



**YELLOW CREEK TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999-1998



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Yellow Creek Township
Columbiana County
1030 Township Line Rd
Wellsville, OH 43968

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Yellow Creek Township, Columbiana County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998. 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 generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of the Township as of December 31, 1999 and 1998, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 29, 2000 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 grants.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board, management and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Petro".

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

February 29, 2000

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$20,882	\$91,285	\$8,440	\$120,607
Intergovernmental	56,031	77,355		133,386
Charges for Services	354	833		1,187
Earnings on Investments	223	671		894
Other Revenue	1,897			1,897
	<u>79,387</u>	<u>170,144</u>	<u>8,440</u>	<u>257,971</u>
Total Cash Receipts				
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	50,926			50,926
Public Safety		31,694		31,694
Public Works		147,697		147,697
Health	3,371			3,371
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal			19,517	19,517
Interest and Fiscal Charges			490	490
	<u>54,297</u>	<u>179,391</u>	<u>20,007</u>	<u>253,695</u>
Total Cash Disbursements				
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>25,090</u>	<u>(9,247)</u>	<u>(11,567)</u>	<u>4,276</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Transfers-In		7,000	12,016	19,016
Advances-In	1,299	3,506		4,805
Transfers-Out	(19,016)			(19,016)
Advances-Out	(3,506)	(1,299)		(4,805)
Other Sources		418		418
	<u>(21,223)</u>	<u>9,625</u>	<u>12,016</u>	<u>418</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)				
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	3,867	378	449	4,694
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>25,459</u>	<u>13,459</u>	<u>3,294</u>	<u>42,212</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$29,326</u>	<u>\$13,837</u>	<u>\$3,743</u>	<u>\$46,906</u>

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

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$19,274	\$98,950	\$9,028	\$127,252
Intergovernmental	47,252	74,087		121,339
Charges for Services		1,509		1,509
Earnings on Investments	352	933		1,285
Other Revenue	9,975			9,975
	<u>76,853</u>	<u>175,479</u>	<u>9,028</u>	<u>261,360</u>
Total Cash Receipts				
	<u>76,853</u>	<u>175,479</u>	<u>9,028</u>	<u>261,360</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	55,634			55,634
Public Safety		44,518		44,518
Public Works		134,236		134,236
Health	3,433			3,433
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal			10,220	10,220
Interest and Fiscal Charges			1,033	1,033
	<u>59,067</u>	<u>178,754</u>	<u>11,253</u>	<u>249,074</u>
Total Cash Disbursements				
	<u>59,067</u>	<u>178,754</u>	<u>11,253</u>	<u>249,074</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>17,786</u>	<u>(3,275)</u>	<u>(2,225)</u>	<u>12,286</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Transfers-In		6,436		6,436
Advances-In		1,299		1,299
Transfers-Out	(6,436)			(6,436)
Advances-Out	(1,299)			(1,299)
Other Sources		900		900
	<u>(7,735)</u>	<u>8,635</u>		<u>900</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)				
	<u>(7,735)</u>	<u>8,635</u>		<u>900</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	10,051	5,360	(2,225)	13,186
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>15,408</u>	<u>8,099</u>	<u>5,519</u>	<u>29,026</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$25,459</u></u>	<u><u>\$13,459</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,294</u></u>	<u><u>\$42,212</u></u>

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Yellow Creek Township, Columbiana 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, including road and bridge maintenance and fire protection and emergency medical services.

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 and Investments

The Township has an interest bearing checking account. Interest earned is recognized and recorded when received. Investment procedures are restricted by the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. No investments were held by the Township.

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.

Fire District Fund - This fund receives property tax money for the general operation of the fire district.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Debt Service Fund

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of note indebtedness.

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 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 carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Township did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

A summary of 1999 and 1998 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. Unpaid Vacation and Sick Leave

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the basis of accounting used by the Township.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a cash and investments 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>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Demand deposits	\$46,906	\$42,212

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998
(Continued)

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 1999 and 1998 follows:

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$78,364	\$79,387	\$1,023
Special Revenue	242,263	177,562	(64,701)
Debt Service	14,829	20,456	5,627
Total	<u>\$335,456</u>	<u>\$277,405</u>	<u>(\$58,051)</u>

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$0	\$73,313	(\$73,313)
Special Revenue	0	179,391	(179,391)
Debt Service	0	20,007	(20,007)
Total	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$272,711</u>	<u>(\$272,711)</u>

1998 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$68,156	\$76,853	\$8,697
Special Revenue	204,052	182,815	(21,237)
Debt Service	4,801	9,028	4,227
Total	<u>\$277,009</u>	<u>\$268,696</u>	<u>(\$8,313)</u>

1998 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$0	\$65,503	(\$65,503)
Special Revenue	0	178,754	(178,754)
Debt Service	0	11,253	(11,253)
Total	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$255,510</u>	<u>(\$255,510)</u>

The Township did not comply with Ohio Rev Code Sections 5705.38, 5705.41(B) and 5705.41(D).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998
(Continued)

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by 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 accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, 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, 1999 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Fire Truck Note	\$4,657	5%
New Holland Tractor Lease	39,967	
Total	\$44,624	

Sky Bank formerly Citizens Banking Company was used to purchase a 1997 Fire Truck. The note was issued for \$15,905 to the township for this purchase the note will be repaid in monthly installments of \$703, including interest over two years.

The township entered into a lease agreement with Franklin Tractor Sales Inc. for a new Howland Tractor and Alamo Versa Boom. The total lease amount was for \$57,825 to be paid in five annual installments of \$11,565.

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

Year ending December 31:	Fire Truck Note	New Howland Tractor Lease
2000	\$4,917	\$11,565
2001	0	11,565
2002	0	11,565
2003	0	11,565
Total	\$4,917	\$46,260

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement 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. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 1999.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability
- Vehicles
- Errors and omissions

The Township also provides health insurance to full-time employees through a private carrier.

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Yellow Creek Township
Columbiana County
1030 Township Line Rd
Wellsville, OH 43968

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Yellow Creek Township, Columbiana County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated February 29, 2000. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items, 1999-41215-001, 1999-41215-002 and 1999-41215-003. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated February 29, 2000.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted a matter involving the internal control over financial reporting that does not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated February 29, 2000.

This report is intended for the information and use of the management, and Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Petro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

February 29, 2000

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 1999-41215-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.38 states that “on or about the first day of each fiscal year, an appropriation measure is to be passed. If the taxing authority wants to postpone the passage of the annual appropriation measure until an amended certificate is received from the county budget commission based upon the actual year end balances, it may pass a temporary appropriation measure for meeting the ordinary expenses until April 1st.”

Yellow Creek Township did not pass an appropriation measure for years 1999 and 1998.

We recommend that the Township implement policies and procedures requiring the annual appropriations measure be passed in compliance with Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38.

FINDING NUMBER 1999-41215-002

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) states in part that “no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated.”

The Township did not pass an appropriation measure for the years 1999 and 1998; therefore, all expenditures made in 1999 and 1998 were in excess of the appropriations.

We recommend that the Township implement policies and procedures requiring the monitoring of expenditures and appropriations in order to comply with Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B).

FINDING NUMBER 1999-41215-003

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D), requires that no subdivision make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the same has been lawfully appropriated for such purposes and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of the appropriate fund free from any encumbrance.

Funding to pay certain liabilities, contracts and open purchase commitments greater than \$1,000 was not encumbered by the Clerk until the time of payment.

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D), further provides that every such contract without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

This section also provides two “exceptions” to the above requirements:

- A. "Then and Now Certificate" - If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was at the time of making the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the taxing authority may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contracts or order by resolution within thirty days from the receipt of such certificate, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.
- B. If the amount involved is less than \$1000, the fiscal officer may authorize it to be paid without the affirmation of the Board of Trustees. Incurring obligations prior to fiscal officer's certification of the availability of funds to pay such obligations could result in the Township spending more than what was appropriated.

The Township should establish control policies and procedures that are sufficient to ensure that purchases are certified and encumbered by the Clerk at the time of purchase.



STATE OF OHIO
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YELLOW CREEK TOWNSHIP

COLUMBIANA COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

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

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JULY 13, 2000**