



Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State



**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

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# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

Benton Township  
Pike County  
4176 Greenbridge Road  
Peebles, Ohio 45660

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 an 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 adverse 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.

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**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

November 13, 2007

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# Mary Taylor, CPA

## Auditor of State

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Benton Township  
Pike County  
4176 Greenbridge Road  
Peebles, Ohio 45660

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Benton Township, Pike County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005. 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 Section 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code Sections 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandates 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.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e., major) funds separately. 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 GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require townships to reformat their statements. The Township 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 Township 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 combined fund cash balances of Benton Township, Pike County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

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 November 13, 2007, 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.

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

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

November 13, 2007

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$13,510	\$29,840	\$43,350
Intergovernmental	54,574	99,795	154,369
Charges for Services		9,240	9,240
Earnings on Investments	355	369	724
Miscellaneous	67	1,600	1,667
	<u>68,506</u>	<u>140,844</u>	<u>209,350</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
	<u>68,506</u>	<u>140,844</u>	<u>209,350</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>			
Current:			
General Government	33,053	2,456	35,509
Public Safety		19,518	19,518
Public Works		81,472	81,472
Health	6,138	7,466	13,604
	<u>39,191</u>	<u>110,912</u>	<u>150,103</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
	<u>39,191</u>	<u>110,912</u>	<u>150,103</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>29,315</u>	<u>29,932</u>	<u>59,247</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):</b>			
Other Financing Sources		<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>0</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	29,315	33,432	62,747
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>40,321</u>	<u>73,663</u>	<u>113,984</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b><u>\$69,636</u></b>	<b><u>\$107,095</u></b>	<b><u>\$176,731</u></b>

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

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

**COMBINED 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>			<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$10,327	\$28,021		\$38,348
Intergovernmental Charges for Services	31,020	275,631	\$4,541	311,192
Earnings on Investments	318	9,542		9,542
Miscellaneous	695	308		626
		1,945		2,640
Total Cash Receipts	<u>42,360</u>	<u>315,447</u>	<u>4,541</u>	<u>362,348</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>				
Current:				
General Government	30,728	4,487		35,215
Public Safety		30,804		30,804
Public Works		79,311		79,311
Health	3,714	7,636		11,350
Capital Outlay	2,000	212,654	4,541	219,195
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>36,442</u>	<u>334,892</u>	<u>4,541</u>	<u>375,875</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>5,918</u>	<u>(19,445)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(13,527)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):</b>				
Other Financing Sources		5,128		5,128
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>0</u>	<u>5,128</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,128</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	5,918	(14,317)	0	(8,399)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>34,403</u>	<u>87,980</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>122,383</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b><u>\$40,321</u></b>	<b><u>\$73,663</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$113,984</u></b>

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

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE 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 Benton Township, Pike 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, and fire 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**

The Township has a checking account which is valued at cost.

**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 private-purpose trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

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

Fire Fund – This fund received grant money for the purchase of a fire truck.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

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

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**D. Fund Accounting (Continued)**

**3. Capital Projects Fund**

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following Capital Projects Fund for 2005:

FEMA Fund – This fund received grant money for the repairing of Township roads.

**E. Budgetary Process**

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

**1. Appropriations**

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

**2. Estimated Resources**

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

**3. Encumbrances**

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made.

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

A summary of 2006 and 2005 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.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

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

**2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH**

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

	2006	2005
Demand Deposits	\$ 176,731	\$ 113,984

**Deposits:** Deposits are either insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

At December 31, 2005, there was \$177,023 and at December 31, 2006, \$36,389 of deposits were not insured or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

**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	\$ 74,818	\$ 68,506	\$ (6,312)
Special Revenue	178,071	144,344	(33,727)
Total	\$ 252,889	\$ 212,850	\$ (40,039)

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 110,141	\$ 39,191	\$ 70,950
Special Revenue	247,233	110,912	136,321
Total	\$ 357,374	\$ 150,103	\$ 207,271

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 71,414	\$ 42,360	\$ (29,054)
Special Revenue	365,276	320,575	(44,701)
Capital Projects	4,541	4,541	0
Total	\$ 441,231	\$ 367,476	\$ (73,755)

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 95,090	\$ 36,442	\$ 58,648
Special Revenue	263,074	334,892	(71,818)
Capital Projects	0	4,541	(4,541)
Total	\$ 358,164	\$ 375,875	\$ (17,711)

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the Fire Fund by \$181,684 and the FEMA Fund by \$4,541 at December 31, 2005.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

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

**4. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Board of 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.

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

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes contribution rates. For 2006 and 2005, OPERS members contributed 9% and 8.5%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 13.7% and 13.55%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2006.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

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 governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty Coverage

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006 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. 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. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

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

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

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 (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, 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.

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 OTARMA'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

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, 2006 and 2005:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$32,031,312	\$30,485,638
Liabilities	(11,443,952)	(12,344,576)
Retained earnings	<u>\$20,587,360</u>	<u>\$18,141,062</u>
<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$10,010,963	\$9,177,796
Liabilities	(676,709)	(1,406,031)
Retained earnings	<u>\$9,334,254</u>	<u>\$7,771,765</u>

At December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively, casualty coverage liabilities noted above include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 958 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.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

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

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

The Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$21,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Township terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with OTARMA, the expected rates OTARMA 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 OTARMA for each year of membership.

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
2004	\$ 9,307
2005	\$ 10,326
2006	\$ 10,642

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA provided they give 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 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.

**7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

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.



# 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

Benton Township  
Pike County  
4176 Greenbridge Road  
Peebles, Ohio 45660

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Benton Township, Pike County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005 and have issued our report thereon dated November 13, 2007, 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 Township 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 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 Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township'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 Township'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 Township'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 a significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting: 2006-001 through 2006-005.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Township'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, of the significant deficiencies described above, we believe finding numbers 2006-001 and 2006-003 are also material weaknesses.

We also noted a certain internal control matter that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated November 13, 2007.

#### **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 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 through 2006-004.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated November 13, 2007.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

November 13, 2007

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE 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 Rev. Code § 135.18(A) (specific collateral) and Ohio Rev. Code § 135.18(B)-(C) (pooled collateral) require, that the treasurer of a political subdivision must require the depository to provide as security an amount equal to the funds on deposit at all times. Such security may consist of federal deposit insurance, surety company bonds, or pledged securities, among others.

At December 31, 2005, there were \$177,023 and at December 31, 2006, \$36,389 of deposits that were uncollateralized.

Without ensuring the institutions properly collateralize the deposits of public money, the Township increases the risk of financial loss if the institution should happen to fail.

We recommend the Township contact First National Bank to obtain adequate security to cover amounts on deposit in excess of the amount covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Additionally the Fiscal Officer should monitor pledged/pooled securities for the Township's cash balances.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-002**

**Noncompliance Citation/Significant Deficiency**

Ohio Rev. Code § 5549.21 provides, in part, that all purchase of materials, machinery and tools to be used in constructing, maintaining and repairing roads and culverts within the township, if the amount involved exceeds \$25,000, shall be made from the lowest responsible bidder after advertisement, as provided in Ohio Rev. Code § 5575.01

The Township did not use competitive bidding procedures for the purchase of a Tanker/Pumper truck in the amount of \$200,000 in fiscal year 2005.

We recommend the Board of Trustees follow Ohio Revised Code guidelines for contracts that exceed twenty-five thousand dollars.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-003**

**Noncompliance Citation/Material Weakness**

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits a subdivision or taxing unit from expending money unless it has been appropriated.

The Township had disbursements that exceeded appropriations at December 31, 2005, as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Amount Exceeded</u>
December 31, 2005:			
Fire Fund	\$50,147	\$231,831	(\$181,684)
FEMA Fund	0	4,541	(4,541)

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)</b>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2006-003 (Continued)**

**Noncompliance Citation/Material Weakness - Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) (Continued)**

Failure to limit expenditures to appropriations may result in overspending and negative fund balances.

We recommend the Board of Trustees approve amendments (not exceeding estimated resources) to the appropriations as necessary to ensure the disbursements do not exceed appropriations.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-004**

**Noncompliance Citation/Significant Deficiency**

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D)(1) 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 the Township.

**2. Blanket Certificate** – Fiscal officers may prepare so-called "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 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 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 line item appropriation account.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)</b>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2006-004 (Continued)**

**Noncompliance Citation/Significant Deficiency - Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)**

The Board of Trustees did not establish an amount by resolution for which a “blanket certificate” may be certified and the Fiscal Officer did not certify the availability of funds prior to making commitments for 15% of the disbursements tested for 2005 and 21% of the disbursements tested for 2006.

Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

Unless the exceptions noted above, prior certification is not only required by statute but also is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township’s funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend the Township officials and employees obtain the Fiscal Officer’s certification of the availability of funds prior to the commitment being incurred. When prior certification is not possible, “then and now” certification should be used.

We recommend the Township officials and employees obtain the Fiscal Officer’s certification of the availability of funds prior to the commitment being incurred. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certificate language of Section 5705.41(D) require to authorize disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs the commitment, and only when the requirements of Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

**FINDING NUMBER 2006-005**

**Significant Deficiency**

At December 31, 2005 and 2006, the following funds had estimated receipts that exceeded actual receipts:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Estimated Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
December 31, 2006:			
General Fund	\$74,818	\$68,507	(\$6,311)
Motor Vehicle License Fund	23,700	8,955	(14,745)
Gasoline Fund	108,660	86,533	(22,127)
Road and Bridge Fund	6,480	5,316	(1,164)
Cemetery Fund	17,964	16,766	(1,198)
December 31, 2005:			
General Fund	71,414	42,361	(29,053)
Motor Vehicle License Fund	22,557	8,687	(13,870)
Gasoline Fund	107,800	73,580	(34,220)
Road and Bridge Fund	6,551	4,299	(2,252)

Since the expenditure of Township funds is based on the estimated receipts, instances when actual receipts do not meet budgetary estimates could lead to overspending.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005  
(Continued)**

<p><b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)</b></p>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2006-005  
(Continued)**

**Significant Deficiency (Continued)**

We recommend the Fiscal Officer monitor estimated and actual receipts. When it is apparent that actual receipts will fall short of budgetary estimates, the Fiscal Officer should obtain a reduced amended certificate from the County Budget Commission. Furthermore, in that instance, the Board of Trustees should make corresponding reductions in appropriations.

**Officials' Response:** We did not receive a response from official's to the findings reported above.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE 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; <b><i>Explain</i></b>
2004-001	Section 135.18 was issued for deposits exceeding pledged securities.	No	Reissued as Finding Number 2006-001 in the accompanying Schedule of Findings
2004-002	Estimated Receipts exceeding actual receipts	No	Reissued as Finding Number 2006-005 in the accompanying Schedule of Findings
2004-003	Budgeted Receipts and Disbursements not agreeing to UAN accounting system	No	Reissued in the Management Letter
2004-004	Section 5705.41(B) was issued for expenditures exceeding appropriations.	No	Reissued as Finding Number 2006-003 in the accompanying Schedule of Findings

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
PIKE 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; <b><i>Explain</i></b>
2004-001	Section 135.18 was issued for deposits exceeding pledged securities.	No	Reissued as Finding Number 2006-001 in the accompanying Schedule of Findings
2004-002	Estimated Receipts exceeding actual receipts	No	Reissued as Finding Number 2006-005 in the accompanying Schedule of Findings
2004-003	Budgeted Receipts and Disbursements not agreeing to UAN accounting system	No	Reissued in the Management Letter
2004-004	Section 5705.41(B) was issued for expenditures exceeding appropriations.	No	Reissued as Finding Number 2006-003 in the accompanying Schedule of Findings



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

**BENTON TOWNSHIP**

**PIKE 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  
DECEMBER 6, 2007**