



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Symmestown Township
Lawrence County
4104 County Rd 210
Waterloo, Ohio 45688

To the 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 an 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 adverse 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.

Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

November 2, 2007

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Symmes Township
Lawrence County
4104 County Rd 210
Waterloo, Ohio 45688

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Symmes Township, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

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

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e., major) funds separately. 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 GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require townships to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. 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.

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In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005 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, 2006 and 2005, or its 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 and reserves for encumbrances of Symmes Township, Lawrence County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

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 November 2, 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.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

November 2, 2007

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$6,867	\$2,081	\$8,948
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	21		21
Intergovernmental	15,827	91,341	107,168
Earnings on Investments	106	261	367
Miscellaneous		34,219	34,219
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	<hr/> 22,821	<hr/> 127,902	<hr/> 150,723
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	20,435		20,435
Public Safety	2,759		2,759
Public Works		66,185	66,185
Capital Outlay		64,994	64,994
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal		8,901	8,901
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges		533	533
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	<hr/> 23,194	<hr/> 140,614	<hr/> 163,808
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<hr/> (373)	<hr/> (12,712)	<hr/> (13,085)
Other Financing Receipts:			
Sale of Notes		30,000	30,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Other Financing Receipts	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 30,000	<hr/> 30,000
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements	(373)	17,288	16,915
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	29,596	120,271	149,867
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<hr/> \$29,223	<hr/> \$137,559	<hr/> \$166,782
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<hr/> \$81	<hr/> \$107	<hr/> \$188

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

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE 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>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$7,370	\$1,783	\$9,153
Intergovernmental	14,975	80,553	95,528
Earnings on Investments	175	383	558
Miscellaneous	349	1	350
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	22,869	82,720	105,589
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	24,499		24,499
Public Safety	1,200		1,200
Public Works		77,622	77,622
Health	754		754
Capital Outlay		419	419
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal		8,398	8,398
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges		1,036	1,036
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	26,453	87,475	113,928
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(3,584)	(4,755)	(8,339)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	33,180	125,026	158,206
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$29,596	\$120,271	\$149,867
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$81	\$107	\$188
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

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 Symmes Township, Lawrence 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 Aid Township Fire Department to provide fire services.

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

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. 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 had no investments during the audit period.

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 private-purpose trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

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

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2006 and 2005 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.

2. Equity in Pooled Cash

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

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Demand deposits	\$149,867	\$166,782

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit 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.

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2006 and 2005 follows:

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$22,877	\$22,821	(\$56)
Special Revenue	142,315	157,902	15,587
Total	\$165,192	\$180,723	\$15,531

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$0	\$23,275	(\$23,275)
Special Revenue	0	140,721	(140,721)
Total	\$0	\$163,996	(\$163,996)

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$21,031	\$22,869	\$1,838
Special Revenue	71,185	82,720	11,535
Total	\$92,216	\$105,589	\$13,373

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$0	\$26,534	(\$26,534)
Special Revenue	0	87,582	(87,582)
Total	\$0	\$114,116	(\$114,116)

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in all funds in total for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, due to the failure to adopt appropriations.

4. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax 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.

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(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, 2006 was as follows:

General Obligation Notes	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
	\$30,312	4.78%

The Township issued general obligation notes to finance the purchase of a tractor for Township maintenance. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the notes.

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

Year ending December 31:	General Obligation Notes
2007	\$6,818
2008	6,818
2009	6,818
2010	6,818
2011	6,818
Total	\$34,088

6. Retirement System

The Township's elected officials and 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 2006 and 2005, OPERS members contributed 9% and 8.5%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 13.7% and 13.55%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2006.

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

7. Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

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

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006 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. For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage 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 (for claims prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (for claims on or after January 1, 2006) as noted above.

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 values. 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 2006 was \$1,901,127.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

7. Risk Management (Continued)

Property and casualty 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, 2006 and 2005:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$32,031,312	\$30,485,638
Liabilities	(11,443,952)	(12,344,576)
Retained earnings	<u>\$20,587,360</u>	<u>\$18,141,062</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$10,010,963	\$9,177,796
Liabilities	(676,709)	(1,406,031)
Retained earnings	<u>\$9,334,254</u>	<u>\$7,771,765</u>

At December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively, casualty coverage liabilities noted above include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 958 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, 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 \$6,000. 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.

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

7. Risk Management (Continued)

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
2004	\$2,604
2005	\$2,953
2006	\$2,844

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA provided they give 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 budgetary 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 occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.

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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*

Symmest Township
Lawrence County
4104 County Road 210
Waterloo, Ohio 45688

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Symmest Township, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated November 2, 2007 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*.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider significant deficiencies.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Township's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

We consider the following deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting: 2006-001 through 2006-003.

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A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. However, of the significant deficiencies described above, we believe findings number 2006-001 through 2006-003 are also material weaknesses.

We noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated November 2, 2007.

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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2006-001 through 2006-003.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated November 2, 2007.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

November 2, 2007

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2006-001

Noncompliance Citation / Material Weakness

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38(A) requires that on or about the first day of each fiscal year, an appropriation measure is to be passed. If the taxing authority wants to postpone the passage of the annual appropriation measure until an amended certificate is received from the County Budget Commission based upon the actual year end balances, it may pass a temporary appropriation measure for meeting the ordinary expenses until no later than April 1.

The Township did not pass an appropriation measure for 2006 and 2005. Failure to approve the permanent appropriation measure in a timely manner could result in overspending due to lack of monitoring.

We recommend the Board of Trustees adopt an appropriation measure on or about the first day of each fiscal year.

FINDING NUMBER 2006-002

Noncompliance Citation / Material Weakness

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits a subdivision or taxing unit from expending money unless it has been appropriated.

In 2006 and 2005, there were no approved appropriations on file, thus all expenditures from all funds exceeded appropriations. This could result in overspending if not monitored.

We recommend the Board of Trustees adopt appropriations and file them with the County Auditor and monitor financial activity to ensure their expenditures do not exceed the amount appropriated.

FINDING NUMBER 2006-003

Noncompliance Citation / Material Weakness

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections Sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)
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FINDING NUMBER 2006-003 (Continued)

Noncompliance Citation / Material Weakness - Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)

1. “Then and Now” certificate – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made (“then”), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification (“now”), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from the receipt of the “then and now” certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the “then and now” certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.

2. Blanket Certificate – Fiscal officers may prepare so-called “blanket” certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.

3. Super Blanket Certificate – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation account.

We could not verify that any of the purchase orders were issued before the invoice because the Fiscal Officer stated she dated the purchase orders as of the first of the month even though she might not have prepared the purchase order on the first of the month. Therefore, all checks and purchase orders were dated on the first with invoices being received throughout the month.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute, but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township’s funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend the Fiscal Officer certify that funds are or will be available prior to an obligation being incurred by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, a “then & now” certification should be used.

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

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

<p>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)</p>

FINDING NUMBER 2006-003 (Continued)

Noncompliance Citation / Material Weakness - Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)

We further recommend the Fiscal Officer properly update her system and ensure the purchase order date is properly entered to ensure funds are encumbered prior to the Township obligating funds.

Officials' Response

We did not receive a response from Officials to the findings reported above.

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 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	Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) – Failure to encumber funds.	No	Not corrected. Reissued as Finding Number 2006-003



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

SYMMES TOWNSHIP

LAWRENCE COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
NOVEMBER 29, 2007**