



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Benton Township
Ottawa County
1670 N. Walker Street, P.O. Box 7
Graytown, Ohio 43432-0007

To the Benton Township Board of 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.

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Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 20, 2005

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Benton Township
Ottawa County
1670 N. Walker Street, P.O. Box 7
Graytown, Ohio 43432-0007

To the Benton Township Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Benton Township, Ottawa County (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated September 20, 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 also noted the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

We conducted our audits 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 audits 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 audits provide 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 statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 do not present 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 of Benton Township, Ottawa 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 20, 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 audits.



Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 20, 2005

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA 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>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$155,308	\$92,451	\$247,759
Intergovernmental	59,481	111,209	170,690
Charges for Services		3,948	3,948
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	2,990	19,895	22,885
Earnings on Investments	2,060	452	2,512
Other Revenue	1,674	6,546	8,220
	<u>221,513</u>	<u>234,501</u>	<u>456,014</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
	<u>221,513</u>	<u>234,501</u>	<u>456,014</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	127,540		127,540
Public Safety	76,650		76,650
Public Works	12,132	174,634	186,766
Health	6,295	37,403	43,698
Conservation - Recreation	15,514		15,514
Capital Outlay	65,592		65,592
	<u>303,723</u>	<u>212,037</u>	<u>515,760</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
	<u>303,723</u>	<u>212,037</u>	<u>515,760</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(82,210)</u>	<u>22,464</u>	<u>(59,746)</u>
Other Financing Receipts:			
Other Sources	576		576
	<u>576</u>		<u>576</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts			
	<u>576</u>		<u>576</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(81,634)</u>	<u>22,464</u>	<u>(59,170)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>155,115</u>	<u>54,020</u>	<u>209,135</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$73,481</u>	<u>\$76,484</u>	<u>\$149,965</u>

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

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA 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>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$151,666	\$86,351	\$238,017
Intergovernmental	162,302	96,983	259,285
Charges for Services		8,470	8,470
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	2,770	22,418	25,188
Earnings on Investments	1,773	282	2,055
Other Revenue	2,941	4,054	6,995
	<u>321,452</u>	<u>218,558</u>	<u>540,010</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	123,716		123,716
Public Safety	68,563		68,563
Public Works	18,873	158,872	177,745
Health	6,278	36,558	42,836
Conservation - Recreation	16,718		16,718
Capital Outlay	32,982	16,098	49,080
	<u>267,130</u>	<u>211,528</u>	<u>478,658</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	<u>54,322</u>	<u>7,030</u>	<u>61,352</u>
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Transfers-In		1,000	1,000
Transfers-Out	(1,000)		(1,000)
Other Sources	1,699		1,699
	<u>699</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,699</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)			
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	55,021	8,030	63,051
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>100,094</u>	<u>45,990</u>	<u>146,084</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$155,115</u></u>	<u><u>\$54,020</u></u>	<u><u>\$209,135</u></u>

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

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA 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 the Benton Township. Ottawa 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 cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Village of Rocky Ridge, Allen-Clay Joint Fire District, Harris Township Fire and EMS, and Mid County EMS to provide fire services and Emergency Medical Services to Township residents.

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. 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. Cash and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Money market mutual funds (including STAR Ohio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

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 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:

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY**

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

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 to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

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. Appropriations lapse at year end.

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.

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

F. 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.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY**

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

	2004	2000
Demand deposits	\$4,200	\$52,882
Total deposits	4,200	52,882
STAR Ohio	145,765	156,253
Total investments	145,765	156,253
Total deposits and investments	\$149,965	\$209,135

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

Investments: Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

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	\$268,000	\$222,089	(\$45,911)
Special Revenue	207,890	234,501	26,611
Total	\$475,890	\$456,590	(\$19,300)

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$420,000	\$303,723	\$116,277
Special Revenue	260,000	212,037	47,963
Total	\$680,000	\$515,760	\$164,240

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$268,350	\$323,151	\$54,801
Special Revenue	214,040	219,558	5,518
Total	\$482,390	\$542,709	\$60,319

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY**

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

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$353,849	\$268,130	\$85,719
Special Revenue	247,141	211,528	35,613
Total	\$600,990	\$479,658	\$121,332

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.

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). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

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.

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. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY**

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

\$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.

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>Property 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>

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**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***

Benton Township
Ottawa County
1670 N. Walker Street, P.O. Box 7
Graytown, Ohio 43432-0007

To the Benton Township Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Benton Township, Ottawa County (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004, and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated September 20, 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 also noted that the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. We conducted our audits 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 audits, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. 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. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider material weaknesses. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated September 20, 2005, we reported other matters related to internal control we deemed immaterial.

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 audits and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 20, 2005



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140
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800-282-0370
Facsimile 614-466-4490

BENTON TOWNSHIP

OTTAWA 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
OCTOBER 13, 2005**