



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Adams Township
Muskingum County
5105 Hogue Road
Adamsville, Ohio 43802

To the Board of Township Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 12, 2005

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Adams Township
Muskingum County
5105 Hogue Road
Adamsville, Ohio 43802

To the Board of Township Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Adams Township, Muskingum County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP would require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2004 (and 2003), the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since this Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statement referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 does not presents fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2004 or its changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, 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 Adams Township, Muskingum County, as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 12, 2005, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.



Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 12, 2005

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$8,736	\$19,178	\$27,914
Intergovernmental	22,867	76,997	99,864
Earnings on Investments	75	92	167
Other Revenue		14	14
	<u>31,678</u>	<u>96,281</u>	<u>127,959</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	29,749		29,749
Public Safety		7,157	7,157
Public Works		77,782	77,782
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal		9,000	9,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges		1,395	1,395
	<u>29,749</u>	<u>95,334</u>	<u>125,083</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>1,929</u>	<u>947</u>	<u>2,876</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>6,435</u>	<u>13,960</u>	<u>20,395</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$8,364</u>	<u>\$14,907</u>	<u>\$23,271</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$443</u>	<u>\$493</u>

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

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM 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>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$8,140	\$16,528	\$24,668
Intergovernmental	22,766	70,717	93,483
Earnings on Investments	108	93	201
Other Revenue		25	25
	<u>31,014</u>	<u>87,363</u>	<u>118,377</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	35,541		35,541
Public Safety		5,202	5,202
Public Works		68,396	68,396
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal		9,000	9,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges		1,744	1,744
	<u>35,541</u>	<u>84,342</u>	<u>119,883</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(4,527)</u>	<u>3,021</u>	<u>(1,506)</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):			
Transfers-In		1,696	1,696
Advances-In	3,000	3,000	6,000
Transfers-Out		(1,696)	(1,696)
Advances-Out	(3,000)	(3,000)	(6,000)
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(4,527)	3,021	(1,506)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>10,962</u>	<u>10,939</u>	<u>21,901</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$6,435</u>	<u>\$13,960</u>	<u>\$20,395</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$90</u>	<u>\$1,913</u>	<u>\$2,003</u>

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

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Adams Township, Muskingum County (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, and contracts with Adamsville Community Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire protection and emergency medical 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

C. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from 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.

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

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund - This fund receives motor vehicle license tax money for maintaining and repairing Township roads.

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Fire Fund – This fund receives property tax for fire protection and emergency medical services.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant Fund – This fund receives federal and state grant money from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency for disaster relief.

D. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the 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. The Township did not properly encumber all commitments required by Ohio law. Management has included audit adjustments in the accompanying budgetary presentations for items that should have been encumbered.

A summary of 2004 and 2003 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

The Township maintains a cash 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:

	2004	2003
Demand deposits	\$23,271	\$20,395

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2004 and 2003 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$29,090	\$31,678	\$2,588
Special Revenue	93,898	96,281	2,383
Total	\$122,988	\$127,959	\$4,971

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$32,616	\$29,799	\$2,817
Special Revenue	109,771	95,777	13,994
Total	\$142,387	\$125,576	\$16,811

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$26,886	\$31,014	\$4,128
Special Revenue	80,330	89,059	8,729
Total	\$107,216	\$120,073	\$12,857

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$39,111	\$35,631	\$3,480
Special Revenue	91,269	87,951	3,318
Total	\$130,380	\$123,582	\$6,798

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopt rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

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. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
General Obligation Notes - 2002	\$27,000	4%

The 2002 general obligation notes were issued to finance the purchase of a new dump truck to be used for Township road maintenance. The notes are collateralized solely by the Township's taxing authority. The notes are being repaid in annual installments of \$9,000 plus interest.

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

	General Obligation Notes
Year ending December 31:	<u> </u>
2005	\$10,046
2006	9,698
2007	9,349
Total	<u><u>\$29,093</u></u>

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004 and 2003, OPERS members contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equaling 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township is insured with the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). OTARMA assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policies. Coverage is subject to deductibles and scheduled property. This risk pool membership is further disclosed in note 8 to the financial statements. The following risks are covered by OTARMA:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Automobile liability and physical damage;
- Wrongful acts; and
- Bonding of public officials.

The Township also offers health/medical, hospital indemnity, disability income, cancer, life and accidental death insurance benefits to its officials and full-time employees through a private carrier.

8. 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. 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. Townships 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 in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500,000,000 per occurrence. 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.

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

8. RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

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:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$30,687,203	\$27,792,223
Liabilities	(13,640,962)	(11,791,300)
Retained earnings	<u>\$17,046,241</u>	<u>\$16,000,923</u>

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$7,799,073	\$6,791,060
Liabilities	(753,906)	(750,956)
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,045,167</u>	<u>\$6,040,104</u>



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Adams Township
Muskingum County
5105 Hogue Road
Adamsville, Ohio 43802

To the Board of Township Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Adams Township, Muskingum County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated September 12, 2005, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures in order to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted certain matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider reportable conditions. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Township's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with management's assertions in the financial statements. Reportable conditions are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2004-001 and 2004-002.

A material weakness is a reportable 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 caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered material weaknesses. We consider reportable conditions 2004-001 and 2004-002 listed above to be material weaknesses. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated September 12, 2005, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting which we did not deem reportable conditions.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2004-001. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated September 12, 2005, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Township Trustees. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.



Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 12, 2005

ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

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

FINDING NUMBER 2004-001

Noncompliance Citation and Material Weakness

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure 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.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above 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 main 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 the fiscal officer (Clerk) can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the taxing authority (Board of Township Trustees) can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The taxing authority has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution. Amounts of less than \$1,000 (which was increased to \$3,000 on April 7, 2003) may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance 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 not exceeding \$5,000 against any specific line item account over a period not exceeding three months or running beyond the current year. 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. Effective September 26, 2003, certificates may not exceed an amount established by resolution or ordinance of the legislative authority, and cannot extend beyond the end of the fiscal year. Blanket certificates cannot be issued unless there has been an amount approved by the legislative authority for the blanket.
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 current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line-item appropriation.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 63% of the expenditures tested and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions.

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

**FINDING NUMBER 2004-001
(Continued)**

Noncompliance Citation and Material Weakness - Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D) (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 Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Clerk certify that the funds are or will be available prior to an obligation being incurred by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the Township certify purchases to which Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include certification language Section 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The fiscal officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

FINDING NUMBER 2004-002

Material Weakness

The Township did not post budgeted receipts to the receipts ledger. As suggested in Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-02(C)(1), each public office should design its accounting system to provide ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts. This can be accomplished by integrating the budgetary accounts, at the legal level of control or lower, into the financial accounting system. Because the information entered into the receipts ledger was incomplete, Township management was unable to effectively monitor budgetary receipts throughout the year. This could result in difficulties determining the necessity to file any amended certificates of estimated resources which is the basis for governing the Township's appropriations.

We recommend the Township Clerk record estimated receipts from the Certificate of Estimated Resources and any amendments thereto. The accompanying budgetary presentation includes those budgeted receipts certified by the County Auditor.

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2002-001	Ohio Rev. Code §5705.41(D) – Failure to properly encumber all commitments required by law.	No	Not corrected. Finding is included in the current year Schedule of Findings as item 2004-001.
2002-002	Township did not post budgeted receipts to the receipts ledger.	No	Not corrected. Finding is included in the current year Schedule of Findings as item 2004-002.
2002-003	The Township did not prepare monthly bank to book reconciliations for certain months under audit.	Yes	Fully corrected.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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800-282-0370
Facsimile 614-466-4490

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM 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 10, 2005**