



**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Accountants' Report.....	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis.....	3
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-Wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis	9
Statement of Activities – Modified Cash Basis	10
Fund Financial Statements:	
Statement of Modified Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	11
Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Modified - Cash Basis Fund Balances – Governmental Funds.....	12
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual – Budget Basis – General Fund	13
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual – Budget Basis – Gasoline Tax Fund.....	14
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual – Budget Basis – Fire District Fund.....	15
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual – Budget Basis – EMS/Fire District Fund.....	16
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements	17
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	29
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	31

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Benton Township
Paulding County
3708 SR 500
Payne, Ohio 45880-9319

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Benton Township, Paulding County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions 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. The Township processes its financial transactions with 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 audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements and notes follow the modified cash accounting basis. This is a comprehensive accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Benton Township, Paulding County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2005, and the respective changes in modified cash financial position and the respective budgetary comparison for the General, Gasoline Tax, Fire District and EMS/Fire District funds thereof for the years then ended in conformity with the basis of accounting Note 1 describes.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, the Township revised its financial presentation comparable to the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standard No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 3, 2007, 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.

Management's discussion and analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires. We have applied certain limited procedures, consisting principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measuring and presenting the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

July 3, 2007

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
UNAUDITED**

This discussion and analysis of Benton Township's (the Township) financial performance provides an overall review of the Township's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2005, within the limitations of the Township's modified cash basis accounting. Readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to enhance their understanding of the Township's financial performance.

Highlights

Key highlights for 2005 are as follows:

- Net assets of governmental activities increased \$26,049, or 8 percent, from the prior year. The funds most affected by the increase in cash and cash equivalents was the Fire District and EMS/Fire District Funds, which received tax money in 2005 that was not spent.
- The Township's general receipts are primarily property and other local taxes and grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs. These receipts represent 33 and 9 percent respectively of the total cash received for governmental activities during the year. Property and other local tax receipts for 2005 changed very little compared to 2004 as development within the Township has leveled.
- Expenditures were also similar to 2004 with the exception of Public Works expenditures increasing because the Township completed a large chip and seal project with the County during 2005.

Using the Basic Financial Statements

This annual report is presented in a format consistent with the presentation requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, as applicable to the Township's modified cash basis of accounting.

Report Components

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities provide information about the cash activities of the Township as a whole.

Fund financial statements provide a greater level of detail. Funds are created and maintained on the financial records of the Township as a way to segregate money whose use is restricted to a particular specified purpose. These statements present financial information by fund, presenting funds with the largest balances or most activity in separate columns.

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the government-wide and fund financial statements and provide expanded explanation and detail regarding the information reported in the statements.

Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting is a set of guidelines that determine when financial events are recorded. The Township has elected to present its financial statements on a modified cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the Township's modified cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
UNAUDITED
(Continued)**

As a result of using the modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable) are not recorded in the financial statements. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this report, the reader must keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the modified cash basis of accounting.

Reporting the Township as a Whole

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities reflect how the Township did financially during 2005, within the limitations of modified cash basis accounting. The statement of net assets presents the cash balances and investments of the governmental activities of the Township at year end. The statement of activities compares cash disbursements with program receipts for each governmental program activity. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts. The comparison of cash disbursements with program receipts identifies how each governmental function draws from the Township's general receipts.

These statements report the Township's cash position and the changes in cash position. Keeping in mind the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting, you can think of these changes as one way to measure the Township's financial health. Over time, increases or decreases in the Township's cash position is one indicator of whether the Township's financial health is improving or deteriorating. When evaluating the Township's financial condition, you should also consider other nonfinancial factors as well such as the Township's property tax base, the condition of the Township's capital assets and infrastructure, the extent of the Township's debt obligations, the reliance on non-local financial resources for operations and the need for continued growth in the major local revenue sources such as property and income taxes.

In the statement of net assets and the statement of activities, we report governmental activities which include the Township's basic services such as fire protection. State grants and property taxes finance most of these activities. Benefits provided through governmental activities are not necessarily paid for by the people receiving them.

Reporting the Township's Most Significant Funds

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Township's major funds – not the Township as a whole. The Township establishes separate funds to better manage its many activities and to help demonstrate that money that is restricted as to how it may be used is being spent for the intended purpose. The funds of the Township are all governmental funds.

The governmental fund financial statements provide a detailed view of the Township's governmental operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent to finance the Township's programs. The Township's significant governmental funds are presented on the financial statements in separate columns. The information for nonmajor funds (funds whose activity or balances are not large enough to warrant separate reporting) is combined and presented in total in a single column. The Township's major governmental funds are the General Fund, Gasoline Tax Fund, Fire District, and EMS/Fire District Fund. The programs reported in governmental funds are closely related to those reported in the governmental activities section of the entity-wide statements.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
UNAUDITED
(Continued)**

The Township as a Whole

Table 1 provides a summary of the Township's net assets for 2005 compared to 2004 on a modified cash basis:

(Table 1)
Net Assets

	Governmental Activities	
	2005	2004
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$338,305	\$312,256
Total Assets	\$338,305	\$312,256
 Net Assets		
Restricted for:		
Other Purposes	238,594	182,712
Unrestricted	99,711	129,544
Total Net Assets	\$338,305	\$312,256

As mentioned previously, net assets of governmental activities increased \$26,049 or 8 percent during 2005. The primary reason contributing to the increases in cash balances is because the Township received Fire District and EMS/Fire District revenues in 2005 and did not make any significant expenditures.

Table 2 reflects the changes in net assets on a modified cash basis in 2005. Since the Township did not prepare financial statements in this format for 2004, a comparative analysis of government-wide data has not been presented. In future years, when prior year information is available, a comparative analysis will be presented.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
UNAUDITED
(Continued)**

(Table 2)
Changes in Net Assets

	Governmental Activities <u>2005</u>
Receipts:	
Program Receipts:	
Charges for Services and Sales	\$10,233
Operating Grants and Contributions	<u>108,765</u>
Total Program Receipts	<u>118,998</u>
General Receipts:	
Property and Other Local Taxes Levied For:	
Property Taxes	72,333
Grants and Entitlements Not Restricted to Specific Programs	23,457
Interest	3,499
Miscellaneous	<u>954</u>
Total General Receipts	<u>100,243</u>
Total Receipts	<u>219,241</u>
Disbursements:	
General Government	42,838
Public Safety	16,504
Public Works	102,424
Health	5,480
Human Services	5,224
Capital Outlay	<u>20,722</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>193,192</u>
Increase in Net Assets	26,049
Net Assets, January 1, 2005	<u>312,256</u>
Net Assets, December 31, 2005	<u>\$338,305</u>

Program receipts represent only 52 percent of total receipts and are primarily comprised of restricted intergovernmental receipts such as motor vehicle license and gas tax money.

General receipts represent 48 percent of the Township's total receipts, and of this amount, over 76 percent are local taxes. State grants and entitlements make up the balance of the Township's general receipts (19 percent). Other receipts are very insignificant and somewhat unpredictable revenue sources.

Disbursements for General Government represent the overhead costs of running the Township and the support services provided for the other Government activities. These include the costs of the Board of Trustees and Fiscal Officer as well as internal services such as payroll and purchasing.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
UNAUDITED
(Continued)**

Public Safety is the costs of fire protection services; Public Works is the cost of maintaining the roads. Health is the cemetery services and Capital Outlay is the costs of capital expenditures such as road improvements.

Governmental Activities

If you look at the Statement of Activities, you will see that the first column lists the major services provided by the Township. The next column identifies the costs of providing these services. The major program disbursements for governmental activities are for general government and public works which account for 22 and 53 percent, of all governmental disbursements, respectively. The next two columns of the Statement entitled Program Receipts identify amounts paid by people who are directly charged for the service and grants received by the Township that must be used to provide a specific service. The net Receipt (Disbursement) column compares the program receipts to the cost of the service. This "net cost" amount represents the cost of the service which ends up being paid from money provided by local taxpayers. These net costs are paid from the general receipts which are presented at the bottom of the Statement. A comparison between the total cost of services and the net cost is presented in Table 3.

(Table 3)

Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services 2005	Net Cost of Services 2005
General Government	\$42,838	\$42,838
Public Safety	16,504	9,723
Public Works	102,424	(2,828)
Health	5,480	(1,485)
Human Services	5,224	5,224
Capital Outlay	20,722	20,722
Total Expenses	<u>\$193,192</u>	<u>\$74,194</u>

The dependence upon property and other tax receipts is apparent as over 40 percent of governmental activities are supported through these general receipts.

The Township's Funds

Total governmental funds had receipts and other financing sources of \$219,241 and disbursements of \$193,192. The greatest change within governmental funds occurred within the General Fund. The fund balance of the General Fund decreased \$29,833.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The Township's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund.

There was no change in the final budgeted receipts to original budgeted receipts. The difference between the final budgeted receipts and actual receipts was considered significant. The actual receipts were more than final budgeted receipts due to unexpected inheritance tax receipts received in 2005.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
UNAUDITED
(Continued)**

The Township appropriates all its estimated receipts and available fund balances. Final disbursements and other financing uses were budgeted at \$171,289 while actual disbursements and other financing uses were \$82,704. The difference is primarily due to a conservative "worse case scenario" approach. The Township over appropriates in case significant, unexpected expenditures arise during the fiscal year. The Township limited spending as demonstrated. The result is the decrease in fund balance of \$29,833 for 2005.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

The Township does not record capital assets in the accompanying basic financial statements, but records payments for capital assets as disbursements.

Debt

At December 31, 2005, the Township had no outstanding debt.

Current Issues

The challenge for all Townships is to provide quality services to the public while staying within the restrictions imposed by limited, and in some cases shrinking funding. We rely heavily on local taxes and have very little industry to support the tax base. We put levies on for the property tax revenue for current expense in the General Fund to help maintain for Township purposes.

Contacting the Township's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and creditors with a general overview of the Township's finances and to reflect the Township's accountability for the monies it receives. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or requests for additional information should be directed to Julie Dinger, Benton Township Fiscal Officer, 3708 SR 500, Payne, Ohio 45880-9319.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING TOWNSHIP**

*Statement of Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis
December 31, 2005*

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$338,305</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$338,305</u></u>
Net Assets	
Restricted for:	
Other Purposes	238,594
Unrestricted	<u>99,711</u>
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<u><u>\$338,305</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING TOWNSHIP**

*Statement of Activities - Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2005*

	Program Cash Receipts		Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Assets	
Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	
Governmental Activities				
General Government	\$42,838		(\$42,838)	
Public Safety	16,504	\$3,268	(9,723)	
Public Works	102,424		2,828	
Health	5,480	6,965	1,485	
Human Services	5,224		(5,224)	
Capital Outlay	20,722		(20,722)	
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	<u>\$193,192</u>	<u>\$10,233</u>	<u>\$108,765</u>	<u>(74,194)</u>
 General Receipts				
Property Taxes			72,333	
Grants and Entitlements			23,457	
Earnings on Investments			3,499	
Miscellaneous			954	
<i>Total General Receipts</i>			100,243	
Change in Net Assets			26,049	
<i>Net Assets Beginning of Year</i>			312,256	
<i>Net Assets End of Year</i>			\$338,305	

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING TOWNSHIP**

*Statement of Modified Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2005*

	General	Gasoline Tax	Fire District	EMS/Fire District	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets						
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$99,711	\$84,978	\$36,463	\$49,150	\$68,003	\$338,305
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$99,711</u>	<u>\$84,978</u>	<u>\$36,463</u>	<u>\$49,150</u>	<u>\$68,003</u>	<u>\$338,305</u>
Fund Balances						
Reserved:						
Reserved for Encumbrances			\$2,000	\$13,000		\$15,000
Unreserved:						
Undesignated, Reported in:						
General Fund	\$99,711					99,711
Special Revenue Funds		\$84,978	\$34,463	\$36,150	\$68,003	223,594
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$99,711</u>	<u>\$84,978</u>	<u>\$36,463</u>	<u>\$49,150</u>	<u>\$68,003</u>	<u>\$338,305</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING TOWNSHIP**

*Statement of Modified Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2005*

	General	Gasoline Tax	Fire District	EMS/Fire District	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts						
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$26,190		\$14,554	\$19,720	\$11,869	\$72,333
Charges for Services				3,268		3,268
Licenses, Permits and Fees	75				5,550	5,625
Intergovernmental	23,420	\$77,233	379	3,154	19,826	124,012
Earnings on Investments	2,674	778			47	3,499
Miscellaneous	402	8,210			1,782	10,394
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>52,761</u>	<u>86,221</u>	<u>14,933</u>	<u>26,142</u>	<u>39,074</u>	<u>219,131</u>
Disbursements						
Current:						
General Government	42,838					42,838
Public Safety	15,526		419	559		16,504
Public Works		82,038			20,386	102,424
Health					5,480	5,480
Human Services	5,224					5,224
Capital Outlay	19,116				1,606	20,722
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>82,704</u>	<u>82,038</u>	<u>419</u>	<u>559</u>	<u>27,472</u>	<u>193,192</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(29,943)</u>	<u>4,183</u>	<u>14,514</u>	<u>25,583</u>	<u>11,602</u>	<u>25,939</u>
Other Financing Sources						
Other Financing Sources	110					110
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	(29,833)	4,183	14,514	25,583	11,602	26,049
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year</i>	<u>129,544</u>	<u>80,795</u>	<u>21,949</u>	<u>23,567</u>	<u>56,401</u>	<u>312,256</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$99,711</u>	<u>\$84,978</u>	<u>\$36,463</u>	<u>\$49,150</u>	<u>\$68,003</u>	<u>\$338,305</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING TOWNSHIP**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual -Budget Basis
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2005*

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$25,374	\$25,374	\$26,190	\$816
Licenses, Permits and Fees			75	75
Intergovernmental	14,793	14,793	23,420	8,627
Earnings on Investments	1,578	1,578	2,674	1,096
Miscellaneous			402	402
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>41,745</u>	<u>41,745</u>	<u>52,761</u>	<u>11,016</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	112,839	112,839	42,838	70,001
Public Safety	20,200	20,200	15,526	4,674
Health	250	250		250
Human Services	8,000	8,000	5,224	2,776
Capital Outlay	20,000	20,000	19,116	884
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>161,289</u>	<u>161,289</u>	<u>82,704</u>	<u>78,585</u>
<i>Excess of Disbursements Over Receipts</i>	<u>(119,544)</u>	<u>(119,544)</u>	<u>(29,943)</u>	<u>89,601</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers Out	(10,000)	(10,000)		10,000
Other Financing Sources			110	110
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>10,110</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	<u>(129,544)</u>	<u>(129,544)</u>	<u>(29,833)</u>	<u>99,711</u>
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	<u>\$129,544</u>	<u>\$129,544</u>	<u>129,544</u>	
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>			<u>\$99,711</u>	<u>\$99,711</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING TOWNSHIP**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual -Budget Basis
Gasoline Tax Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2005*

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Receipts				
Intergovernmental	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$77,233	\$2,233
Earnings on Investments	430	430	778	348
Other			8,210	8,210
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>75,430</u>	<u>75,430</u>	<u>86,221</u>	<u>10,791</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
Public Works	148,000	148,000	82,038	65,962
Capital Outlay	8,225	8,225		8,225
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>156,225</u>	<u>156,225</u>	<u>82,038</u>	<u>74,187</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts over (under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(80,795)</u>	<u>(80,795)</u>	<u>4,183</u>	<u>84,978</u>
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	<u>\$80,795</u>	<u>\$80,795</u>	<u>80,795</u>	
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>			<u><u>\$84,978</u></u>	<u><u>\$84,978</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING TOWNSHIP**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual -Budget Basis
Fire District Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2005*

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$13,402	\$13,402	\$14,554	\$1,152
Intergovernmental	2,589	2,589	379	(2,210)
<i>Total Receipts</i>	15,991	15,991	14,933	(1,058)
Disbursements				
Current:				
Public Safety	10,000	10,000	2,419	7,581
Capital Outlay	27,940	27,940		27,940
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	37,940	37,940	2,419	35,521
<i>Excess of Receipts over (under) Disbursements</i>	(21,949)	(21,949)	12,514	34,463
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	\$21,949	\$21,949	21,949	
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	\$34,463	\$34,463	\$34,463	\$34,463

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING TOWNSHIP**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual -Budget Basis
EMS/Fire District Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2005*

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>			Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$19,367	\$19,367	\$19,720	\$353
Charges for Services	3,268	3,268	3,268	
Intergovernmental	1,102	1,102	3,154	2,052
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>23,737</u>	<u>23,737</u>	<u>26,142</u>	<u>2,405</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
Public Safety	44,036	44,036	13,559	30,477
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(20,299)</u>	<u>(20,299)</u>	<u>12,583</u>	<u>32,882</u>
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	<u>\$23,567</u>	<u>\$23,567</u>	<u>23,567</u>	
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>			<u><u>\$36,150</u></u>	<u><u>\$32,882</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

NOTE 1 – REPORTING ENTITY

Benton Township, Paulding County, Ohio (the Township), is a body politic and corporate 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 also has an elected Township Fiscal Officer.

The reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that were included to ensure that the financial statements are misleading.

A. Primary Government

The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the Township. The Township provides general government services, maintenance of Township roads and bridges, fire protection and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Village of Payne for fire protection and emergency medical services.

B. Component Units

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Township is financially accountable. The Township is financially accountable for an organization if the Township appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the Township is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Township is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the Township is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide support to, the organization; or the Township is obligated for the debt of the organization. The Township is also financially accountable for any organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Township in that the Township approves their budget, the issuance of their debt or the levying of their taxes. Component units also include legally separate, tax-exempt entities whose resources are for the direct benefit of the Township, are accessible to the Township and are significant in amount to the Township.

Based on this criteria, the Township has no component units.

C. Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in one public entity risk pool, the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). Note 7 to the financial statements provide additional information for this entity.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in Note 2.C, these financial statements are presented on a modified cash basis of accounting. This modified cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the modified cash basis of accounting. In the government-wide financial statements, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board (APB) opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, have been applied, to the extent they are applicable to the modified cash basis of accounting, unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements, in which case GASB prevails. Following are the more significant of the Township's accounting policies.

A. Basis of Presentation

The Township's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net assets, a statement of activities, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities display information about the Township as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions.

The statement of net assets presents the cash balances of the governmental activities of the Township at year end. The statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each of the Township's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the Township is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services, grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a modified cash basis or draws from the Township's general receipts.

Fund Financial Statements

During the year, the Township segregates transactions related to certain Township functions or activities in separate funds to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the Township at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

B. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds are used to segregate resources that are restricted as to use. The funds of the Township are categorized as governmental.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

Governmental Funds

The Township classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants), and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The Township's major governmental funds are as follows:

1. General Fund

The General Fund is used to account for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

2. Gasoline Tax Fund

The Gasoline Tax Fund receives state fuel excise taxes to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

3. Fire District Fund

The Fire District Fund receives property tax monies for its fire projection contract with the Village of Payne.

4. EMS/Fire District Fund

The EMS/Fire District Fund receives property tax monies for its emergency medical services contract with the Village of Payne.

The other governmental funds of the Township account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

C. Basis of Accounting

The Township's financial statements are prepared using the modified cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the Township's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of this modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued liabilities and the related expenses) are not recorded in these financial statements.

D. Budgetary Process

All funds are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the certificate of estimated resources and the appropriations ordinance, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the Township may appropriate.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

The appropriations ordinance is the Township's authorization to spend resources and sets limits on disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Township. The legal level of control has been established at the fund, function, and object level for all funds.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in receipts are identified by the Township Fiscal Officer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificated of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the Township.

The appropriations ordinance is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation ordinance for that fund that covered the entire year. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Township during the year.

E. Cash and Investments

Township records identify the purchase of specific investments by specific funds. To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Individual fund integrity is maintained through Township records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents".

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 sales are recorded as receipts or negative receipts, respectively.

Interest earnings are allocated to the Township funds according to State Statutes, grant requirements, or debt related restrictions. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during 2005 was \$2,674 which included \$183 assigned from other Township funds.

F. Inventory and Prepaid Items

The Township reports disbursements for inventories and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

G. Capital Assets

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

H. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The Township recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 8 and 9, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

I. Net Assets

Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net assets restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for road and bridge construction, maintenance and repair and fire protection. The Township's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an obligation is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

J. Fund Balance Reserves

The Township reserves any portion of fund balances which is not available for appropriation or which is legally segregated for a specific future use. Unreserved fund balance indicates that portion of fund balance which is available for appropriation in future periods. Fund balance reserves have been established for encumbrances.

NOTE 3 – CHANGE IN BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Last year the Township reported fund financial statements by fund type using the regulatory basis of accounting as prescribed by the State Auditor's Office. This year the Township has implemented the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 2. The fund financial statements now present each major fund in a separate column with nonmajor funds aggregated and presented in a single column, rather than a column for each fund type. There are no adjustments to beginning fund balances since the basis of accounting has not changed.

NOTE 4 – BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budgetary Basis presented for the general fund, gasoline tax fund, fire district fund, and EMS/fire district fund are prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The differences between the budgetary basis and the *modified* cash basis are outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as a reservation of fund balance (*modified* cash basis). The encumbrances outstanding at year end (budgetary basis) amounted to \$2,000 for the Fire District Fund and \$13,000 for the EMS/Fire District Fund.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 5 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Monies held by the Township are classified by State statute into three categories.

Active monies are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the Township treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the Township treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Trustees have identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Interim monies held by the Township can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio or Ohio local governments;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 5 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS – (CONTINUED)

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Township, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions.

Deposits

The Township has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by eligible securities pledged to and deposited either with the Township or a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution whose market value at all times shall be at least one hundred five percent of the deposits being secured. Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township; or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real property, public utility property, and tangible personal property located in the Township. Real property tax receipts received in 2005 represent the collection of 2004 taxes. Real property taxes received in 2005 were levied after October 1, 2004, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2004, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax receipts received in 2005 represent the collection of 2004 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in 2004 became a lien on December 31, 2004, were levied after October 1, 2004, and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property is currently assessed at varying percentages of true value.

Tangible personal property tax receipts received in 2005 (other than public utility property) represent the collection of 2005 taxes. Tangible personal property taxes received in 2005 were levied after October 1, 2004, on the true value as of December 31, 2004. Tangible personal property is currently assessed at 25 percent of true value for capital assets and 23 percent for inventory. Amounts paid by multi-county taxpayers are due September 20. Single county taxpayers may pay annually or semiannually. If paid annually, the first payment is due April 30; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due April 30, with the remainder payable by September 20.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY TAXES – (CONTINUED)

The full tax rate for all Township operations for the year ended December 31, 2005, was \$56 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The assessed values of real property, public utility property, and tangible personal property upon which 2005 property tax receipts were based are as follows:

Real Property	
Residential	7,880,610
Agricultural	3,927,920
Commercial/Industrial/Mineral	251,570
Tangible Personal Property	
Business	314,160
Public Utility	2,017,560
Total Assessed Value	<u>14,391,820</u>

NOTE 7 – RISK MANAGEMENT

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 townships 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 claim 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 \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Townships can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$12,000,000 with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA.

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

Property Coverage

Through 2004, OTARMA retained property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsured losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500 million per occurrence.

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable value. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2005 was \$1,682,589.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 7 – RISK MANAGEMENT – (CONTINUED)

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.

Settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

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, 2005 and 2004, (the latest information available).

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Assets	\$30,485,638	\$28,132,620
Liabilities	<u>(12,344,576)</u>	<u>(11,086,379)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$18,141,062</u>	<u>\$17,046,241</u>
<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Assets	\$9,177,796	\$7,588,343
Liabilities	<u>(1,406,031)</u>	<u>(543,176)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,771,765</u>	<u>\$7,045,167</u>

At December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively, casualty coverage liabilities noted above include approximately \$11.6 million and \$10.3 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$11.6 million and \$10.3 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 member townships in the future, as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$12,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Township terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with OTARMA the expected rates OTARMA charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to OTARMA for each year of membership.

Township Contributions to OTARMA

2004	\$5,848
2005	\$5,844

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 7 – RISK MANAGEMENT – (CONTINUED)

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA. They must provide written notice to OTARMA 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim was incurred or reported prior to the withdrawal.

The Township pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs. The System administers and pays all claims.

The Township provides health insurance to its full-time employees through a private carrier.

NOTE 8 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Township participates in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The traditional plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20 percent per year). Under the member directed plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of the member and vested employer contributions plus any investment earnings.

The combined plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and a defined contribution plan. Under the combined plan, employer contributions are invested by the retirement system to provide a formula retirement benefit similar to the traditional plan benefit. Member contributions, whose investment is self-directed by the member, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the member directed plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Members of the member directed plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that may be obtained by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215-4642 or by calling (614) 222-6705 or (800) 222-7377.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, the members of all three plans were required to contribute 8.5 percent of their annual covered salaries. The Township's contribution rate for pension benefits for 2005 was 13.55 percent. The Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions.

The Township's required contributions for pension obligations to the traditional and combined plans for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003, were \$6,656, \$6,422, and \$6,574 respectively. The full amount has been contributed for 2005, 2004, and 2003.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Continued)**

NOTE 9 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) provides postretirement health care coverage to age and service retirees with ten or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit with either the traditional or combined plans. Health care coverage for disability recipients and primary survivor recipients is available. Members of the member-directed plan do not qualify for postretirement health care coverage. The health care coverage provided by the retirement system is considered an Other Postemployment Benefit as described in *GASB Statement No. 12*. A portion of each employer's contribution to the traditional or combined plans is set aside for the funding of postretirement health care based on authority granted by State statute. The 2005 local government employer contribution rate was 13.55 percent of covered payroll; 4.00 percent of covered payroll was the portion that was used to fund health care.

Benefits are advance-funded using the entry age normal actuarial cost method. Significant actuarial assumptions, based on OPERS's latest actuarial review performed as of December 31, 2004, include a rate of return on investments of 8.00 percent, an annual increase in active employee total payroll of 4.00 percent compounded annually (assuming no change in the number of active employees) and an additional increase in total payroll of between .50 percent and 6.3 percent based on additional annual pay increases. Health care premiums were assumed to increase between 1.00 and 6.00 percent annually for the next eight years and 4.00 percent annually after eight years.

All investments are carried at market. For actuarial valuation purposes, a smoothed market approach is used. Assets are adjusted to reflect 25 percent of unrealized market appreciation or depreciation on investment assets annually.

The number of active contributing participants in the traditional and combined plans was 376,109. Actual employer contributions for 2005 which were used to fund postemployment benefits were \$1,664. The actual contribution and the actuarially required contribution amounts are the same. OPERS's net assets available for payment of benefits at December 31, 2004, (the latest information available) were \$10.8 billion. The actuarially accrued liability and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability were \$29.5 billion and \$18.7 billion, respectively.

On September 9, 2004, the OPERS Retirement Board adopted a Health Care Preservation Plan (HCPP) with an effective date of January 1, 2007. The HCPP restructures OPERS' health care coverage to improve the financial solvency of the fund in response to increasing health care costs. Member and employer contribution rates increased as of January 1, 2006, which will allow additional funds to be allocated to the health care plan.

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

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

Benton Township
Paulding County
3708 SR 500
Payne, Ohio 45880-9319

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Benton Township, Paulding County (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 3, 2007, wherein, we noted that the Township revised its financial statement presentation comparable to the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*. 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*.

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 to express our opinions 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.

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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated July 3, 2007, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

July 3, 2007

BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2005

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2004-001	Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D) – Prior Certification.	Yes	



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

BENTON TOWNSHIP

PAULDING 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
AUGUST 2, 2007**