



Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State



**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

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**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

Nelson Township  
Portage County  
PO Box 377  
Garrettsville, Ohio 44231

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.

*Mary Taylor*

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

November 17, 2008

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# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Nelson Township  
Portage County  
PO Box 377  
Garrettsville, Ohio 44231

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Nelson Township, Portage County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. 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.

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.

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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, 2007 and 2006 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, 2007 and 2006, 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 and reserves for encumbrances of Nelson Township, Portage County, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, 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 17, 2008, 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.



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

November 17, 2008



NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	Governmental Fund Types				Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$99,372	\$150,189	\$23,830	\$0	\$273,391
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	10,569	4,000	0	0	14,569
Intergovernmental	93,797	110,478	0	0	204,275
Earnings on Investments	3,194	2,307	0	30	5,531
Miscellaneous	2,949	3,283	0	0	6,232
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>209,881</b>	<b>270,257</b>	<b>23,830</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>503,998</b>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>					
Current:					
General Government	171,961	2,800	0	0	174,761
Public Works	0	288,986	0	0	288,986
Health	0	4,130	0	0	4,130
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal	0	0	7,000	0	7,000
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	0	0	16,852	0	16,852
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<b>171,961</b>	<b>295,916</b>	<b>23,852</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>491,729</b>
<b>Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</b>	<b>37,920</b>	<b>(25,659)</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12,269</b>
<b>Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):</b>					
Other Financing Sources	3,310	0	0	0	3,310
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,310</b>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	41,230	(25,659)	(22)	30	15,579
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	35,898	119,429	1,812	684	157,823
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b>\$77,128</b>	<b>\$93,770</b>	<b>\$1,790</b>	<b>\$714</b>	<b>\$173,402</b>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$1,581	\$2,229	\$0	\$0	\$3,810

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

NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE 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**

	Governmental Fund Types					Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Permanent	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>						
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$98,415	\$144,626	\$23,929	\$0	\$0	\$266,970
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	12,353	2,600	0	0	0	14,953
Intergovernmental	102,521	100,437	0	0	0	202,958
Earnings on Investments	2,901	1,442	0	0	24	4,367
Miscellaneous	2,522	2,802	0	0	0	5,324
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>218,712</b>	<b>251,907</b>	<b>23,929</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>494,572</b>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>						
Current:						
General Government	179,945	2,623	0	0	0	182,568
Public Works	0	271,454	0	0	0	271,454
Health	0	3,815	0	0	0	3,815
Capital Outlay	1,987	2,322	0	5,851	0	10,160
Debt Service:						
Redemption of Principal	0	0	13,190	0	0	13,190
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	0	0	16,973	0	0	16,973
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<b>181,932</b>	<b>280,214</b>	<b>30,163</b>	<b>5,851</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>498,160</b>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	36,780	(28,307)	(6,234)	(5,851)	24	(3,588)
<b>Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements):</b>						
Sale of Bonds	0	0	6,190	3,630	0	9,820
Transfers-In	0	0	0	2,220	0	2,220
Transfers-Out	(2,220)	0	0	0	0	(2,220)
Other Financing Sources	5,459	0	0	0	0	5,459
Other Financing Uses	(27)	0	0	0	0	(27)
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)</b>	<b>3,212</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,190</b>	<b>5,850</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,252</b>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	39,992	(28,307)	(44)	(1)	24	11,664
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	(4,094)	147,736	1,856	1	660	146,159
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b>\$35,898</b>	<b>\$119,429</b>	<b>\$1,812</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$684</b>	<b>\$157,823</b>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$769	\$10,594	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,363

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

**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

**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 Nelson Township, Portage 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, and cemetery maintenance.

The Township participates in two jointly governed organizations and the OTARMA public entity risk pool. Notes 7 and 8 to the financial statements provides additional information for these entities.

Jointly Governed Organizations: Garrettsville-Freedom-Nelson Joint Fire District provides fire protection for the Township. Community Emergency Medical Service District provides ambulance service to the Township.

Public Entity Risk Pool: Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) is a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members.

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

**B. Accounting Basis**

These financial statements follow the accounting basis 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.

The Township values certificates of deposit at cost. Money market mutual funds 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:

**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

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

**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:

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

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

**3. Debt Service Funds**

This fund accounts for resources the Township accumulates to pay bond and note debt.

**4. Capital Project Funds**

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 significant capital project fund:

New Service Building – This fund accounts for the construction of the new service building for the Township.

**5. Permanent Funds**

These funds account for assets held under a trust agreement that are legally restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, are available to support the Township's programs. The Township had the following significant permanent fund:

Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund receives interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement. These earnings are used for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

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

**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.

A summary of 2007 and 2006 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.

**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 was as follows:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Demand deposits	\$2,189	\$3,001
Certificates of deposit	500	500
Total deposits	2,689	3,501
Money Market Account	155,134	169,901
Total deposits and investments	<u>\$157,823</u>	<u>\$173,402</u>

**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)**

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

**Investments:** Investments in Money Market funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2007 and 2006 follows:

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$176,805	\$213,191	\$36,386
Special Revenue	263,892	270,257	6,365
Debt Service	23,614	23,830	216
Permanent	14	30	16
Total	<u>\$464,325</u>	<u>\$507,308</u>	<u>\$42,983</u>

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$169,651	\$173,542	(\$3,891)
Special Revenue	356,749	298,145	58,604
Debt Service	25,330	23,852	1,478
Total	<u>\$551,730</u>	<u>\$495,539</u>	<u>\$56,191</u>

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$168,083	\$224,171	\$56,088
Special Revenue	310,201	251,907	(58,294)
Debt Service	24,144	30,119	5,975
Capital Projects	8,154	5,850	(2,304)
Permanent	27	24	(3)
Total	<u>\$510,609</u>	<u>\$512,071</u>	<u>\$1,462</u>

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$192,640	\$184,948	\$7,692
Special Revenue	361,149	290,808	70,341
Debt Service	26,000	30,163	(4,163)
Capital Projects	10,571	5,851	4,720
Total	<u>\$590,360</u>	<u>\$511,770</u>	<u>\$78,590</u>

**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**4. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax 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. DEBT**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2007 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Bonds	\$366,810	4.5%

Through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Township issued general obligation bonds in the amount of \$400,000 to finance the construction of a New Service Building. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the bonds. The monies are drawn down from the USDA as the project is completed in stages. The Township received \$13,135 during 2003, \$365,802 during 2004, \$11,243 during 2005 and \$9,820 in 2006. The amount received for calendar 2006 is presented on the financial statements. As the project moves forward the amount of the issuance of bonds increases with respect to the amount of draw downs made by the Township. The Township has drawn down all available funds as of December 31, 2006.

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

	General Obligation Bonds
Year ending December 31:	
2008	\$24,507
2009	24,146
2010	23,787
2011	24,426
2012	24,022
2013 - 2017	121,537
2018 - 2022	121,442
2023 - 2027	122,152
2028 - 2032	123,632
2033	18,611
Total	\$628,262

**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

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 also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007 and 2006, OPERS members contributed 9.5 and 9%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 13.85 and 13.7%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

**7. 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. 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.

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 (prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (on or subsequent to January 1, 2006).

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.



**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)**

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. This amount increased to \$300,000 in 2007. For 2007, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$300,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides 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 in 2006, or \$100,000 and \$300,000 in 2007, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2007 was \$2,014,548.

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, 2007 and 2006:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$43,210,703	\$42,042,275
Liabilities	(13,357,837)	(12,120,661)
Net Assets	<u>\$29,852,866</u>	<u>\$29,921,614</u>

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, liabilities above include approximately \$12.5 million and \$11.3 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$11.6 million and \$10.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$8,000. 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.

<b><u>Contributions to OTARMA</u></b>	
2005	\$10,685
2006	\$11,704
2007	\$ 9,027

**NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)**

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

**8. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS**

The Township provides fire protection to its residents through the Garrettsville-Freedom-Nelson Joint Fire District which is directed by an appointed three-member Board of Trustees. One Board Member is appointed by each political subdivision within the District. Those subdivisions are the Village of Garrettsville, Freedom Township and Nelson Township. The District is solely funded by voter approved tax levies. There is no funding received from District Members.

The Township provides ambulance service to its residents through the Community Emergency Medical Service District which is directed by an appointed three-member Board of Trustees. One Board Member is appointed by each political subdivision within the district. Those subdivisions are the Village of Garrettsville, Freedom Township and Nelson Township. The District is solely funded by voter approved tax levies. There is no funding received from District Members.



# 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*

Nelson Township  
Portage County  
PO Box 377  
Garrettsville, Ohio 44231

To the Township Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Nelson Township (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated November 17, 2008 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 Nelson 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.

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.

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 internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

### **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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We did note certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated November 17, 2008.

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

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

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

November 17, 2008

NELSON TOWNSHIP  
PORTAGE COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Fully Corrected?</b>	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <b><i>Explain</i></b>
2005-001	Nonperformance of cash reconciliations	Yes	





**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

**NELSON TOWNSHIP**

**PORTAGE 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 16, 2008**