



**VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001-2000



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Village of Cherry Fork
Adams County
P. O. Box 4
Cherry Fork, Ohio 45618

To the Village Council:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Village of Cherry Fork, Adams County, Ohio (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Village'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 *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 Village 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 Village as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, 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 March 25, 2002, on our consideration of the Village'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 our audit performed in accordance with the *Governmental 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 the audit committee, management, and Village Council 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

March 25, 2002

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**VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Property Tax and Other Local Taxes	\$6,536	\$0	\$6,536
Intergovernmental Receipts	4,115	3,819	7,934
Fines, Licenses, and Fees	981		981
Miscellaneous	1,049		1,049
	12,681	3,819	16,500
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property		1,764	1,764
Public Health Services	180		180
Transportation		5,061	5,061
General Government	16,915		16,915
	17,095	6,825	23,920
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(4,414)	(3,006)	(7,420)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	8,493	7,986	16,479
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$4,079	\$4,980	\$9,059

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

**VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Property Tax and Other Local Taxes	\$6,541	\$0	\$6,541
Intergovernmental Receipts	4,608	4,257	8,865
Fines, Licenses, and Fees	872		872
Miscellaneous	173		173
	<u>12,194</u>	<u>4,257</u>	<u>16,451</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property		1,763	1,763
Public Health Services	165		165
Transportation		1,559	1,559
General Government	10,721		10,721
	<u>10,886</u>	<u>3,322</u>	<u>14,208</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
	<u>1,308</u>	<u>935</u>	<u>2,243</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements			
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	7,185	7,051	14,236
	<u>7,185</u>	<u>7,051</u>	<u>14,236</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$8,493</u>	<u>\$7,986</u>	<u>\$16,479</u>

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

**VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The Village of Cherry Fork, Adams County, Ohio (the Village), 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 Village is directed by a publicly-elected, six-member Council. The Village provides general governmental services, including road maintenance.

The Village's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Village 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 Deposits

The Village maintains all available funds in an interest-bearing checking account.

D. Fund Accounting

The Village uses fund accounting to segregate cash deposits that are restricted as to use. The Village 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 Fund

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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax and motor vehicle tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Village streets.

State Highway Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax and motor vehicle tax money for maintenance of the State Highway in the Village.

**VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

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

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Village to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Village did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law; however, the Village did not have material encumbrances outstanding at December 31, 2001 and 2000.

A summary of 2001 and 2000 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.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH DEPOSITS

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

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Demand deposits	<u>\$ 9,059</u>	<u>\$ 16,479</u>

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

**VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2001 and 2000 follows:

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 11,600	\$ 12,681	\$ 1,081
Special Revenue	3,700	3,819	119
Total	\$ 15,300	\$ 16,500	\$ 1,200

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 20,078	\$ 17,095	\$ 2,983
Special Revenue	11,686	6,825	4,861
Total	\$ 31,764	\$ 23,920	\$ 7,844

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 11,800	\$ 12,194	\$ 394
Special Revenue	3,200	4,257	1,057
Total	\$ 15,000	\$ 16,451	\$ 1,451

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 18,985	\$ 10,886	\$ 8,099
Special Revenue	10,251	3,322	6,929
Total	\$ 29,236	\$ 14,208	\$ 15,028

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Village Council. 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.

**VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX (Continued)

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

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 Village.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Village officials belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan which provide 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 2001 and 2000, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Village contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2001 and from January 1, 2000 through June 30, 2000. PERS temporarily reduced the employer contribution rate to 8.13% effective July 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2001.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Village has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- General Liability
- Commercial Property

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Village made payments to Council members for services provided outside of their normal course of Council activities. Three Village Council members received compensation during 2001 of \$60, \$130, and \$608, respectively, for mowing Village property. Another Council member received compensation of \$210 in 2001 and \$195 in 2000 for cleaning the Village hall.



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

Village of Cherry Fork
Adams County
P.O. Box 4
Cherry Fork, Ohio 45618

To the Village Council:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Village of Cherry Fork, Adams County, Ohio (the Village), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000, and have issued our report thereon dated March 25, 2002. 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.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Village'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 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 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 2001-30401-001 and 2001-30401-002. We also noted an immaterial instance of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Village in a separate letter dated March 25, 2002.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Village'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. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgement, could adversely affect the Village's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2001-30401-001.

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. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we do not believe the reportable condition described above is a material weakness.

Village of Cherry Fork
Adams County
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
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We also noted a matter involving the internal control structure over financial reporting that does not require inclusion in this report that we have reported to the management of the Village in a separate letter dated March 25, 2002.

This report is intended for the information and use of the audit committee, management, and Village Council, 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", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

March 25, 2002

**VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK
ADAMS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2001-30401-001

Material Noncompliance / Reportable Condition

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41 (D), requires that 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 that 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. This Section also provides for two exceptions to the above requirement:

1. Then-and-Now Certificates - If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was, both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Village may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within 30 days from the receipt of such certificate.
2. If the amount involved is less than \$1,000, the fiscal officer may authorize payment through a Then-and-Now Certificate without affirmation of the Council, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

Where a continuing contract is to be performed in whole or in part in an ensuing fiscal year, only the amount required to meet those amounts in the fiscal year in which the contract is made need be certified.

Contrary to the above requirement, the availability of funds was not certified for 44% of disbursements tested. Failure to certify the availability of funds and encumber appropriations can result in overspending funds and negative cash balances. Therefore, we recommend the Village obtain approved purchase orders, which contain the Clerk's certification that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated and authorized, prior to making a commitment.

We also reported this matter in the management letter related to our audit of the 1999 and 1998 financial statements.

FINDING NUMBER 2001-30401-002

Material Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 731.12, provides that members of a village council may not have any interest in any contract with the village or hold employment with said village. The Village made payments to Council members for services provided outside of their normal course of Council activities, contrary to this law. Three Village Council members received compensation during 2001 of \$60, \$130, and \$608, respectively, for mowing Village property. Another Council member received compensation of \$210 in 2001 and \$195 in 2000 for cleaning the Village hall. We recommend that the Village adopt a policy regarding the prohibition of such activity and refrain from contracting with or employing Council members for these types of services. This matter has been referred to the Village Solicitor and the Ohio Ethics Commission. This compensation was also not included on the Council members' W-2 forms. The Village should notify the Internal Revenue Service of this discrepancy to determine the appropriate resolution.



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VILLAGE OF CHERRY FORK

ADAMS 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 16, 2002**