



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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 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 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

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Wells Township
Jefferson County
409 Prospect Avenue
Brilliant, Ohio 43913

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Wells Township, Jefferson 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 described 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 reserves for encumbrances of Wells Township, Jefferson County, Ohio, 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 August 10, 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 the Audit Committee, management, 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.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

August 10, 2004

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$136,333	\$498,394	\$634,727
Intergovernmental	129,189	387,722	516,911
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	11,990		11,990
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties	4,862		4,862
Earnings on Investments	4,428	260	4,688
Other Revenue	20,743	4,191	24,934
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	307,545	890,567	1,198,112
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	205,258	297,818	503,076
Public Safety		4,752	4,752
Public Works	27,695	551,145	578,840
Health	41,208		41,208
Conservation - Recreation	50,153	443	50,596
Capital Outlay	10,724	108,974	119,698
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	335,038	963,132	1,298,170
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(27,493)	(72,565)	(100,058)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Other Sources	2,816	1,263	4,079
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	2,816	1,263	4,079
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(24,677)	(71,302)	(95,979)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	256,884	439,578	696,462
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$232,207	\$368,276	\$600,483
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$17,986	\$52,817	\$70,803
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$134,530	\$491,291	\$625,821
Intergovernmental	134,002	386,184	520,186
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	9,554		9,554
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties	3,514		3,514
Earnings on Investments	8,518	442	8,960
Other Revenue	20,479	2,571	23,050
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	310,597	880,488	1,191,085
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	215,591	260,781	476,372
Public Safety		5,657	5,657
Public Works	33,363	464,791	498,154
Health	37,669		37,669
Conservation - Recreation	32,941		32,941
Capital Outlay	67,461	46,299	113,760
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	387,025	777,528	1,164,553
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(76,428)	102,960	26,532
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other Financing Receipts:			
Other Sources	101		101
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Other Financing Receipts	101		101
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(76,327)	102,960	26,633
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	333,211	336,618	669,829
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$256,884	\$439,578	\$696,462
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$3,194	\$94,528	\$97,722
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Wells Township, Jefferson 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, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Brilliant, Rayland, New Alexandria, and Smithfield Volunteer Fire Departments to provide fire protection 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. 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:

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

D. Budgetary Process

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

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund 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.

A summary of 2003 and 2002 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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.

F. 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.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Demand deposits	<u>\$600,483</u>	<u>\$696,462</u>

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

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending 2003 and 2002 follows:

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$277,997	\$310,361	\$32,364
Special Revenue	887,169	891,830	4,661
Total	\$1,165,166	\$1,202,191	\$37,025

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$361,455	\$353,024	\$8,431
Special Revenue	1,074,009	1,015,949	58,060
Total	\$1,435,464	\$1,368,973	\$66,491

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$270,002	\$310,698	\$40,696
Special Revenue	861,092	880,488	19,396
Total	\$1,131,094	\$1,191,186	\$60,092

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$452,607	\$390,219	\$62,388
Special Revenue	951,135	872,056	79,079
Total	\$1,403,742	\$1,262,275	\$141,467

Contrary to Ohio law, the Township did not certify or record the amount against the applicable appropriation accounts for all tested expenditures of 2002 and 2003. The Township did not utilize the certification exceptions available to them for those expenditures lacking prior simultaneous certification.

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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 SYSTEM

The Township's full-time law enforcement officers belong to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Funds (OP&F). Other full-time employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. OP&F and PERS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. These plans provide 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, OP&F participants contributed 10.1% of their wages. The Village contributed an amount equal to 16.7% of police participant wages. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their wages. The Village contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Village 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.

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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.

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 :

<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>

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

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

Wells Township
Jefferson County
409 Prospect Avenue
Brilliant, Ohio 43913

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Wells Township, Jefferson County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated August 10, 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 test disclosed an instance of noncompliance we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* 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. 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 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 August 10, 2004.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of 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

August 10, 2004

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41 (D) states that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet such a commitment 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 encumbrance. The amount so certified shall be recorded against the applicable appropriation account. This section also provides two exceptions to the above requirements:

- A. Then and Now Certificate - 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, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.
- B. If the amount involved is less than \$1,000 (\$3,000 effective April 7, 2003) the fiscal officer without such affirmation of the taxing authority upon completion of the "Then and Now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful.

The Township did not certify or record the amount against the applicable appropriation accounts for 7.8% of the tested Special Revenue expenditures in 2002 and 17.8% of the tested General Fund expenditures and 13.3% of the Special Revenue expenditures in 2003. The Township did not utilize the certification exceptions described above for those expenditures lacking prior simultaneous certification.

Failure to certify the availability of funds could result in overspending and negative cash balances. The Township should obtain approved purchase orders which include the fiscal officers certification that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated and authorized prior to making a commitment.



**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

**WELLS TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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
NOVEMEBR 4, 2004**