



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

Western Joint Ambulance District
Hamilton County
7998 Main Street
Miamitown, Ohio 45041

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.

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

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

October 29, 2008

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Western Joint Ambulance District
Hamilton County
7998 Main Street
Miamitown, Ohio 45041

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Western Joint Ambulance District, Hamilton County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District'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. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The accompanying financial statements present disbursements by totals only. Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-02(A) requires governments to classify disbursements transactions. Also, Ohio law requires the fiscal officer of a government to certify the availability of funds prior to incurring an obligation. The accompanying financial statements do not include encumbrances, because the fiscal officer did not certify any of the obligations for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes for 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 regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

GAAP requires presenting entity wide statements and expanded note disclosure. 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 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 District as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also in our opinion, except for the omission of disbursement classifications and encumbrances, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balance of the Western Joint Ambulance District, Hamilton County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and its cash receipts and unclassified 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 reported dated October 29, 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.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

October 29, 2008

**WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

	2006	2005
Cash Receipts:		
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$449,980	\$437,246
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	481	475
Intergovernmental	30,831	42,724
Charges for Services	52,937	52,938
Earnings on Investments	114	102
Miscellaenous	4,303	5,118
Total Cash Receipts	538,646	538,603
Cash Disbursements:		
Unclassified Cash Disbursements	529,732	500,000
Total Cash Disbursements	529,732	500,000
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	8,914	38,603
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	91,546	52,943
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$100,460	\$91,546

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

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**WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HAMILTON 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 Western Joint Ambulance District, Hamilton County, Ohio (the District), as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are the Village of Cleves, Crosby Township, Whitewater Township, Harrison Township, and the City of Harrison. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District 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 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).

The District did not classify its disbursements in the accompanying financial statements. This is a material departure from the requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-02-02(A). The Ohio Administrative Code Section requires classifying receipts and disbursements.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Cash and Deposits

The District maintains all funds in an interest bearing checking account and a savings account.

D. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and deposits that are restricted as to use. The District has a General Fund which accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

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

**WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. The District did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

A summary of 2006 and 2005 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

G. Accumulated Leave

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

2. Equity in Pooled Cash and Deposits

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

	2006	2005
Demand deposits	\$100,460	\$91,546

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation up to \$100,000.

At December 31, 2006, \$5,236 of deposits were not insured or collateralized, contrary to Ohio law.

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	\$540,000	\$538,646	(\$1,354)

**WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

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

3. Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$631,418	\$529,732	\$101,686

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$540,000	\$538,603	(\$1,397)

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$601,620	\$500,000	\$101,620

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 Township.

5. Retirement Systems

The District's full-time paramedic captain and part-time emergency medical technicians belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

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 District contributed an amount equaling 13.7 and 13.55%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2006.

**WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

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

6. Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

7. Compliance

Contrary to Section 117-2-02(A), (C) & (D) of the Ohio Administrative Code, the District did not properly maintain a receipt and expenditure ledger. The District also did not integrate the budgetary accounts into the financial accounting system.



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*

Western Joint Ambulance District
Hamilton County
7998 Main Street
Miamitown, Ohio 45041

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Western Joint Ambulance District, Hamilton County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated October 29, 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, and which was qualified since the District did not classify disbursements in its financial statements and did not include encumbrances. 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.

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 internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider a significant deficiency.

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.

We consider the following deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting: 2006-002.

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 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, we believe the significant deficiency described above is also a material weakness.

We also noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated October 29, 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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2006-001 and 2006-002.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated October 29, 2008.

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

October 29, 2008

**WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HAMILTON 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

Ohio Rev. Code, § 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 clerk is attached thereto. The clerk 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 encumbrances. Further, contracts and orders for expenditures lacking prior certification shall be null and void.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a clerk'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, blank certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in Sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. "Then and Now" Certificate – If the clerk can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the clerk 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 District can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The District 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 clerk without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. The does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the District.

2. Blanket Certificate – Clerks may prepare "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 District may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the clerk for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and 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.

The District did not properly certify the availability of funds for purchase commitments for 100% of expenditures tested in 2006 and 2005, and none of the exceptions above applied. The District did not have procedures in place to ensure compliance with this section of law. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending of funds and negative cash fund balances.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-001
(Continued)**

Unless the District uses the exceptions noted above, prior certification is not only required by statute but also 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 District funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Clerk certify that funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the District. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the District officials and employees obtain the Clerk's certification of the availability of funds prior to a commitment being incurred. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Clerk should sign the certification at the time the District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Clerk should also post approved purchase orders to the proper appropriation code to reduce the available appropriation.

Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from Officials regarding this finding.

FINDING NUMBER 2006-002

Noncompliance Citation/Material Weakness

Ohio Admin. Code, Section §117-2-02(A), states that all local public offices shall maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets, document compliance with finance-related legal and contractual requirements and prepare financial statements required by rule 117-2-03 of the Administrative Code.

Ohio Admin. Code, Section §117-2-02(C)(1), further specifies that all public offices should integrate the budgetary accounts at the legal level of control or lower, into the financial accounting system.

Ohio Admin. Code, Section §117-2-02(D), explains that accounting records that can help achieve these objectives include:

1. Cash journal, which typically includes the amount, date, receipt number, check number, account code, purchase order number, and any other information necessary to properly classify the transactions.
2. Receipts ledger, which typically assembles and classifies receipts into separate accounts for each type of receipt of each fund. Also, the receipts ledger should integrate ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts.
3. Appropriations ledger, which assembles and classifies disbursements into separate accounts for, at a minimum, each account listed in the appropriation resolution. Also, the appropriations ledger should provide ongoing and timely information on remaining uncommitted balances of appropriations.

The District maintained a receipts ledger, but the ledger did not summarize receipts by type and did not integrate budgeted receipts. Also, the District did not maintain an expenditure ledger to properly classify and summarize disbursements by account and to integrate uncommitted balances of appropriations. Monthly reports presented to the Board of Trustees did not accurately reflect actual expenditures reported in the checkbook. The District did not have procedures in place to ensure compliance with this section of law.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-002
(Continued)**

To help ensure that all District monies are properly accounted for and reported for external financial reporting purposes, and also to help ensure that information on budgetary receipts and appropriations is readily available, we recommend that the District maintain all required records and that such records integrate the budgetary accounts. Further, reports presented to the Board of Trustees should properly report expenditures and agree to the underlying ledgers and records.

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WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HAMILTON 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	The District did not certify purchase commitments as required by ORC 5705.41(D); purchase orders were not utilized.	No	Not corrected. Reissued as Finding 2006-001.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

WESTERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT

HAMILTON 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 13, 2008**