



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Accountants' Report.....	1
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances – All Governmental and Fiduciary Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2003	3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances – All Governmental and Fiduciary Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2002	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	11
Schedule of Findings.....	13
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.....	15

This page intentionally left blank.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Lanier Township
Preble County
603 Enterprise Road
West Alexandria, Ohio 45381

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Lanier Township, Preble County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. 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, 2003 and 2002, 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 September 14, 2004, 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 management, the Board of Trustees, 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.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 14, 2004

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Fund</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$26,739	\$170,683		\$197,422
Intergovernmental	21,450	97,358		118,808
Charges for Services		32,182		32,182
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		11,083		11,083
Earnings on Investments	6,973	2,324	\$148	9,445
Total Cash Receipts	<u>55,162</u>	<u>313,630</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>368,940</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	127,456	87,240		214,696
Public Works	742	223,155		223,897
Health	7,694	66,383		74,077
Supplies and Materials			417	417
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>135,892</u>	<u>376,778</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>513,087</u>
Total Receipts (Under) Disbursements	<u>(80,730)</u>	<u>(63,148)</u>	<u>(269)</u>	<u>(144,147)</u>
Other Financing Receipts:				
Other Sources	76	3,900		3,976
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>76</u>	<u>3,900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,976</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(80,654)</u>	<u>(59,248)</u>	<u>(269)</u>	<u>(140,171)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>265,742</u>	<u>490,247</u>	<u>4,460</u>	<u>760,449</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$185,088</u></u>	<u><u>\$430,999</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,191</u></u>	<u><u>\$620,278</u></u>

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

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$24,320	\$162,640		\$186,960
Intergovernmental	177,359	84,775		262,134
Charges for Services		38,781		38,781
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		20,789		20,789
Earnings on Investments	10,221	3,407	\$148	13,776
Total Cash Receipts	<u>211,900</u>	<u>310,392</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>522,440</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	81,600	83,860		165,460
Public Works	688	125,436		126,124
Health	7,693	51,164		58,857
Supplies and Materials			538	538
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>89,981</u>	<u>260,460</u>	<u>538</u>	<u>350,979</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>121,919</u>	<u>49,932</u>	<u>(390)</u>	<u>171,461</u>
Other Financing Receipts:				
Other Sources	750	9,550		10,300
Total Other Financing Receipts	<u>750</u>	<u>9,550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,300</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>122,669</u>	<u>59,482</u>	<u>(390)</u>	<u>181,761</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>143,073</u>	<u>430,765</u>	<u>4,850</u>	<u>578,688</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$265,742</u></u>	<u><u>\$490,247</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,460</u></u>	<u><u>\$760,449</u></u>

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

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Lanier Township, Preble 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. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of West Alexandria to provide fire services and emergency medical 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 Deposits

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and 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:

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.

Cemetery Fund - This fund receives property tax money to pay for maintaining Township cemeteries. This fund also receives fees for burial services and sale of lots.

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Fiduciary Funds (Non-Expendable Trust Fund)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

Cemetery Bequest Fund - This fund is used to account for three cemetery bequests given to the Township. The bequests are maintained in certificates of deposit.

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

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

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. The Township does not use the encumbrance method of accounting; however, a review was performed to determine the amount of encumbrances at year-end which were not encumbered. As of December 31, 2003, and 2002, there were no material unreserved encumbrances outstanding.

A summary of 2003 and 2002 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.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND DEPOSITS

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

	2003	2002
Demand deposits	\$466,528	\$606,699
Certificates of deposit	153,750	153,750
Total deposits	\$620,278	\$760,449

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2003, and 2002 follows:

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$45,000	\$55,238	\$10,238
Special Revenue	266,000	317,530	51,530
Fiduciary	0	148	148
Total	\$311,000	\$372,916	\$61,916

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$310,741	\$135,892	\$174,849
Special Revenue	756,247	376,778	379,469
Fiduciary	4,460	417	4,043
Total	\$1,071,448	\$513,087	\$558,361

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$43,000	\$212,650	\$169,650
Special Revenue	265,000	319,942	54,942
Fiduciary	200	148	(52)
Total	\$308,200	\$532,740	\$224,540

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$186,073	\$89,981	\$96,092
Special Revenue	695,765	260,460	435,305
Fiduciary	5,050	538	4,512
Total	\$886,888	\$350,979	\$535,909

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(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.

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 SYSTEMS

The Township's 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. For 2003 and 2002, PERS members 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, 2003.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

The Government belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. 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

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss 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 \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000 from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$1,250,000 for 2002. There is no aggregate for 2003 and future accident years. Beginning in 2003, OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding operating contributions.

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 township.

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 2003 and 2002:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$27,792,223	\$23,757,036
Liabilities	(11,791,300)	(9,197,512)
Retained earnings	<u>\$16,000,923</u>	<u>\$14,559,524</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$6,791,060	\$6,596,996
Liabilities	(750,956)	(1,204,326)
Retained earnings	<u>\$6,040,104</u>	<u>\$5,392,670</u>

This page intentionally left blank.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Lanier Township
Preble County
603 Enterprise Road
West Alexandria, Ohio 45381

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Lanier Township, Preble County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated September 14, 2004. 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 an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2003-001.

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. However, we noted a certain matter involving internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Township's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2003-001.

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. Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe the reportable condition described above is not a material weakness.

We also 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 September 14, 2004.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of 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

September 14, 2004

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
--

FINDING NUMBER 2003-001

Noncompliance and Reportable Condition (Certification of Funds)

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 requirements:

- 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 Trustees 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 (\$3,000 as of April 7, 2003), the Clerk may authorize payment through a Then and Now Certificate without affirmation of the Trustees, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

The Township did not certify the availability of funds and neither of the two exceptions listed above were used.

Failure to certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances. Effort should be made by the Township to utilize the encumbrance method of accounting by certifying the availability funds on properly approved purchase orders. We recommend the Township obtain approved purchase orders, which contain the Clerk's certification indicated by a signature that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated and authorized, prior to making a commitment.

This page intentionally left blank.

**LANIER TOWNSHIP
PREBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain:</i>
2001-40368-001	Revised Code 5705.41(D), failure to properly certify funds	No	Not corrected - reissued as Finding Number 2003-001



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

88 East Broad Street
P.O. Box 1140
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140

Telephone 614-466-4514
800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

LANIER TOWNSHIP

PREBLE 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 5, 2004**