



**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999**



**JIM PETRO**  
**AUDITOR OF STATE**  

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**STATE OF OHIO**



PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTBULA COUNTY

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## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Pierpont Township  
Ashtabula County  
1068 State Route 7  
Pierpont, Ohio 44082

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pierpont Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and December 31, 1999. 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, 2000 and December 31, 1999, 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 June 15, 2001, 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. 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.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees 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.

**Jim Petro**  
Auditor of State

June 15, 2001

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**PEIRPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>				<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>					
Local Taxes	\$29,955	\$67,372	\$9,495		\$106,822
Intergovernmental	12,767	83,551			96,318
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	646	2,498			3,144
Special Assessments		1,678			1,678
Earnings on Investments	2,453	1,850		\$165	4,468
Other Revenue	111	2,050	95	48	2,304
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<u>45,932</u>	<u>158,999</u>	<u>9,590</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>214,734</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>					
Current:					
General Government	58,549				58,549
Public Safety		21,461			21,461
Public Works		92,183			92,183
Health	5,418	8,560			13,978
Redemption of Principal			9,000		9,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges			495		495
Capital Outlay		65			65
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>63,967</u>	<u>122,269</u>	<u>9,495</u>		<u>195,731</u>
<b>Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</b>	<u>(18,035)</u>	<u>36,730</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>19,003</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):</b>					
Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt:					
Transfers-In		2,500			2,500
Transfers-Out	(2,500)				(2,500)
Other Sources	10,751				10,751
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>	<u>8,251</u>	<u>2,500</u>			<u>10,751</u>
<b>Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements</b>	<u>(9,784)</u>	<u>39,230</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>29,754</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>	<u>39,698</u>	<u>65,248</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>3,934</u>	<u>109,301</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><b>\$29,914</b></u>	<u><b>\$104,478</b></u>	<u><b>\$516</b></u>	<u><b>\$4,147</b></u>	<u><b>\$139,055</b></u>

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

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>				<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>					
Local Taxes	\$29,228	\$61,904	\$9,990		\$101,122
Intergovernmental	18,137	80,148			98,285
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	791	3,486			4,277
Special Assessments		1,937			1,937
Earnings on Investments	1,394	880		125	2,399
Other Revenue	62	2,993			3,055
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<u>49,612</u>	<u>151,348</u>	<u>9,990</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>211,075</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>					
Current:					
General Government	50,387				50,387
Public Safety		21,454			21,454
Public Works	668	105,279			105,947
Health	7,534	5,643			13,177
Redemption of Principal			9,000		9,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges			991		991
Supplies and Materials				17	17
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>58,589</u>	<u>132,376</u>	<u>9,991</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>200,973</u>
<b>Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</b>	<u>(8,977)</u>	<u>18,972</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>10,102</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>	<u>48,675</u>	<u>46,276</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>3,826</u>	<u>99,199</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$39,698</u></u>	<u><u>\$65,248</u></u>	<u><u>\$421</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,934</u></u>	<u><u>\$109,301</u></u>

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



**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Description of the Entity**

Pierpont Township, Ashtabula 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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Pierpont Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire services and ambulance 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**

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost. The investment in STAR Ohio (the State Treasurer's investment pool) is valued at amounts reported by the State Treasurer.

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

**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.

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999  
(Continued)**

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

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

**3. Debt Service Funds**

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bonds and note indebtedness. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Note Retirement Fund - This fund receives property tax money for payment of Township debt.

**4. Fiduciary Funds (Trust Funds)**

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

Cemetery Bequest Fund - This fund receives interest revenue from monies held in trust on behalf of the estates of Green, Partch, Wright and Hoskins, for the general upkeep of graves.

**E. Budgetary Process**

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

**1. Appropriations**

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

**2. Estimated Resources**

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

**3. Encumbrances**

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are cancelled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2000 and 1999 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999  
(Continued)**

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

**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**

The employee is 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>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Demand deposits	\$61,287	\$105,796
Certificates of deposit	3,516	3,505
Total deposits	<u>64,803</u>	<u>109,301</u>
STAR Ohio	<u>74,252</u>	<u>0</u>
Total investments	<u>74,252</u>	<u>0</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u><u>\$139,055</u></u>	<u><u>\$109,301</u></u>

**Deposits:** Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**Investments:** Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999  
(Continued)**

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2000 and December 31, 1999 follows:

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$36,355	\$56,683	\$20,328
Special Revenue	134,842	161,499	26,657
Debt Service	9,900	9,590	(310)
Fiduciary	71	213	142
Total	<u>\$181,168</u>	<u>\$227,985</u>	<u>\$46,817</u>

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$85,905	\$66,467	\$19,438
Special Revenue	192,741	122,269	70,472
Debt Service	10,321	9,495	826
Fiduciary	4,002	0	4,002
Total	<u>\$292,969</u>	<u>\$198,231</u>	<u>\$94,738</u>

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$35,288	\$49,612	\$14,324
Special Revenue	134,282	151,348	17,066
Debt Service	9,900	9,990	90
Fiduciary	59	125	66
Total	<u>\$179,529</u>	<u>\$211,075</u>	<u>\$31,546</u>

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$84,513	\$58,589	\$25,924
Special Revenue	182,639	132,376	50,263
Debt Service	10,322	9,991	331
Fiduciary	3,885	17	3,868
Total	<u>\$281,359</u>	<u>\$200,973</u>	<u>\$80,386</u>

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999  
(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.

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 SYSTEMS**

The Township's 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% in 1999 and 10.84% in 2000 of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2000.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Township has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability
- Vehicles
- Errors and omissions
- Public official's liability

The Township also provides health insurance and dental and vision coverage to its full-time employee and Trustees through a private carrier.

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

Pierpont Township  
Ashtabula County  
1068 State Route 7  
Pierpont, Ohio 44082

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pierpont Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and December 31, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated June 15, 2001. 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 no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we noted a certain immaterial instance of noncompliance that we have reported to management the Township in a separate letter dated June 15, 2001.

**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 other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated June 15, 2001.

Pierpont Township  
Ashtabula County  
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on  
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*  
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This report is intended for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

**Jim Petro**  
Auditor of State

June 15, 2001





STATE OF OHIO  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR  

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JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

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**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP**

**ASHTABULA 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 19, 2001**