

SALEM TOWNSHIP

Meigs County

Regular Audit

January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005

Fiscal Years Audited Under GAGAS: 2005 - 2004

BALESTRA, HARR & SCHERER, CPAs, INC.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Board of Trustees
Salem Township
26239 Legion Road
Langsville, Ohio 45741

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Salem Township, Meigs County, prepared by Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Auditor's Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State 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. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Independent Auditor's Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State permits.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Salem Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

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

BETTY MONTGOMERY
Auditor of State

August 31, 2006

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**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY**

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Member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Trustees
Salem Township
26239 Legion Road
Langsville, Ohio 45741

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Salem Township, Meigs County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004. 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 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 government 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. Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, we presume they are material.

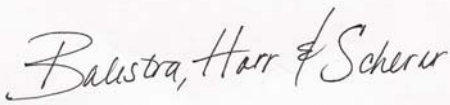
Revisions to GAAP require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the years ended December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004. Instead of the funds accompanying financial statements presented for 2005 and 2004, the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2005 and 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards require 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 the Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts are materially misstated under 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 paragraph, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township's combined funds as of December 31, 2005 or December 31, 2004, or their changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of The Salem Township, Meigs County, as of December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion & Analysis for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion & 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 June 30, 2006, 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. That report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing. It does not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Balestra, Harr & Scherer". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

June 30, 2006

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$ 8,403	\$ 41,941	\$ 50,344
Intergovernmental	22,497	120,598	143,095
Earnings On Investments	319	445	764
Other Revenue	-	200	200
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	31,219	163,184	194,403
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	45,817	40,376	86,193
Public Safety	-	15,761	15,761
Public Works	-	92,379	92,379
Health	-	11,959	11,959
Debt Service:			
Principal Payments	-	6,850	6,850
Interest & Fiscal Charges	-	2,550	2,550
Capital Outlay	2,000	-	2,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	47,817	169,875	217,692
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts Over(Under) Cash Disbursements	(16,598)	(6,691)	(23,289)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	20,563	99,686	120,249
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 3,965</u>	<u>\$ 92,995</u>	<u>\$ 96,960</u>

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

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS 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	\$ 11,173	\$ 49,439	\$ 59,112
Intergovernmental	20,956	98,656	121,112
Earnings On Investments	771	317	1,088
Other Revenue	154	1,451	1,605
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	33,054	149,863	182,917
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	58,748	37,974	96,722
Public Safety	-	29,378	29,378
Public Works	-	80,441	80,441
Health	-	13,011	13,011
Debt Service:			
Principal Payments	-	6,500	6,500
Interest & Fiscal Charges	-	2,900	2,900
Capital Outlay	-	10,800	10,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	58,748	181,004	239,752
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts Over(Under) Cash Disbursements	(25,694)	(31,141)	(56,835)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	46,257	130,827	177,084
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 20,563</u>	<u>\$ 99,686</u>	<u>\$ 120,249</u>

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

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Salem Township, Meigs 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 and a publicly-elected Clerk. The Township provides services that include road and bridge maintenance (public works), cemetery maintenance (health), fire protection (public safety), 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 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

All cash assets are maintained in an interest-bearing checking account.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is 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 that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

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

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

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Road and Bridge Fund – This fund receives property 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, 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 2005 and 2004 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Demand Deposits	\$ 96,960	\$ 120,249

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2005 and 2004 follows:

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$ 65,096	\$ 31,219	\$ (33,877)
Special Revenue	245,887	163,184	(82,703)
Total	<u>\$ 310,983</u>	<u>\$ 194,403</u>	<u>\$ (116,580)</u>

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Appropriation Authority</u>	<u>Budgetary Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$ 65,000	\$ 47,817	\$ 17,183
Special Revenue	245,403	169,875	75,528
Total	<u>\$ 310,403</u>	<u>\$ 217,692</u>	<u>\$ 92,711</u>

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$ 72,004	\$ 33,054	\$ (38,950)
Special Revenue	256,378	149,863	(106,515)
Total	<u>\$ 328,382</u>	<u>\$ 182,917</u>	<u>\$ (145,465)</u>

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Appropriation Authority</u>	<u>Budgetary Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$ 75,773	\$ 58,748	\$ 17,025
Special Revenue	256,845	181,004	75,841
Total	<u>\$ 332,618</u>	<u>\$ 239,752</u>	<u>\$ 92,866</u>

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.

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

4. **PROPERTY TAX (Continued)** 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, 2005 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Road Tractor Loan	\$41,662	5.00%
Total	\$41,662	

The road tractor loan was issued to finance the purchase of a tractor and boom mower to be used for Township road maintenance. The loan is collateralized by the tractor and boom mower.

Amortization of the above debts, including interest, is scheduled as follows

Year Ending	Road Tractor
2006	\$9,400
2007	9,400
2008	9,400
2009	9,401
2010	9,401
Total	\$47,002

6. **RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

The Township's elected officials and 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 also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2005 and 2004, members of PERS 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 employer contributions required through December 31, 2005.

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

**7. 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 occurrence, including loss adjustments expense. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000, from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks including automobile physical damage up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures specific 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 report the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2004 and 2003: Most recent information available:

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

SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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

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**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based
on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing
Standards***

Board of Trustees
Salem Township
26239 Legion Road
Langsville, Ohio 45741

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Salem Township, Meigs County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2006, 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

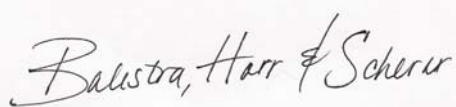
In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control 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 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.

Compliance and Other Matters

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 grant agreements, 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 or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Salem Township
Meigs County
Report on Internal Control Over Financial
Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by
Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

This report is intended for the information and use of the audit committee, management, 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 cursive script that reads "Balestra, Harr & Scherer". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

June 30, 2006

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
MEIGS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No
2003-001	ORC 5705.41B Expenditures exceeding appropriations	Yes	
2003-002	Finding for Recovery – Overpayment of Salaries	Yes	



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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SALEM TOWNSHIP

MEIGS 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
SEPTEMBER 14, 2006**