



**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008-2007



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

East Holmes Fire and EMS District
Holmes County
P.O. Box 428
Berlin, Ohio 44610

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

September 21, 2009

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

East Holmes Fire and EMS District
Holmes County
P.O. Box 428
Berlin, Ohio 44610

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of East Holmes Fire and EMS District, Holmes County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. 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. The District 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 District 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 audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District 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 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 statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 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, 2008 and 2007, 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 fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of 2008 and 2007, Holmes County, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

During 2007, the District changed its financial statement presentation method to conform to presentation methods the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

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 September 21, 2009, 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

September 21, 2009

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

Cash Receipts:	
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$422,436
Charges for Services	30,239
License, Permits, and Fees	65
Intergovernmental	35,302
Earnings on Investments	38,484
Miscellaneous	14,078
	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	540,604
Cash Disbursements:	
Current Disbursements:	
Security of Persons and Property:	
General Government	87,560
Public Works	170,868
Capital Outlay	772,403
	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	1,030,831
Total Cash Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements	<hr/> (490,227)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<hr/> 1,110,457
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<hr/> \$620,230 <hr/>

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

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

Cash Receipts:	
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$433,602
Charges for Services	30,188
License, Permits, and Fees	95
Intergovernmental	29,246
Earnings on Investments	47,691
Miscellaneous	9,023
	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	549,845
 Cash Disbursements:	
Current Disbursements:	
Security of Persons and Property:	
General Government	94,889
Public Works	192,112
Capital Outlay	65,229
	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	352,230
 Total Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	 197,615
 Fund Cash Balances, January 1	 912,842
	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	1,110,457
	<hr/> <hr/>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$30,844
	<hr/> <hr/>

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

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

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 East Holmes Fire and EMS District, Holmes County, Ohio, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District. One board member is appointed by each of the four political subdivision within the District. The fifth board member is a member at-large whose appointment is made by an individual subdivision within the district on a two-year rotational basis. Those subdivisions are Berlin Township, Walnut Creek Township, Clark Township, and Salt Creek Township. The District provides fire protection, and EMS (Emergency Medical Assistance) 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).

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

C. Deposits 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.

D. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund, for which there are none.

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(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 District 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 2008 and 2007 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.

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits and Investments

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

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Demand deposits	\$320,230	\$985,540
Certificates of deposit	300,000	124,917
Total deposits and investments	<u>\$620,230</u>	<u>\$1,110,457</u>

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

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 follows:

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$500,900	\$540,604	\$39,704

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,572,344	\$1,030,831	\$541,513

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$487,350	\$549,845	\$62,495

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,268,725	\$383,074	\$885,651

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.

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.

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

5. Retirement Systems

A. Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The District utilizes part-time fire fighters and paramedics along with Officers and Board Members 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.

For 2008 and 2007, OPERS members contributed 10%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 14%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2008.

B. Social Security System

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not otherwise covered by the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System have an option to choose Social Security of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. As of December 31, 2008, several employees of the District have elected Social Security. The District's liability is 6.2 percent of wages paid.

6. 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.

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.

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

6. Risk Management (Continued)

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 (the latest information available):

	<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 \$21,238. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Government terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

**EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

6. 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.

<u>Contributions to PEP</u>	
2006	\$19,206
2007	18,950
2008	18,468

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.



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*

East Holmes Fire and EMS District
Holmes County
P.O. Box 428
Berlin, Ohio 44610

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the East Holmes Fire and EMS District, Holmes County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated September 21, 2009, wherein we noted the District changed its financial statement presentation to follow accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted the District 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 District 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 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 September 21, 2009.

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*.

However, we did note a certain noncompliance or other matter that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated September 21, 2009.

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

September 21, 2009



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

EAST HOLMES FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT
HOLMES 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
OCTOBER 13, 2009