



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HURON COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Ripley Township
Huron County
4382 New State Rd.
Willard, OH 44890-9376

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ripley Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001. 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 audits.

We conducted our audits 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 audits 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 audits provide 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, 2002 and 2001, 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 17, 2003, 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 audits.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

March 17, 2003

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HURON 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, 2002**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>		
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$26,064	\$26,052			\$52,116
Intergovernmental	32,663	77,202	\$44,400		154,265
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	794				794
Earnings on Investments	288	377			665
Other Revenue	119				119
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	59,928	103,631	44,400		207,959
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	49,120				49,120
Public Works		84,480	44,400		128,880
Health	1,068				1,068
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal		18,795			18,795
Interest and Fiscal Charges		1,402			1,402
Capital Outlay	6,587				6,587
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	56,775	104,677	44,400		205,852
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	3,153	(1,046)			2,107
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	14,920	36,093		\$745	51,758
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$18,073	\$35,047		\$745	\$53,865
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HURON 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, 2001**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$26,855	\$26,464		\$53,319
Intergovernmental	28,808	65,369		94,177
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	324			324
Earnings on Investments	164	173		337
Other Revenue	638	159		797
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	56,789	92,165		148,954
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	48,558			48,558
Public Works		81,912		81,912
Health	1,047			1,047
Miscellaneous	5,621			5,621
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal		4,205		4,205
Interest and Fiscal Charges		795		795
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	55,226	86,912		142,138
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	1,563	5,253		6,816
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other Financing Receipts:				
Loan Proceeds		23,000		23,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Other Financing Receipts		23,000		23,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	1,563	28,253		29,816
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	13,357	7,840	\$745	21,942
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$14,920</u>	<u>\$36,093</u>	<u>\$745</u>	<u>\$51,758</u>

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

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Ripley Township, Huron 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 road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Tri-Community Joint Fire District provides fire services and the Tri-Community Ambulance District provides ambulance services for the Township.

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. 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
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001
(Continued)**

3. Capital Project Funds

These funds are used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects. The Township had the following significant capital project fund:

Community Development Block Grant Fund - The Township received CDBG grant funds for a road repaving project within the Township.

4. Fiduciary Funds (Trust and Agency Funds)

These funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements and funds for which the Township is acting in an agency capacity.

D. 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 canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2002 and 2001 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. 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.

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

	2002	2001
Demand deposits	\$53,865	\$51,758

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2002 and 2001 follows:

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$58,918	\$59,928	\$1,010
Special Revenue	124,134	103,632	(20,502)
Capital Projects	44,400	44,400	
Total	\$227,452	\$207,960	(\$19,492)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$72,275	\$56,775	\$15,500
Special Revenue	133,925	104,677	29,248
Capital Projects	44,400	44,400	
Total	\$250,600	\$205,852	\$44,748

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$48,633	\$56,789	\$8,156
Special Revenue	112,626	115,165	2,539
Total	\$161,259	\$171,954	\$10,695

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$61,990	\$55,226	\$6,764
Special Revenue	122,417	86,912	35,505
Total	\$184,407	\$142,138	\$42,269

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001
(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 Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS 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. For 2002 and 2001, OPERS 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, 2002.

6. RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP

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.

Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured with APEEP up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000, which the General Reinsurance Corporation will reinsure.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

**RIPLEY TOWNSHIP
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001
(Continued)**

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks including automobile physical damage up to \$100,000 on any specific loss. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures specific losses exceeding \$100,000. The Travelers Indemnity Company also provides aggregate excess coverage for property including automobile physical damage subject to an annual stop loss. When the stop loss is reached in any year, The Travelers Indemnity Company provides coverage in excess of \$10,000.

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.

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and report the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2001 and 2000 (the most recent years that financial data is available):

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Assets	\$23,703,776	\$22,684,383
Liabilities	<u>9,379,003</u>	<u>8,924,977</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$14,324,773</u>	<u>\$13,759,406</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Assets	\$5,011,131	\$4,156,784
Liabilities	<u>647,667</u>	<u>497,831</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$4,363,464</u>	<u>\$3,658,953</u>

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Ripley Township
Huron County
4382 New State Rd.
Willard, OH 44890-9376

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ripley Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated March 17, 2003. We conducted our audits 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 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 the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audits 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*.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audits, we considered the 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 March 17, 2003.

One Government Center / Room 1420 / Toledo, OH 43604-2246
Telephone: (419) 245-2811 (800) 443-9276 Fax: (419) 245-2484
www.auditor.state.oh.us

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, and the 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 that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

March 17, 2003



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

88 East Broad Street
P.O. Box 1140
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140

Telephone 614-466-4514
800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP

HURON 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
APRIL 15, 2003**