



**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Bethel Township
Clark County
11300 West National Road
New Carlisle, Ohio 45344

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 22, 2006

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Bethel Township
Clark County
11300 West National Road
New Carlisle, Ohio 45344

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Bethel Township, Clark County, (the Township), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure 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 processes its financial transactions with 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 audit 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 our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP would require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2004 the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements.

Since this Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2004, or its changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, 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 the Township, as of December 31, 2004, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 22, 2006, 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 grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.



Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 22, 2006

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes		\$1,120,173	\$1,120,173
Intergovernmental	126,069	378,429	504,498
Special Assessments		47,348	47,348
Charges for Services		238,271	238,271
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	55,751	3,582	59,333
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties	8,195		8,195
Earnings on Investments	28,827	4,878	33,705
Other Revenue	8,456	14,128	22,584
	<u>227,298</u>	<u>1,806,809</u>	<u>2,034,107</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	191,248		191,248
Public Safety	24,310	798,708	823,018
Public Works	23,729	492,298	516,027
Health	13,278	174,745	188,023
Conservation - Recreation	43,015	24,000	67,015
Capital Outlay	16,489	240,912	257,401
	<u>312,069</u>	<u>1,730,663</u>	<u>2,042,732</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(84,771)</u>	<u>76,146</u>	<u>(8,625)</u>
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):			
Sale of Fixed Assets	20	25,357	25,377
Transfers-In		30,000	30,000
Advances-In	54,230	54,230	108,460
Transfers-Out	(30,000)		(30,000)
Advances-Out	(54,230)	(54,230)	(108,460)
Other Uses	(4)		(4)
	<u>(29,984)</u>	<u>55,357</u>	<u>25,373</u>
Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(114,755)	131,503	16,748
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>711,822</u>	<u>872,203</u>	<u>1,584,025</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$597,067</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,003,706</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,600,773</u></u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u><u>\$125</u></u>	<u><u>\$27,458</u></u>	<u><u>\$27,583</u></u>

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

BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES - NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	<u>Non-Expendable Trust</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Interest	\$29
Cash Disbursements	<u>0</u>
Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	29
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>1,486</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$1,515</u></u>

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

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Bethel Township, Clark County, (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Clark County Sheriff to provide police protection.

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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Cash and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Money market mutual funds (including STAR Ohio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds 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.

Fire Fund - This fund receives tax monies assessed and levied on general assessed valuation of real and personal property and is utilized for the operation of the fire department.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Fund – This fund receives monies from billing for services and is utilized for the operation of EMS services.

3. Capital Project Funds

The Township had two Capital Projects Funds but neither had any activity or balances.

4. Fiduciary Funds (Trust Funds)

These funds account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements and funds for which the Township is acting in an agency capacity. The Township had the following significant Fiduciary Funds:

Funderburg Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund is used to account for funds held in trust, of which income earned is restricted for maintenance of the Funderburg Cemetery.

Leffel Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund is used to account for funds held in trust, of which income earned is restricted for maintenance of private citizens' cemetery lots and stones.

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. 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 2004 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a cash and investments pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and investments at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

Demand deposits	\$1,591,060
Investments:	
STAR Ohio	11,228
Total deposits and investments	\$1,602,288

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

Investments: Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2004 is as follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$227,287	\$227,318	\$31
Special Revenue	1,829,576	1,862,166	32,590
Fiduciary	29	29	0
Total	\$2,056,892	\$2,089,513	\$32,621

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$861,739	\$342,194	\$519,545
Special Revenue	2,649,724	1,758,121	891,603
Capital Projects	283,020	0	283,020
Fiduciary	796	0	796
Total	\$3,795,279	\$2,100,315	\$1,694,964

The Township did not routinely certify the availability of funds prior to obligation for purchases.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopt rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

All full time employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes plan benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004, OPERS members contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equaling 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees. The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member townships pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim 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 \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Townships can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$12,000,000 with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA. If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP provides *excess of funds available* coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

Property Coverage

Through 2004, OTARMA retained property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsured losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500 million per occurrence. APEEP's Guarantee Fund was responsible for losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding operating contributions.

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable value. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2005 was \$1,682,589.

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.

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

Members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA. They must provide written notice to OTARMA 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contribution, minus the subsequent year's premium. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all property and casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim was incurred or reported prior to the withdrawal.

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, 2005 and 2004

Casualty Coverage	2005	2004
Assets	\$30,485,638	\$28,132,620
Liabilities	(12,344,576)	(11,086,379)
Retained earnings	<u>\$18,141,062</u>	<u>\$17,046,241</u>

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Assets	\$9,177,796	\$7,588,343
Liabilities	<u>(1,406,031)</u>	<u>(543,176)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,771,765</u>	<u>\$7,045,167</u>

The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above include approximately \$11.6 million and \$10.3 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 member townships in the future, as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. OTARMA will collect these amounts in future annual premium billings when OTARMA's related liabilities are due for payment.

7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Township is defendant in a lawsuit. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of this suit, management believes that the resolution of this matter will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition. Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.



Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Bethel Township
Clark County
11300 West National Road
New Carlisle, Ohio 45344

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Bethel Township (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated September 22, 2006, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted the Government uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures in order to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider 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 management's assertions in the financial statements. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2004-001.

A material weakness is a reportable 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 caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the 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 material weaknesses. We consider reportable condition 2004-001 listed above to be a material weakness. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated September 22, 2006, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting which we did not deem reportable conditions.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect 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 an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2004-002. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated September 22, 2006, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the management and Board of Trustees. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.



Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 22, 2006

BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2004

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

FINDING NUMBER 2004-001

Emergency Medical Services Billings and Service Organization

The Township delegated emergency medical services (EMS) billing and collection services to a third-party administrator. The Township prepared individual EMS run forms which were submitted to the service organization, in the name of the Township, for billing and collection. Payments were received directly by the Township and posted to the general ledger. However, the Township did not perform any reconciliation or monitoring of the amounts received versus the amounts submitted to be billed and collected. Additionally, the Township did not establish procedures to determine whether the service organization had sufficient controls in place and operating effectively to reduce the risk that these services have not been completely and accurately processed in accordance with the Township's contract.

The Township should develop and implement procedures to monitor the activity of the service organization's processing of the Township's EMS accounts for reasonableness. This procedure should provide assurance over the completeness and accuracy of billing and should reduce the risk of errors or omissions by the service organization. This may be accomplished by an annual audit of the service provider processing. Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 70 as amended, prescribes standards for reporting on the processing (i.e. control design and operation) of transactions by service organizations. An unqualified Tier II "Report on Policies and Procedures Placed in Operation and Tests of Operating Effectiveness" in accordance with SAS No. 70, should provide the Township with an appropriate level of assurance that EMS billings are being processed in conformance with the contract. Such an audit has not been performed on the provider for the period. The Township should consider specifying in their next contract with the third-party administrator that an annual Tier II SAS #70 audit report be performed and conducted in accordance with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' (AICPA) standards by a firm registered and considered in "good standing" with the Accountancy Board of the respective state. The Township should be provided a copy of the SAS 70 report timely and should review the report's content. If the third-party administrator refuses to provide a Tier II SAS 70 report, we recommend that the Township only contract with a third-party administrator that will provide such a report.

FINDING NUMBER 2004-002

Ohio Rev. Code 5705.41(D) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity 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 that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. 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 the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution. Amounts of less than \$3,000 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 Township.

**FINDING NUMBER 2004-002
(Continued)**

2. **Blanket certificate:** Fiscal officers may prepare “blanket” certificates for a sum not exceeding an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the current 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.
3. **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 extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any one line item appropriation.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 7 percent of the expenditures tested and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in misappropriation of monies 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 that Township funds will exceed budgetary spending limitations, the Township’s Clerk certify, if correct, that the funds are or will be available prior to the obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, “then and now” certification should be used. We recommend the Township certify all purchases to which Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 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 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
CLARK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2004**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2003-001	The Township should obtain a Tier 2 SAS 70 audit for their emergency medical services billings organization or implement monitoring procedures	No	Not Corrected; Service Provider has a Tier I SAS 70 Completed; Comment Repeated



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

88 East Broad Street
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BETHEL TOWNSHIP

CLARK 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 19, 2006**