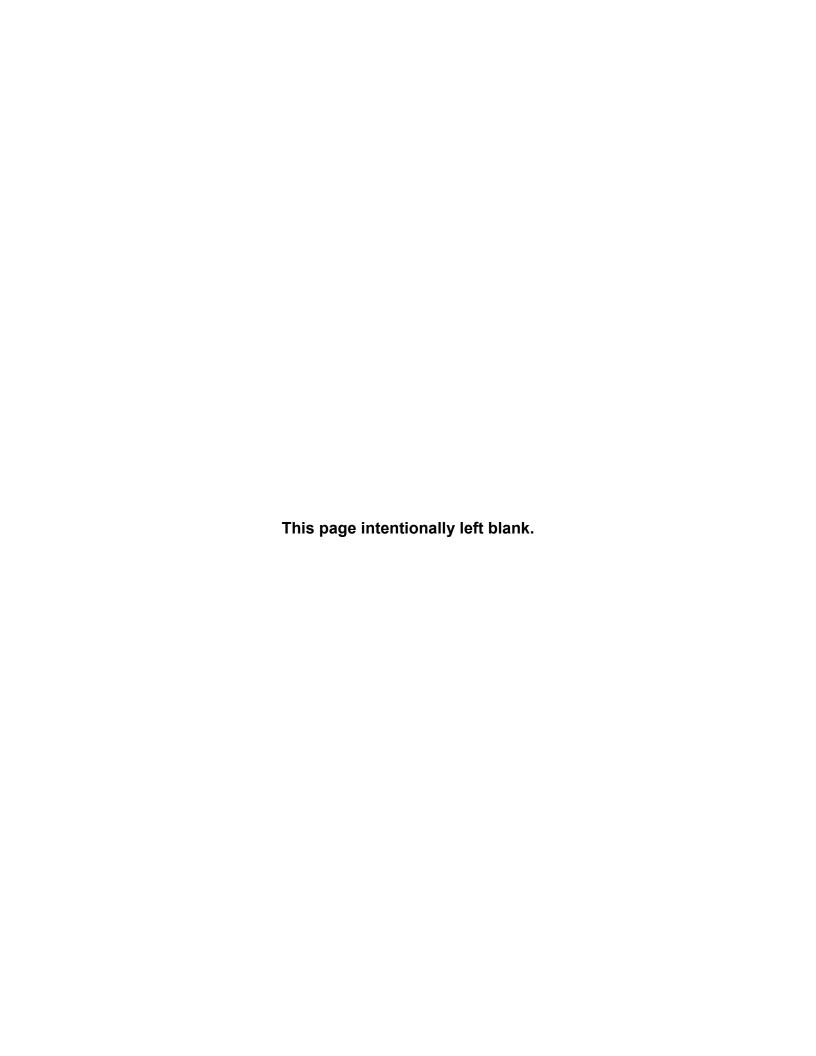




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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Marion Township Noble County 26655 St. Route 78 Summerfield. Ohio 43788

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Marion Township, Noble 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.

The Township's financial transactions were processed using 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 conduct the audit of 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 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 Marion Township, Noble County, 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 March 19, 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.

743 E. State St. / Athens Mall Suite B / Athens, OH 45701 Telephone: (740) 594-3300 (800) 441-1389 Fax: (740) 594-2110 Marion Township Noble County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Butty Montgomery

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 section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

March 19, 2004

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

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type		
	General	Special Revenue	Non- Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$13,305	\$26,706	\$	\$40,011	
Intergovernmental	8,304	86,716		95,020	
Earnings on Investments	104	95		199	
Other Revenue	1,328	7,926		9,254	
Total Cash Receipts	23,041	121,443	0	144,484	
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	19,668	o		19,668	
Public Safety	1,812	8,174		9,986	
Public Works Miscellaneous		61,189 15,931		61,189 15,931	
Debt Service:		15,951		15,951	
Redemption of Principal		24,842		24.842	
Interest and Fiscal Charges		952		952	
Total Cash Disbursements	21,480	111,088	0	132,568	
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	1,561	10,355	0	11,916	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	1,508	14,806	5,461	21,775	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$3,069	\$25,161	\$5,461	\$33,691	

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 AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Governmenal Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type		
	General	Special Revenue	Non- Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$13,407 8,185 194 268	\$27,286 61,737 113	\$ 61	\$40,693 69,922 368 268	
Total Cash Receipts	22,054	89,136	61	111,251	
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Debt Service:	19,307 1,035	1,000 7,200 54,153	400	20,707 7,200 55,188 0	
Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges Capital Outlay	2,202	27,812 2,627 498		30,014 2,627 498	
Total Cash Disbursements	22,544	93,290	400	116,234	
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(490)	(4,154)	(339)	(4,983)	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated, Note 3)	1,998	18,960	5,800	26,758	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$1,508	\$14,806	\$5,461	\$21,775	

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Marion Township, Noble 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 road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Village of Summerfield Volunteer Fire Department 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. 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 Fund:

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

3. Fiduciary Funds (Trust Funds)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township has established a Cemetery Bequest Fund to account for trust monies received by the Township, in which the interest is to be used for general maintenance of the cemetery.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. 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. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are cancelled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2003 and 2002 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

E. 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 at December 31 was as follows:

	2003	2002
Demand deposits	\$33,691	\$21,775

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

3. RESTATEMENT OF CASH FUND BALANCES

Certain adjustments have resulted in fund balance restatements for fiscal year 2002. The beginning fund balance in the Equipment Loan Fund, Capital Projects fund type, has been decreased by \$1,083 to a restated amount of \$0. Accordingly, the Gasoline Tax Fund, Special Revenue fund type, has been increased by \$1,083 to a restated amount of \$18,960. This is due to findings for adjustment issued in the prior audit that were not correctly adjusted.

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

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$20,970	\$23,041	\$2,071
Special Revenue	107,419	121,443	14,024
Total	\$128,389	\$144,484	\$16,095

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	0 3		
	Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$21,430	\$21,480	(\$50)
Special Revenue	120,078	111,088	8,990
Total	\$141,508	\$132,568	\$8,940

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$19,385	\$22,054	\$2,669
Special Revenue	82,010	89,136	7,126
Nonexpendable Trust	0	61	61
Total	\$101,395	\$111,251	\$9,856

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$22,498	\$22,544	(\$46)
99,855	93,290	6,565
1,280	400	880
\$123,633	\$116,234	\$7,399
	Authority \$22,498 99,855 1,280	Authority Expenditures \$22,498 \$22,544 99,855 93,290 1,280 400

Contrary to Ohio law, the Township had expenditures exceeding appropriations in the Gasoline Tax Fund and Fire District Fund, Special Revenue Fund types, for the year ended December 31, 2003 and in the Road and Bridge Fund and Fire District Fund, Special Revenue Fund type, for the year ended December 31, 2002.

Contrary to Ohio law, expenditures were made in January 2002 without the benefit of legal appropriations adopted by the Board of Trustees.

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

4. **BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

Contrary to Ohio law, the Township posted restricted monies to the incorrect funds during 2003 and 2002.

Contrary to Ohio law, during 2003 and 2002, the Township did not consistently obtain the Clerk's prior certification before incurring obligations.

5. 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.

6. DEBT

The Township retired notes during the audit period that were issued for the purchase of a tractor. The Township also retired its obligation for the Texas Eastern Tax Refund payable.

7. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Township's elected 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. 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.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability
- Vehicles
- Errors and Omissions

The Township also provides health insurance, dental, and vision coverage to its officials.



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

Marion Township Noble County 26655 St. Route 78 Summerfield. Ohio 43788

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Marion Township, Noble County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated March 19, 2004, wherein we noted that the Township's financial transactions were processed using 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 conduct the audit, of 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 *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 the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2003-001 through 2003-004. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated March 19, 2004.

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 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 March 19, 2004.

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Noble County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

This report is intended 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.

Betty Montgomery

Butty Montgomery

Auditor of State

March 19, 2004

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 Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.10 requires all revenue derived from a specific source to be credited to a special fund for the purpose for which the monies were received. Numerous receipts were posted in incorrect funds and improper expenditures were made from restricted funds. As a result, we proposed several adjustments to the Township management.

Adjustments were recorded by the Clerk on March 26, 2004 to reduce the General Fund and Gasoline Tax Fund balances in the amount of \$2,847 and \$1,835, respectively and to increase the Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund and Road and Bridge Fund balances in the amount of \$855 and \$3,827, respectively. The accompanying financial statements present these adjustments in the fiscal year in which they should have been posted.

We recommend the Clerk exercise due care when posting receipts and expenditures to the Township's accounting records. Should a question arise as to the posting of a specific receipt or expenditure, the Clerk should refer to the Township manual or call the Auditor of State's office for guidance.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) states that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any expenditure of money unless the same has been properly appropriated.

The following funds were found to have expenditures which exceeded appropriations at the legal level of control within the Special Revenue Fund type:

2003 <u>2002</u>
Gasoline Tax – Other Expenses \$3,426 Fire District – Principal \$1,467

Fire District – Payment to Subdivision \$1,046 Read and Bridge – Other \$1,460

We recommend the Township Clerk modify appropriations with the Board of Township Trustees and County Budget Commission before expenditures exceed appropriations. The Township Clerk should deny any payments until the legislative authority has passed an appropriation measure.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-003

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38 states that on or about the first day of each fiscal year, an appropriation measure is to be passed. If the taxing authority wants to postpone the passage of the annual appropriation measure until an amended certificate is received from the county budget commission based upon the actual year end balances, it may pass a temporary appropriation measure for meeting the ordinary expenses until April 1.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002 (Continued)

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)

FINDING NUMBER 2003-003 (Continued)

Noncompliance Citation (Continued)

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38 (Continued)

For calendar year 2002, the Township did not approve their permanent appropriation measure until February 10, 2002. They did not pass a temporary appropriation measure to cover the period January 1 to February 10. The Township expended \$10,448 in January 2002 without having a temporary or permanent appropriation measure in place.

The Clerk should deny any payments until either a temporary or permanent appropriation measure is adopted by the legislative authority.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-004

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) (1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

- 1. "Then and Now" certificate If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The township has thirty days from receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.
- 2. Amounts of less than \$1,000 (which was increased to \$3,000 on April 7, 2003) may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002 (Continued)

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)

FINDING NUMBER 2003-004 (Continued)

Noncompliance Citation - Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) (1) (Continued)

Fiscal officers may prepare so-called "blanket" certificates not exceeding \$5,000 against any specific line item account over a period not exceeding 3 months or running beyond the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation. Effective September 26, 2003, the \$5,000 limit on the issuance of purchase orders and the requirement that purchase orders not extend beyond three months have been removed from the law. Effective September 26, 2003, purchase orders may not exceed an amount established by resolution or ordinance of the legislative authority, and cannot extend past the end of the fiscal year. In other words, blanket certificates cannot be issued unless there has been an amount approved by the legislative authority for the blanket.

Super Blanket Certificate – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to exceed beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 91% of expenditures in 2003 and 83% of expenditures tested in 2002. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Clerk certify that funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the Township certify purchases to which Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language that Section 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The fiscal officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase orders to the proper appropriation code to reduce the available appropriation.

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> :
2001-41061-001	Improper posting of receipts and disbursements	No	Not corrected; repeated as Finding 2003-001.
2001-41061-002	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (B) – expenditures exceeded appropriations	No	Not corrected; repeated as Finding 2003-002.
2001-41061-003	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (D) – fiscal officer's certificate	No	Not corrected; repeated as Finding 2003-003.
2001-41061-004	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.10 — revenues from specific source to be posted to a special fund.	No	Not corrected; repeated as Finding 2003-001.



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MARION TOWNSHIP

NOBLE 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.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED MAY 4, 2004