



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Hopewell Township
Mercer County
3419 Fetters Road
Rockford, Ohio 45882

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Hopewell Township, Mercer County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 1999 and December 31, 1998. 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 generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances and of the Township as of December 31, 1999 and December 31, 1998, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 18, 2000 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 grants.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees, Clerk, and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

April 18, 2000

Hopewell Township

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$10,713	\$19,698	\$30,411
Intergovernmental	26,460	67,878	94,338
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	180	0	180
Earnings on Investments	746	565	1,311
Other Revenue	587	0	587
	<u>38,686</u>	<u>88,141</u>	<u>126,827</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	34,763	0	34,763
Public Safety	29	15,804	15,833
Public Works	1,379	90,631	92,010
Health	5,811	0	5,811
	<u>41,982</u>	<u>106,435</u>	<u>148,417</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(3,296)</u>	<u>(18,294)</u>	<u>(21,590)</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):			
Other Sources	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(3,296)	(18,094)	(21,390)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 1999	<u>34,638</u>	<u>59,222</u>	<u>93,860</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 1999	<u>\$31,342</u>	<u>\$41,128</u>	<u>\$72,470</u>

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

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
 CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
 ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$10,602	\$19,486	\$0	\$30,088
Intergovernmental	41,043	68,519	29,640	139,202
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	285	0	0	285
Earnings on Investments	501	736	0	1,237
Other Revenue	1,382	0	0	1,382
	<u>53,813</u>	<u>88,741</u>	<u>29,640</u>	<u>172,194</u>
Total Cash Receipts				
	<u>53,813</u>	<u>88,741</u>	<u>29,640</u>	<u>172,194</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	34,072	0	0	34,072
Public Safety	17	15,242	0	15,259
Public Works	0	56,014	0	56,014
Health	6,605	360	0	6,965
Capital Outlay	0	0	29,640	29,640
	<u>40,694</u>	<u>71,616</u>	<u>29,640</u>	<u>141,950</u>
Total Cash Disbursements				
	<u>40,694</u>	<u>71,616</u>	<u>29,640</u>	<u>141,950</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	13,119	17,125	0	30,244
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 1998	<u>21,519</u>	<u>42,097</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>63,616</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 1998	<u><u>\$34,638</u></u>	<u><u>\$59,222</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$93,860</u></u>

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Hopewell Township, Mercer County, (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township provides general governmental services, including road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance.

The Township contracts with the Village of Rockford and the City of Celina to provide fire services and contracts with Mercer County Emergency Ambulance for ambulance services.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized 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 prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

The Township's NOW account is valued at cost.

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 is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund - This fund receives auto registration fees for the maintenance and construction of Township roads.

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998
(Continued)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

3. Capital Project Funds

These funds are used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant capital project fund:

Issue II Fund (1998 only) - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio for the 1998 Road Program.

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures 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.

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

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

A summary of 1999 and 1998 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Demand deposits	\$72,470	\$93,860

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998
(Continued)

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 1999 and December 31, 1998 follows:

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$36,980	\$38,686	\$1,706
Special Revenue	80,770	88,341	7,571
Total	\$117,750	\$127,027	\$9,277

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$71,617	\$41,982	\$29,635
Special Revenue	139,992	106,435	33,557
Total	\$211,609	\$148,417	\$63,192

1998 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$28,466	\$53,813	\$25,347
Special Revenue	89,993	88,741	(1,252)
Capital Projects	0	29,640	29,640
Total	\$118,459	\$172,194	\$53,735

1998 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$49,985	\$40,694	\$9,291
Special Revenue	132,090	71,616	60,474
Capital Projects	0	29,640	(29,640)
Total	\$182,075	\$141,950	\$40,125

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998
(Continued)

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, 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 Township's officials belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including post-retirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 1999 and 1998, members of PERS contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 1999.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Commercial property coverage
- Commercial general liability coverage
- Errors and omissions
- Commercial auto coverage
- Commercial inland marine coverage

The Township also provides an accidental death, disability, dismemberment injury, intensive care, and cancer insurance coverage to elected officials through a private carrier.



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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Hopewell Township
Mercer County
3419 Fetters Road
Rockford, Ohio 45882

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Hopewell Township, Mercer County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 1999 and December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated April 18, 2000. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated April 18, 2000.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated April 18, 2000.

Hopewell Township
Mercer County
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
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This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees, Clerk, and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

April 18, 2000



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

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HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

MERCER 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
MAY 16, 2000**