



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State



**STERLING JOINT AMUBLANCE DISTRICT  
MADISON COUNTY**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Cover Letter .....	1
Independent Accountants' Report.....	3
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balance - For the Years Ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 .....	5
Notes to the Financial Statements .....	7
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> .....	13

**This page intentionally left blank.**



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

Sterling Joint Ambulance District  
Madison County  
P.O. Box 51  
Mount Sterling, Ohio 43123

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 District 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

April 4, 2008

**This page intentionally left blank.**



# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Sterling Joint Ambulance District  
Madison County  
P.O. Box 51  
Mount Sterling, Ohio 43143

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of Sterling Joint Ambulance District, Madison County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. This financial statement is the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

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

As described more fully in Note 1, the District has prepared this financial statement 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 statement of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the District's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the District 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 Districts to reformat their statements. The District 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.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statement referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 does not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance of Sterling Joint Ambulance District, Madison County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The District 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 April 4, 2008, on our consideration of the District'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.

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

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

April 4, 2008



**STERLING JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
MADISON COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN CASH BALANCE  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>		
Local Taxes	\$ 331,510	\$ 296,246
Intergovernmental	35,999	45,777
License, Permits, and Fees	-	9,746
Charges for Services	239,130	244,496
Earnings on Investments	2,552	2,180
Miscellaneous	895	43,329
Total Cash Receipts	610,086	641,774
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>		
Current:		
Security of Persons and Property	332,655	326,860
General Government	165,015	159,832
Debt:		
Redemption of Principal	8,731	8,287
Interest	3,045	3,488
Capital Outlay	17,884	123,907
Total Cash Disbursements	527,330	622,374
Total Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	82,756	19,400
<b>Other Financing Receipts:</b>		
Sale of Assets	10,600	-
Other Financing Sources	-	4,789
Total Other Financing Receipts	10,600	4,789
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	93,356	24,189
Cash Balance, January 1	449,734	425,545
<b>Cash Balance, December 31</b>	<b>\$ 543,090</b>	<b>\$ 449,734</b>

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

**This page intentionally left blank.**

**STERLING JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
MADIAON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

**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 Sterling Joint Ambulance District, Madison County, Ohio (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A Eight-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Stokes Township, Village of South Solon, Range Township, Village of Midway, Pleasant Township, Village of Mount Sterling (all of which are in Madison County), Darby Township, Monroe Township (which are in Pickaway County). The District provides ambulance services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes this financial statement presents all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

**B. Accounting Basis**

This financial statement follows the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District 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).

This statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

**C. Cash and Investments**

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

The District values certificates of deposit at cost.

**D. Budgetary Process**

**1. Appropriations**

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the legal level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

**2. Estimated Resources**

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

**STERLING JOINT AMBLANCE DISTRICT  
MADISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**D. Budgetary Process (Continued)**

**3. Encumbrances**

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year

A summary of 2007 and 2006 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**E. Property, Plant, and Equipment**

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statement does not report these items as assets.

**F. Accumulated Leave**

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

**2. Cash and Investments**

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

	2007	2006
Demand deposits	\$498,090	\$404,734
Certificates of deposit	45,000	45,000
Total deposits	543,090	449,734

**Deposits:** Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the District.

**3. Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 follows:

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$620,687	\$620,686	(\$1)

**STERLING JOINT AMBLANCE DISTRICT  
MADISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**3. Budgetary Activity (Continued)**

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$719,500	\$527,330	\$192,170

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$646,563	\$646,563	\$0

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$719,500	\$622,374	\$97,126

**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.

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 District.

**5. Debt**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2007 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Commerical Loan	\$51,196	5.25%

The District took out a commercial loan in July 2002, in the amount of \$89,604 for the purchase of a new ambulance

**STERLING JOINT AMBLANCE DISTRICT  
MADISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**5. Debt (Continued)**

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

Year ending December 31:	Commerical Loan
2008	\$11,776
2009	11,776
2010	11,776
2011	11,776
2012	11,776
Total	<u>\$58,880</u>

**6. Retirement Systems**

The District's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plans benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007 and 2006, OPERS members contributed 9.5 and 9%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 13.85 and 13.7%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

**7. Risk Management**

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

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

The District belongs to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. PEP provides property and casualty coverage for its members. PEP is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund PEP. PEP 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 PEP retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. PEP 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. 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 PEP.

**STERLING JOINT AMBLANCE DISTRICT  
MADISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**7. Risk Management (Continued)**

If losses exhaust PEP'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 (prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (on or subsequent to January 1, 2006) as noted above.

Property Coverage

Beginning in 2005, APEEP established a risk-sharing property program. Under the program, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. This amount was increased to \$300,000 in 2007. For 2007, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$300,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. For 2006, 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 in 2006, or \$100,000 and \$300,000 in 2007, Travelers will then reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2007 was \$2,014,548.

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

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

Financial Position

PEP'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, 2007 and 2006.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$37,560,071	\$36,123,194
Liabilities	<u>(17,340,825)</u>	<u>(16,738,904)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$20,219,246</u>	<u>\$19,384,290</u>

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$15.9 million and \$15.0 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$15.0 million and \$14.4 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 443 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The District's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$11,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the District terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

**STERLING JOINT AMBLANCE DISTRICT  
MADISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**7. Risk Management (Continued)**

Based on discussions with PEP, the expected rates PEP 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 PEP for each year of membership.

<b><u>Contributions to PEP</u></b>	
2005	\$9,219
2006	\$8,877
2007	\$8,838

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined PEP provided they provide written notice to PEP 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.

**8. Contingent Liabilities**

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.





# 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*

Sterling Joint Ambulance District  
Madison County  
P.O. Box 51  
Madison, Ohio 43143

To the District Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statement of the Sterling Joint Ambulance District, Madison County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated April 4, 2008, wherein we noted the District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

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 District'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 District's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

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

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

We noted certain matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated April 4, 2008.

### Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District'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*.

We did note certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated April 4, 2008

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

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

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

April 4, 2008



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

**STERLING JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

**MADISON 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 7, 2008**