



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Sterling Township
Brown County
1268 Leebe Drive
Williamsburg, Ohio 45176

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Sterling Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. 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 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.

The Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments.

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 and reserve for encumbrances of the Township as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, 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 April 15, 2004, 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 the management, the Board 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

April 15, 2004

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN 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, 2003**

| | <u>Governmental Fund Types</u> | | | Totals (Memorandum Only) |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | <u>General</u> | <u>Special Revenue</u> | <u>Fiduciary Funds</u> | |
| Cash Receipts: | | | | |
| Local Taxes | \$33,095 | \$160,689 | | \$193,784 |
| Intergovernmental | 51,528 | 87,191 | | 138,719 |
| Licenses, Permits, and Fees | | 2,500 | | 2,500 |
| Earnings on Investments | 1,164 | 155 | 45 | 1,364 |
| Other Revenue | 6,737 | 1,300 | | 8,037 |
| | <u>92,524</u> | <u>251,835</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>344,404</u> |
| Total Cash Receipts | | | | |
| | <u>92,524</u> | <u>251,835</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>344,404</u> |
| Cash Disbursements: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| General Government | 57,083 | 1,909 | | 58,992 |
| Public Safety | | 103,270 | | 103,270 |
| Public Works | 3,595 | 62,324 | | 65,919 |
| Health | 9,914 | 2,849 | | 12,763 |
| Capital Outlay | 564 | | | 564 |
| | <u>71,156</u> | <u>170,352</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>241,508</u> |
| Total Cash Disbursements | | | | |
| | <u>71,156</u> | <u>170,352</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>241,508</u> |
| Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements | <u>21,368</u> | <u>81,483</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>102,896</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | <u>130,182</u> | <u>178,912</u> | <u>5,182</u> | <u>314,276</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | <u>\$151,550</u> | <u>\$260,395</u> | <u>\$5,227</u> | <u>\$417,172</u> |
| Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31 | <u>\$1,679</u> | <u>\$5,271</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$6,950</u> |

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

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN 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>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | <u>General</u> | <u>Special Revenue</u> | <u>Fiduciary Funds</u> | |
| Cash Receipts: | | | | |
| Local Taxes | \$31,895 | \$156,472 | | \$188,367 |
| Intergovernmental | 55,587 | 82,151 | | 137,738 |
| Licenses, Permits, and Fees | | 2,100 | | 2,100 |
| Earnings on Investments | 1,918 | 257 | 74 | 2,249 |
| Other Revenue | 10,624 | | | 10,624 |
| | <u>100,024</u> | <u>240,980</u> | <u>74</u> | <u>341,078</u> |
| Total Cash Receipts | <u>100,024</u> | <u>240,980</u> | <u>74</u> | <u>341,078</u> |
| Cash Disbursements: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| General Government | 60,336 | 1,936 | | 62,272 |
| Public Safety | | 103,304 | | 103,304 |
| Public Works | 1,514 | 101,344 | | 102,858 |
| Health | 14,690 | 2,516 | | 17,206 |
| Capital Outlay | 367 | | | 367 |
| | <u>76,907</u> | <u>209,100</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>286,007</u> |
| Total Cash Disbursements | <u>76,907</u> | <u>209,100</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>286,007</u> |
| Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements | <u>23,117</u> | <u>31,880</u> | <u>74</u> | <u>55,071</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | <u>107,065</u> | <u>147,032</u> | <u>5,108</u> | <u>259,205</u> |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | <u>\$130,182</u> | <u>\$178,912</u> | <u>\$5,182</u> | <u>\$314,276</u> |
| Reserve for Encumbrances December 31 | <u>\$320</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$320</u> |

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

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Sterling Township, Brown County, Ohio (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 cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Village of Mount Orab and Williamsburg Township for fire 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

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

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and deposits 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:

Gasoline Tax Fund

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

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Road and Bridge Fund

This fund receives property tax money for construction, maintaining and repairing Township road and bridges.

Cemetery Fund

This fund receives sales proceeds for maintaining and repairing Township cemeteries.

Fire Levy Fund

This fund receives proceeds from a tax levy for providing Township residents with fire protection services.

3. Fiduciary Funds (Non-Expendable Trust Fund)

This fund is used to account for resources restricted by a legally binding trust agreement. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

Cemetery Bequest Fund

This is a cemetery bequest fund for which the interest only may be used for cemetery maintenance expenses.

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

A summary of 2003 and 2002 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.

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND DEPOSITS

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

| | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Demand deposits | <u>\$417,172</u> | <u>\$314,276</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.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2003 and 2002 follows:

2003 Budgeted Vs. Actual Receipts

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Budgeted Receipts</u> | <u>Actual Receipts</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| General | \$89,965 | \$92,524 | \$2,559 |
| Special Revenue | 221,700 | 251,835 | 30,135 |
| Total | <u>\$311,665</u> | <u>\$344,359</u> | <u>\$32,694</u> |

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Appropriation Authority</u> | <u>Budgetary Expenditures</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| General | \$134,139 | \$72,835 | \$61,304 |
| Special Revenue | 260,300 | 175,623 | 84,677 |
| Total | <u>\$394,439</u> | <u>\$248,458</u> | <u>\$145,981</u> |

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Budgeted Receipts</u> | <u>Actual Receipts</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| General | \$80,289 | \$100,024 | \$19,735 |
| Special Revenue | 227,241 | 240,980 | 13,739 |
| Total | <u>\$307,530</u> | <u>\$341,004</u> | <u>\$33,474</u> |

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Appropriation Authority</u> | <u>Budgetary Expenditures</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| General | \$152,435 | \$77,227 | \$75,208 |
| Special Revenue | 291,400 | 209,100 | 82,300 |
| Total | <u>\$443,835</u> | <u>\$286,327</u> | <u>\$157,508</u> |

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(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 plans. These plans provide 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 for 2003 and 2002. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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 claim, including loss adjustment expenses. 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, from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

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.

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$10,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$700,000 for 2001 and \$1,250,000 for 2002. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$10,000 if the annual aggregate is reached and all specific losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Operating Fund and Guarantee Fund pay for losses and loss adjustment expenses should they exceed operating contributions.

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 reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31 2002 and 2001 (the latest information available):

| <u>Casualty Coverage</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2001</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Assets | \$23,757,036 | \$23,703,776 |
| Liabilities | (9,197,512) | (9,379,003) |
| Retained earnings | <u>\$14,559,524</u> | <u>\$14,324,773</u> |

| <u>Property Coverage</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2001</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Assets | \$6,596,996 | \$5,011,131 |
| Liabilities | (1,204,326) | (647,667) |
| Retained earnings | <u>\$5,392,670</u> | <u>\$4,363,464</u> |

The Township also contracts with a private carrier to provide health, life, and cancer insurance for eligible elected officials who accept the coverage.

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Sterling Township
Brown County
1268 Leebe Drive
Williamsburg, Ohio 45176

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Sterling Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated April 15, 2004, wherein we noted that the Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. 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 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 audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2003-40408-001.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, 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 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 April 15, 2004.

Sterling Township
Brown County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

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

April 15, 2004

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

FINDING NUMBER 2003-40408-001

Material Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.10, provides that all revenue derived from a special levy shall be credited to a special fund for the purpose of which the levy was made. The Township posted homestead and rollback receipts into the General Fund which should have been posted to the Road and Bridge, Special Road and Bridge and Fire Funds. The following adjustments were made on the Township's records and are reflected in the financial statements:

| Year | Purpose | Fund | (Decrease Fund Balance) | (Increase Fund Balance) |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | From | To |
| 2002 | Homestead/Rollback | General | \$17,096 | |
| 2002 | Homestead/Rollback | Road and Bridge | | \$2,291 |
| 2002 | Homestead/Rollback | Special Road and Bridge | | \$3,631 |
| 2002 | Homestead/Rollback | Fire | | \$11,174 |
| 2003 | Homestead/Rollback | General | \$18,391 | |
| 2003 | Homestead/Rollback | Road and Bridge | | \$2,391 |
| 2003 | Homestead/Rollback | Special Road and Bridge | | \$4,046 |
| 2003 | Homestead/Rollback | Fire | | \$11,954 |

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**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

| Finding Number | Finding Summary | Fully Corrected? | Not Corrected, Partially Corrected, Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain: |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| 2001-40408-001 | Noncompliance citation of Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41(D), for not encumbering properly. | Yes | |
| 2001-40408-002 | Noncompliance citation of Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5575.01, for not competitively bidding contracts. | Yes | |



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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STERLING TOWNSHIP

BROWN 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 20, 2004**