

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 - 2007



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

Board of Trustees
Ripley Township
12968 Township Road 474
Big Prairie, Ohio 44611

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report* of Ripley Township, Holmes County, prepared by Knox & Knox, for the audit period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Accountants' Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State 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. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Independent Accountants' Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State permits.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Ripley Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

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

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

December 31, 2009

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KNOX & KNOX

Accountants and Consultants

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Ripley Township
Holmes County
12968 TR 474
Big Prairie, Ohio 44611

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ripley Township, Holmes County, Ohio (the Township, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007). These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions 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 opinions.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared its 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 variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP would require Ripley Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. While the Township does not follow GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since Ripley Township does not use GAAP to measure the financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding paragraph, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 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, 2008 and 2007, and their changes in financial position and cash flows.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of the Ripley Township, Holmes County, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

The aforementioned revision to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. 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 December 9, 2009, on our consideration of Ripley Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

KNOX & KNOX

Orrville, Ohio
December 9, 2009

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND
CASH BALANCES - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
CASH RECEIPTS:			
Local Taxes	\$42,805	\$116,081	\$158,886
Intergovernmental	30,125	128,219	158,344
Earnings on Investments	1,193	112	1,305
Other	<u>4,023</u>	<u>1,658</u>	<u>5,681</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>78,146</u>	<u>246,070</u>	<u>324,216</u>
CASH DISBURSEMENTS			
Current:			
General Government	77,802		77,802
Public Works	22,058	245,610	267,668
Health	17,666		17,666
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal		7,202	7,202
Interest/Other Fiscal Charges		195	195
Capital Outlay	<u>10,054</u>	<u>3,627</u>	<u>13,681</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>127,580</u>	<u>256,634</u>	<u>384,214</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements)	(49,434)	(10,564)	(59,998)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>71,941</u>	<u>28,748</u>	<u>100,689</u>
FUND CASH BALANCES, DECEMBER 31	<u><u>\$22,507</u></u>	<u><u>\$18,184</u></u>	<u><u>\$40,691</u></u>

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

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES 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	
CASH RECEIPTS:			
Local Taxes	\$38,730	\$109,272	\$148,002
Intergovernmental	28,412	122,257	150,669
Earnings on Investments	1,602	191	1,793
Other	206	2,308	2,514
Total Cash Receipts	68,950	234,028	302,978
CASH DISBURSEMENTS			
Current:			
General Government	64,589		64,589
Public Works	1,629	246,749	248,378
Health	10,620		10,620
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal		6,904	6,904
Interest/Other Fiscal Charges		509	509
Capital Outlay	1,107	11,587	12,694
Total Cash Disbursements	77,945	265,749	343,694
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements)	(8,995)	(31,721)	(40,716)
OTHER FINANCING RECEIPTS/(DISBURSEMENTS)			
Transfers-In		10,000	10,000
Transfers-Out	(10,000)		(10,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	(10,000)	10,000	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements			
	(18,995)	(21,721)	(40,716)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	90,936	50,469	141,405
FUND CASH BALANCES, DECEMBER 31	\$71,941	\$28,748	\$100,689

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

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Ripley Township, Holmes County, (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township provides general governmental services, which includes road maintenance.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash

The Township deposits money into a checking account with a financial institution eligible to maintain the Township's monies. The financial institution provides securities sufficient to cover the monies deposited with it.

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 is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue 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.

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

D. Fund Accounting (continued)

3. Capital Project Fund

This fund is used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects. The Township had only one capital project fund.

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 division, department, or office level of control, and within each the amount appropriated for personal use. The Board of Trustees must annually approve the appropriation measure and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure.

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 commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are cancelled and need to be reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2008 and 2007 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Demand deposits	\$40,691	\$100,689

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, or (2) collateralized by securities pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 follows:

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$68,219	\$78,146	\$9,927
Special Revenue	236,895	246,070	9,175
Total	\$305,114	\$324,216	\$19,102

2008 Budgeted vs Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$130,949	\$127,580	\$3,369
Special Revenue	297,433	256,634	40,799
Total	\$428,382	\$384,214	\$44,168

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$64,419	\$68,950	\$4,531
Special Revenue	242,045	244,028	1,983
Total	\$306,464	\$312,978	\$6,514

2007 Budgeted vs Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$110,000	\$87,945	\$22,055
Special Revenue	283,685	265,749	17,936
Total	\$393,685	\$353,694	\$39,991

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (continued)

Contrary to the Ohio Revised Code, appropriations exceeded estimated resources during 2008 in the Special Revenue fund type.

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by the Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the financial accompanying statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payments, 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 Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The plan provides retirement benefits, including post-retirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2008 and 2007, members contributed 10% and 9.5% of their gross salaries, respectively. The Township contributed an amount equal to 14% (2008) and 13.75% (2007) of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2008.

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.

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

A. 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

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.

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 (on or subsequent to January 1, 2006).

B. 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. This amount increased to \$300,000 in 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 to \$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.

C. 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.

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

C. Financial Position (continued)

	<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 noted 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. 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. By contract, the annual ability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to OTARMA for each year of membership.

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 sole 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. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Township acquired a Case Road Grader for \$100,087, bearing interest of three percent. The first payment is due in 2009.

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KNOX & KNOX

Accountants and Consultants

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

Ripley Township
Holmes County
12968 TR 474
Big Prairie, Ohio 44611

To the Board of Trustees

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ripley Township, Holmes County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated December 9, 2009, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audits, 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. We did note other matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated December 9, 2009.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance 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 one instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is shown in the accompanying schedule as Finding 2008-01.

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

KNOX & KNOX

Orrville, Ohio
December 9, 2009

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HOLMES COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

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

FINDING NUMBER 2008-01

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.39 requires that total appropriation from each fund not exceed total estimated resources from each fund. This section also requires the Township to obtain a County Auditor's certificate that total appropriations from each fund do not exceed the total official estimate or amended official estimate when amending estimated resources.

During the fiscal year 2008, total appropriations exceeded total estimated resources as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Estimated Resources</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Special Revenue	\$265,643	\$297,433	(\$31,790)

To avoid overspending the Township should not appropriate in excess of estimated resources.

Client Response: None



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP

HOLMES 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
JANUARY 14, 2010**