



**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 & 2006



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

AVR Fire District
Seneca County
221 South Main Street
P.O. Box 466
Attica, Ohio 44807-0466

To the Governing Board:

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.

Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 26, 2007

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

AVR Fire District
Seneca County
221 South Main Street
P.O. Box 466
Attica, Ohio 44807-0466

To the Governing Board:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the AVR Fire District, Seneca County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District'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. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District 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.

Instead of the funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP requires presenting entity wide statements and also to present the District's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require districts to reformat their statements. The District has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. 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 years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances of the AVR Fire District, Seneca County, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The District 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 June 26, 2007, on our consideration of the District'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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 26, 2007

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

	Governmental Fund Type
	General
Cash Receipts:	
Local Taxes	\$120,566
Intergovernmental	19,174
Charges for Services	5,640
Earnings on Investments	263
Miscellaneous	97
Total Cash Receipts	145,740
Cash Disbursements:	
Current:	
Security of Persons and Property	39,944
General Government	47,928
Other	266
Debt Service:	
Redemption of Principal	41,835
Interest	3,269
Capital Outlay	239,042
Total Disbursements	372,284
Total Receipts (Under) Disbursements	(226,544)
Other Financing Receipts:	
Proceeds from Debt	173,042
Sale of Capital Assets	4,000
Total Other Financing Receipts	177,042
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements	(49,502)
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	121,903
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$72,401

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

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$125,446		\$125,446
Intergovernmental	23,059	\$4,601	27,660
Charges for Services	8,280		8,280
Earnings on Investments	237		237
Miscellaneous	33		33
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	157,055	4,601	161,656
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property	26,086	4,601	30,687
General Government	32,500		32,500
Other	3,125		3,125
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Disbursements	61,711	\$4,601	66,312
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	95,344		95,344
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	26,559		26,559
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$121,903</u>		<u>\$121,903</u>

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

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

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 AVR Fire District, Seneca County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Venice Township, Reed Township, and Village of Attica. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting the Auditor of State prescribes or permits, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. This basis 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 adequately disclose material matters the Auditor of State prescribes.

C. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is restricted as to use. The District classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

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

2. Special Revenue Fund

This fund accounts for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The District had the following Special Revenue Fund:

FEMA Fund - This fund received revenues from Federal Emergency Management Agency to help clean up after the 2004 ice storm.

D. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to budget each fund annually.

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (Continued)

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 District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. The District did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

A summary of 2006 and 2005 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Demand deposits	<u>\$72,401</u>	<u>\$121,903</u>

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

At December 31, 2005, \$21,903 of deposits were not insured or collateralized, contrary to Ohio law.

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2006 and 2005 follows:

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$145,358	\$322,782	\$177,424

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$267,261	\$372,284	(\$105,023)

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$151,095	\$157,055	\$5,960
Special Revenue	4,601	4,601	
Total	\$155,696	\$161,656	\$5,960

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$177,654	\$61,711	\$115,943
Special Revenue	4,601	4,601	
Total	\$182,255	\$66,312	\$115,943

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the General Fund by \$105,023 for the year ended December 31, 2006. Also contrary to Ohio law, expenditure transactions were not certified by the fiscal officer at the time the commitment was incurred.

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Board of Trustees adopts rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The State then pays the District amounts equaling the homestead and rollback deductions. 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 owners assess that property. The property owners must file a tangible property list to the County by each April 30.

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX – (Continued)

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

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2006, was as follows:

Loan	Principal	Interest Rate
	131,207	4.00%

The District issued a loan for the purchase of a new tank truck. The loan was approved on August 10, 2005, for \$200,000, maturing through September 1, 2010. On March 22, 2006, the District only issued the loan for \$173,042 with the first payment due September 1, 2006.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year ending December 31:	Loan
2007	\$45,104
2008	45,104
2009	45,104
2010	7,066
Total	\$142,378

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The District's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2005, OPERS member employees contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. For 2006, OPERS member employees contributed 9.0 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.70 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2006.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The District insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)

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

Casualty Coverage

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006, PEP retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. PEP 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. For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Districts can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with PEP.

If losses exhaust PEP'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 (for claims prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (for claims on or after January 1, 2006) as noted above.

Property Coverage

Through 2004, PEP 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.

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 provide aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable values. 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 2006 was \$1,901,127.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge PEP's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

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

Financial Position

PEP'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, 2006 and 2005.

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$30,997,868	\$29,719,675
Liabilities	<u>(15,875,741)</u>	<u>(15,994,168)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$15,122,127</u>	<u>\$13,725,507</u>
<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$5,125,326	\$4,443,332
Liabilities	<u>(863,163)</u>	<u>(1,068,245)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$4,262,163</u>	<u>\$3,375,087</u>

At December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively, casualty coverage liabilities noted above include approximately \$14.4 million and \$14.3 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$14.4 million and \$14.3 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 447 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The District's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$22,736. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the District terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with PEP, the expected rates PEP charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to PEP for each year of membership.

Contributions to PEP

2004	\$10,682
2005	\$11,015
2006	\$11,368

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined PEP provided they give written notice to PEP 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's budgetary contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

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

AVR Fire District
Seneca County
221 South Main Street
P.O. Box 466
Attica, Ohio 44807-0466

To the Governing Board:

We have audited the financial statements of the AVR Fire District, Seneca County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated June 26, 2007, wherein we noted the District prepared its financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider significant deficiencies.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

We consider the following deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting: 2006-001, 2006-002 and 2006-003.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. However, we believe the significant deficiencies described above are also material weaknesses.

We noted certain matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 26, 2007.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District'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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2006-001, 2006-002 and 2006-003.

We also noted a certain noncompliance matter not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 26, 2007.

The District's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the District's responses and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the management, the governing board and the audit committee. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 26, 2007

AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005

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

FINDING NUMBER 2006-001

Noncompliance Citation/Material Weakness

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D)(1) states that no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer certifying that the amount required for the order or contract has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that 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 collections, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Board can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Board has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts 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 the Board.

2. **Blanket Certificate** – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to 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 Board 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 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.

One hundred percent of the transactions tested were not certified by the fiscal officer at the time the commitment was incurred, and there was no evidence that the District followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-001
 (Continued)**

Certification is not only required by Ohio law but is a key control in the disbursements process to help assure purchase commitments receive prior approval, and help reduce the possibility of District funds being over expended or exceeding budgetary spending limitations as set by the Board. To improve controls over disbursements, we recommend all District disbursements receive prior certification of the Fiscal Officer and that the Board periodically review the expenditures made to ensure they are within the appropriations adopted by the Board, certified by the Fiscal Officer and recorded against appropriations.

Client Response: The District is in the process of purchasing purchase orders with the Fiscal Officer's certification.

FINDING NUMBER 2006-002

Noncompliance Citation/Material Weakness

Ohio Revised Code §5705.41(B) prohibits a subdivision from making an expenditure unless it has been properly appropriated. Our testing of budgetary compliance at December 31, 2006, identified the following instance in which expenditures exceeded appropriations:

Fund	Appropriations	Expenditures	Excess
General Fund	<u>\$267,261</u>	<u>\$372,284</u>	<u>(\$105,023)</u>

Management was advised that the failure to have adequate appropriations in place at the time of the expenditures are being made could cause expenditures to exceed available resources, further resulting in deficit spending practices.

The Fiscal Officer should not certify the availability of funds and should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations. The Fiscal Officer may request the Board to approve increased expenditure levels by increasing appropriations and amending estimated resources, if necessary.

Client Response: The District issued a loan during the audit period and amended the estimated resources but failed to carry through with amending the appropriations.

FINDING NUMBER 2006-003

Noncompliance Citation/Material Weakness

Ohio Revised Code §135.18 states the treasurer of a political subdivision must require the depository to provide security equal to the funds on deposit at all times. Security may consist of federal deposit insurance, surety company bonds, or pledged securities. Ohio Revised Code §135.181 states in lieu of the specific pledging requirements of Section 135.18, a public depository at its option may pledge a single pool of eligible securities to secure the repayment of all its public deposits not otherwise secured, provided that at all times the total market value of the securities so pledged is at least equal to one hundred five per cent of its total public deposits to be secured by the pooled securities, including the portion of these deposits covered by any federal deposit insurance.

The securities shall be eligible as collateral, provided no such securities pledged as collateral are at any time in default as to either principal or interest.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-003
(Continued)**

A public depository must designate a qualified trustee (i.e., the Federal Reserve) and deposit the eligible pledged securities with that trustee for safekeeping. The depository must give written notice of the qualified trustee to any treasurer depositing public monies for which such securities are pledged. The treasurer shall accept the written receipt of the trustee describing the pool of securities so deposited by the depository.

Upon request of a treasurer up to 4 times per year, a public depository must report the amount of public monies deposited by the treasurer and secured and the total value based on the valuations described above, of the pool of securities pledged to secure public monies held by the depository, including those deposited by the treasurer.

\$21,903 of the District's total deposits of \$121,903 at December 31, 2005, were uninsured and uncollateralized. We recommend the District obtain collateral from Sutton Bank and monitor deposits to ensure at all times the total market value of the securities pledged is at least equal to one hundred five per cent of its total public deposits to be secured by the pooled securities.

Client Response: The District has obtained collateral through Sutton Bank to cover current deposits.

**AVR FIRE DISTRICT
SENECA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2004-001	Ohio Revised Code §5705.41(B), Expenditures exceed appropriations.	Not corrected.	Repeated as Finding number 2006-002.
2004-002	Ohio Revised Code §5705.41(D)(1), Failure to certify expenditures.	Not corrected.	Repeated as Finding number 2006-001.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

AVR FIRE DISTRICT

SENECA COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JULY 24, 2007**