



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Spencer Community Fire District
Medina County
105 East Lorain Road
Spencer, Ohio 44275

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 District 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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Dave Yost
Auditor of State

April 28, 2011

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Spencer Community Fire District
Medina County
105 East Lorain Road
Spencer, Ohio 44275

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Spencer Community Fire District, Medina County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the District's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require fire districts to reformat their statements. The District has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances of Spencer Community Fire District, Medina County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The District has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 28, 2011, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and "Y".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

April 28, 2011

**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

	2010	2009
Cash Receipts:		
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$148,533	\$151,294
Charges for Services	52,987	46,375
Intergovernmental	17,839	17,109
Earnings on Investments	4,305	4,649
Miscellaneous	154	7,071
Total Cash Receipts	223,818	226,498
Cash Disbursements:		
Current Disbursements:		
Security of Persons and Property:		
Salaries	54,242	55,796
Fringe Benefits	12,907	32,710
Materials and Supplies	4,868	947
Repairs & Maintenance	19,061	6,208
Equipment & Tools	26,317	25,070
Contracted Services	13,798	8,336
Utilities	6,815	8,190
Insurance	15,919	16,278
Other	5,702	26,156
Total Cash Disbursements	159,629	179,691
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	64,189	46,807
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	476,177	429,370
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$540,366	\$476,177

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

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**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

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 Spencer Community Fire District, Medina County, Ohio, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A four-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Spencer Township and the Village of Spencer each appoint two members. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District participates in the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District 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 District 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. Deposits and Investments

The District'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.

D. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. Currently, the District classifies all its activities in one General 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 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.

**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009
(Continued)**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process (continued)

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 District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

The District did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2010 and 2009 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits and Investments

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

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Demand deposits	\$426,151	\$371,962
Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	<u>114,215</u>	<u>104,215</u>
Total deposits	<u><u>\$540,366</u></u>	<u><u>\$476,177</u></u>

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

**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009
(Continued)**

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 follows:

2010 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$200,239	\$223,818	\$25,328

2010 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$306,757	\$159,629	\$147,128

2009 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$198,490	\$226,498	\$28,008

2009 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$356,955	\$179,691	\$177,264

Contrary to Ohio law, certain expenditures were not encumbered in 2010 and 2009.

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.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the District.

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 Fire District.

**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009
(Continued)**

5. Retirement System

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2010 and 2009, OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2010.

6. Risk Pool Membership

Through December 31, 2008, the District belonged to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan was legally separate from its member governments.

On January 1, 2009, through an internal reorganization, the Plan created three separate non-profit corporations including:

- Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) - formerly known as the Ohio Risk Management Plan;
- Ohio Plan Healthcare Consortium, Inc. (OPHC) - formerly known as the Ohio Healthcare Consortium; and
- Ohio Plan, Inc. - mirrors the oversight function previously performed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Trustees consists of eleven (11) members that include appointed and elected officials from member organizations.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio. These coverage programs, referred to as Ohio Plan Risk management ("OPRM"), are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss, except OPRM retain 17.5% (15% through October 31, 2009) of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 10% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 725 members as of December 31, 2009. The District participates in this coverage.

The Plan formed the Ohio Plan Healthcare Consortium ("OPHC"), as authorized by Section 9.833 of the Ohio Revised Code. The OPHC was established to provide cost effective employee benefit programs for Ohio political sub-divisions and is a self-funded, group purchasing consortium that offers medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage as well as life insurance for its members. The OPHC is sold through seventeen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio. Coverage programs are developed specific to each member's healthcare needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria. Variable plan options are available to members. These plans vary primarily by deductibles, coinsurance levels, office visit co-pays and out-of pocket maximums. OPHC had 60 members as of December 31, 2009. The District does not participate in this coverage.

**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009
(Continued)**

6. Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

Plan members are responsible to notify the Plan of their intent to renew coverage by their renewal date. If a member chooses not to renew with the Plan, they have no other financial obligation to the Plan, but still need to promptly notify the Plan of any potential claims occurring during their membership period. The former member's covered claims, which occurred during their membership period, remain the responsibility of the Plan.

Settlement amounts did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years. The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31: 2009 and 2008 (the latest information available), and include amounts for both OPRRM and OPHC:

	<u>2009 OPRM</u>	<u>2009 OPHC</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Assets	\$11,176,186	\$1,358,802	\$12,534,988	\$10,471,114
Liabilities	<u>(4,852,485)</u>	<u>(1,253,617)</u>	<u>(6,106,102)</u>	<u>(5,286,781)</u>
Members' Equity	<u>\$6,323,701</u>	<u>\$105,185</u>	<u>\$6,428,886</u>	<u>\$5,184,333</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM and OPHC at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

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

Spencer Community Fire District
Medina County
105 East Lorain Road
Spencer, Ohio 44275

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Spencer Community Fire District, Medina County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, and have issued our report thereon dated April 28, 2011, wherein we noted the District follows accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of opining on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in more than a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and timely corrected.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, 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 District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2010-001.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated April 28, 2011.

The District's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

April 28, 2011

**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2010-001

Noncompliance Citation:

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) provides no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision stating the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. This certificate need be signed only by the subdivision's fiscal officer. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that 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.

"Then and Now" Certificate – If the fiscal officer can certify both at the time the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), 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 Fire District can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The District 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 the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the District.

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

Super Blanket Certificate – The District may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

68 percent of tested expenditures were not certified prior to incurring the obligation. Also, none of the exceptions above were utilized for the items found to be in non-compliance. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balance.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute, but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure purchase commitments received prior approval. To improve control over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the District's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, the Fiscal Officer should certify the funds are or will be available prior to the obligation by the Fire District. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

FINDING NUMBER 2010-001 (Continued)

We recommend the Fire District certify purchases to which section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the Fire District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Fire District should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

Officials' Response: We will use the "Then and Now" Certificates when needed.

**SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2008-001	Material Weakness- Accounting errors and omissions: Several receipt and disbursement transactions were incorrectly classified on the financial statements.	No	Partially Corrected. Similar comment repeated in management letter.
2008-002	Noncompliance Finding – Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D): 92 percent of tested expenditures were not properly certified.	No	Not Corrected. See Finding 2010-001

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

SPENCER COMMUNITY FIRE DISTRICT

MEDINA 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
MAY 26, 2011**