failure to certify the availability of funds and encumber appropriations could result in overspending and negative cash balances. The Township should obtain approved purchase orders which include the fiscal officer's certification that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated and authorized prior to making the commitment.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-002

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41 (B) states that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated.

In 2002, expenditures exceeded appropriations by 100% in both the Federal Emergency Management Agency Fund, a Special Revenue Fund and in the Community Development Block Grant Fund, a Capital Project Fund. In 2003, expenditures exceeded appropriations in the Special Revenue Grant Fund by 100%.

The Township Clerk should monitor expenditures by comparing the expenditures to appropriations and should approach the Board of Trustees to request amendments to the original appropriations as necessary to guard against overspending.

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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Facsimile 614-466-4490

SHORTCREEK TOWNSHIP

HARRISON 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
JUNE 8, 2004**