



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Union Township
Brown County
PO Box 29
Ripley, Ohio 45167

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Union Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001. 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 *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 of the Township as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, 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 June 26, 2003 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. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

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

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

June 26, 2003

**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$18,989	\$8,496	\$27,485
Intergovernmental	31,808	68,613	100,421
Interest	1,253	2,049	3,302
Other Revenue	359		359
Total Cash Receipts	52,409	79,158	131,567
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	52,229		52,229
Public Safety	14,000	8,249	22,249
Public Works	1,157	75,108	76,265
Health	11,050		11,050
Capital Outlay		26,707	26,707
Total Cash Disbursements	78,436	110,064	188,500
Total Receipts Under Disbursements	(26,027)	(30,906)	(56,933)
Other Financing Receipts:			
Other Sources	382		382
Total Other Financing Receipts	382	0	382
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Under Cash Disbursements	(25,645)	(30,906)	(56,551)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	65,259	95,081	160,340
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$39,614	\$64,175	\$103,789

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

**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$20,049	\$9,749	\$29,798
Intergovernmental	103,677	74,280	177,957
Interest	687	635	1,322
Other Revenue	90		90
	<u>124,503</u>	<u>84,664</u>	<u>209,167</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	59,562		59,562
Public Safety	12,500	9,768	22,268
Public Works	13,640	33,467	47,107
Health	11,350		11,350
Capital Outlay	176		176
	<u>97,228</u>	<u>43,235</u>	<u>140,463</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	<u>27,275</u>	<u>41,429</u>	<u>68,704</u>
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Other Sources	1,898	478	2,376
Other Uses		(1,993)	(1,993)
	<u>1,898</u>	<u>(1,515)</u>	<u>383</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)			
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	29,173	39,914	69,087
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>36,086</u>	<u>55,167</u>	<u>91,253</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$65,259</u>	<u>\$95,081</u>	<u>\$160,340</u>

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

**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Union Township, Brown County, Ohio (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. An elected Township Clerk is responsible for fiscal control of the resources of the Township. The Township provides road maintenance, cemetery maintenance and fire protection services. The Township contracts with the Village of Ripley to provide fire 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 Deposits

Township funds are deposited in an interest bearing checking account with a local commercial bank. The Township pools its cash to capture the highest rate of return. Interest earnings are distributed to Township funds based upon the Ohio Revised Code. In addition, the Township has one Certificate of Deposit at the same commercial bank.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash deposits 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:

Gasoline Tax Fund

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

**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Motor Vehicle License Fund

This fund receives motor vehicle tax money for construction, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Fire Levy Fund

This fund receives property tax money for the provision of fire protection.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) 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 Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2002 and 2001 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 DEPOSITS

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

**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH DEPOSITS (Continued)

	2002	2001
Demand deposits	\$33,789	\$160,340
Certificates of deposit	70,000	0
Total deposits	103,789	160,340

Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, or (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2002 and 2001 follows:

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$50,269	\$52,791	\$2,522
Special Revenue	79,570	79,158	(412)
Total	\$129,839	\$131,949	\$2,110

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$115,499	\$78,436	\$37,063
Special Revenue	174,608	110,064	64,544
Total	\$290,107	\$188,500	\$101,607

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$115,932	\$126,401	\$10,469
Special Revenue	49,944	85,142	35,198
Total	\$165,876	\$211,543	\$45,667

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$153,265	\$97,228	\$56,037
Special Revenue	103,874	45,228	58,646
Total	\$257,139	\$142,456	\$114,683

The Township had expenditures exceeding appropriations in the Miscellaneous Special Revenue (Federal Emergency Management Agency) fund by \$1,993 for fiscal year 2001, contrary to Ohio law.

**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by the 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.

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.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Township's officials and employees belong to the 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.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2001 and 2002. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2002.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Inland Marine.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Union Township
Brown County
P.O. Box 29
Ripley, Ohio 45167

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Union Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated June 26, 2003. 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 *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 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which are described in accompanying schedule of findings as item 2002-001 and 2002-002. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated June 26, 2003.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the 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 certain matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that does not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated June 26, 2003.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, and the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

June 26, 2003

**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2002-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41 (D), requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. This certificate need be signed only by the subdivision's fiscal officer. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon. This Section also provides for two exceptions to the above requirement:

- A. Then-and-Now Certificates - If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was, both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Township may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within 30 days from the receipt of such certificate.

- B. If the amount involved is less than \$1,000, the fiscal officer may authorize payment through a Then-and-Now Certificate without affirmation of the Board of Trustees, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

Where a continuing contract is to be performed in whole or in part in an ensuing fiscal year, only the amount required to meet those amounts in the fiscal year in which the contract is made need be certified.

Contrary to the above requirement, the availability of funds was not certified for all commitments for 45% of the items tested for fiscal year 2002 and 2001. Failure to certify the availability of funds and encumber appropriations can result in overspending funds and negative cash balances. Therefore, we recommend the Township obtain approved purchase orders, which contain the Clerk's certification that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated and authorized, prior to making a commitment.

FINDING NUMBER 2002-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41(B), states that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated. Expenditures exceeded appropriations in the following fund for 2001:

FUND	APPROPRIATIONS	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	VARIANCE
Federal Emergency Management Agency Fund		\$1,993	(\$1,993)

The Clerk should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations. The Clerk may request the Trustees to approve increased expenditure levels by increasing appropriations and amending estimated resources, if necessary.

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**UNION TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain:</i>
2000-40408-001	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B), Township's expenditures exceeded appropriations.	No	Not corrected. See finding 2002-002.
2000-40408-002	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5575.01, contracts over fifteen thousand dollars should be bid out.	Yes	
2000-40408-003	Finding for Recovery: Township received \$477.62 from an improper distribution by the County. All money was paid back during the prior year audit.	Yes	



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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UNION TOWNSHIP

BROWN 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
JULY 29, 2003**