



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Cover Letter	1
Independent Accountants' Report.....	3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2007	5
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2006.....	6
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>	15

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
PO Box 95
Berlin Center, Ohio 44401

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

December 15, 2008

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
PO Box 95
Berlin Center, Ohio 44401

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Berlin Township, Mahoning County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. 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.

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, 2007 and 2006 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, 2007 and 2006, 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 Berlin Township, Mahoning County, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, 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 December 15, 2008, 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

December 15, 2008

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	Governmental Fund Types				Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	
Cash Receipts:					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$100,733	\$101,322	\$26,753		\$228,808
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	10,829				10,829
Intergovernmental	37,891	135,390			173,281
Earnings on Investments	17,389	6,286		\$943	24,618
Miscellaneous	1,920	22,187		2,000	26,107
Total Cash Receipts	168,762	265,185	26,753	2,943	463,643
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	116,060				116,060
Public Safety		61,325			61,325
Public Works	1,105	82,129			83,234
Health	6,605	2,321		536	9,462
Human Services		14,055			14,055
Other		370			370
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal		9,167	41,848		51,015
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges			4,934		4,934
Total Cash Disbursements	123,770	169,367	46,782	536	340,455
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	44,992	95,818	(20,029)	2,407	123,188
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):					
Transfers-In			8,917		8,917
Transfers-Out		(8,917)			(8,917)
Advances-In		8,917	8,917		17,834
Advances-Out		(8,917)	(8,917)		(17,834)
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	0	(8,917)	8,917	0	0
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	44,992	86,901	(11,112)	2,407	123,188
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	201,901	323,455	155,573	16,514	697,443
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$246,893	\$410,356	\$144,461	\$18,921	\$820,631
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$48	\$1,290	\$0	\$0	\$1,338

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

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING 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>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Permanent</u>	
Cash Receipts:					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$98,209	\$96,971	\$26,753		\$221,933
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	17,429				17,429
Intergovernmental	22,686	226,388			249,074
Earnings on Investments	16,540	4,105		\$808	21,453
Miscellaneous	1,889	23,612			25,501
Total Cash Receipts	<u>156,753</u>	<u>351,076</u>	<u>26,753</u>	<u>808</u>	<u>535,390</u>
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	127,030				127,030
Public Safety		185,844			185,844
Public Works	652	77,120			77,772
Health	8,003	4,464		430	12,897
Human Services		13,818			13,818
Capital Outlay	29,692				29,692
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal		9,166	35,973		45,139
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges			1,892		1,892
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>165,377</u>	<u>290,412</u>	<u>37,865</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>494,084</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(8,624)</u>	<u>60,664</u>	<u>(11,112)</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>41,306</u>
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):					
Advances-In		6,688	6,688		13,376
Advances-Out		(6,688)	(6,688)		(13,376)
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(8,624)	60,664	(11,112)	378	41,306
Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated See Note 2)	210,525	262,791	166,685	16,136	656,137
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$201,901</u>	<u>\$323,455</u>	<u>\$155,573</u>	<u>\$16,514</u>	<u>\$697,443</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$1,763</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,813</u>

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

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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 Berlin Township, Mahoning 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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical 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'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 Township values certificates of deposit.

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 Funds:

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

Fire District Fund - This fund receives property tax to pay for fire protection services and equipment.

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

3. Debt Service Funds

These funds account for resources the Township accumulates to pay bond and note debt. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

Bond Retirement Fund – This fund receives property tax money restricted to satisfying the obligations of a note the Township issued to purchase fire equipment, and to repay interest free loans from the Ohio Public Works Commission for issued II Projects.

4. Permanent Funds

These funds account for assets held under a trust agreement that are legally restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, are available to support the Township's programs. The Township had the following significant permanent fund:

Cemetery Endowment Fund – This fund receives interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement. These earnings are used for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

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.

A summary of 2007 and 2006 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

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. PRIOR PERIOD RESTATEMENT

A number was transposed on the prior year audit report. This had an effect on reconciling prior year fund balance to the 2006 beginning fund balance.

	Special Revenue Fund
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2005 (Before Adjustment)	\$ 262,730
Adjustment made by Township	61
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2006 (After Adjustment)	\$ 262,791

3. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Demand deposits	\$570,631	\$523,404
Certificates of deposit	250,000	174,039
Total deposits	<u>\$820,631</u>	<u>\$697,443</u>

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

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

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$168,762	\$168,762	\$0
Special Revenue	224,348	265,185	40,837
Debt Service	35,670	35,670	0
Permanent	2,818	2,943	125
Total	<u>\$431,598</u>	<u>\$472,560</u>	<u>\$40,962</u>

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$288,033	\$123,818	\$164,215
Special Revenue	520,998	179,574	341,424
Debt Service	46,782	46,782	0
Permanent	2,763	536	2,227
Total	<u>\$858,576</u>	<u>\$350,710</u>	<u>\$507,866</u>

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$146,150	\$156,753	\$10,603
Special Revenue	333,261	351,076	17,815
Debt Service	26,753	26,753	0
Permanent	502	808	306
Total	<u>\$506,666</u>	<u>\$535,390</u>	<u>\$28,724</u>

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$272,777	\$165,427	\$107,350
Special Revenue	552,398	292,175	260,223
Debt Service	37,865	37,865	0
Permanent	2,763	430	2,333
Total	<u>\$865,803</u>	<u>\$495,897</u>	<u>\$369,906</u>

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

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

5. 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.

6. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2007 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Weaver Road Safety Upgrae_OWPC	\$218,879	0%
Shenandoah rive Resurfacing - OPWC	\$37,863	0%
Fire Tanker Truck	60,506	4.25
Total	\$317,248	

The Township acquired a loan to purchase a fire tanker truck. The Ohio Public Works Commission Loans are interest free loans issue to finance Issue II road projects.

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

	Fire Tanker	Shenandoah Drive OPWC	Weaver Road OWPC
Year ending December 31:			
2008	\$26,743	\$3,442	\$16,837
2009	26,753	3,442	16,837
2010	9,581	3,422	16,837
2011		3,422	16,837
2012 – 2020		24,135	151,531
Total	\$63,077	\$37,863	\$218,879

7. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. 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 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, 2007.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

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

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

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. 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 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).

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. This amount 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. 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 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 OTARMA'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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

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

8. RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)

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, 2007 and 2006:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$43,210,703	\$42,042,275
Liabilities	<u>(13,357,837)</u>	<u>(12,120,661)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$29,852,866</u>	<u>\$29,921,614</u>

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, liabilities above include approximately \$12.5 million and \$11.3 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$11.6 million and \$10.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 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 Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$8,383. 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.

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
2005	\$0
2006	\$16,067
2007	\$11,946

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA provided they 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 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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
MAHONING COUNTY**

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

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Township contracted with Jim Brown & Son Inc. for grave excavation and trash removal services in 2007 and 2006 in the amounts of \$6,229 and \$2,630 respectively. While Sandie Brown, a Township Trustee, is the spouse of this contractor, the related projects were appropriately put out for bid and Ms. Brown abstained from the voting process.



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*

Berlin Township
Mahoning County
PO Box 95
Berlin Center, Ohio 44401

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Berlin Township, Mahoning County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated December 15, 2008, 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.

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.

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 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.

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*.

We did note certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated December 15, 2008.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management and Township 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

December 15, 2008



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

BERLIN TOWNSHIP

MAHONING 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
JANUARY 6, 2009**