



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**



MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Cover Letter .....	1
Independent Accountants' Report.....	3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2004 .....	5
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances – Nonexpendable Trust Fund Type - For the Year Ended December 31, 2004 .....	6
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2003 .....	7
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances – Nonexpendable Trust Fund Type - For the Year Ended December 31, 2003 .....	8
Notes to the Financial Statements .....	9
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> .....	15

**This page intentionally left blank.**



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

Monroe Township  
Ashtabula County  
5578 S. Monroe Center Road  
Conneaut, Ohio 44030

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

August 18, 2005

**This page intentionally left blank.**



## Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Monroe Township  
Ashtabula County  
5578 S. Monroe Center Road  
Conneaut, OH 44030

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Monroe Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure 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. The Township processes its financial transactions with the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit 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 our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP would require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2004 (and 2003), the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements.

The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since this Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

Voinovich Government Center / 242 Federal Plaza W. / Suite 302 / Youngstown, OH 44503  
Telephone: (330) 797-9900 (800) 443-9271 Fax: (330) 797-9949  
[www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us)

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2004, or their changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of Monroe Township, Ashtabula County, as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 18, 2005, 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 grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.



**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

August 18, 2005



**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>				<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>					
Local Taxes	\$93,524	\$148,943	\$54,697		\$297,164
Intergovernmental	36,824	112,143		\$60,100	209,067
Special Assessments					0
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		11,064			11,064
Earnings on Investments	1,632	159			1,791
Other Revenue		11,408			11,408
					<u>11,408</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>131,980</u>	<u>283,717</u>	<u>54,697</u>	<u>60,100</u>	<u>530,494</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>					
Current:					
General Government	98,350	35,795			134,145
Public Safety					0
Public Works		227,226			227,226
Health	12,377	13,262			25,639
Conservation - Recreation					0
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal		981	51,578		52,559
Capital Outlay			3,119	60,100	63,219
					<u>63,219</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>110,727</u>	<u>277,264</u>	<u>54,697</u>	<u>60,100</u>	<u>502,788</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>21,253</u>	<u>6,453</u>			<u>27,706</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>72,498</u>	<u>170,823</u>			<u>243,321</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b><u>\$93,751</u></b>	<b><u>\$177,276</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$271,027</u></b>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,661</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,661</u>

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

MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND TYPE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	<u>Fiduciary Fund</u>
	<u>Non-Expendable Trust</u>
<b>Operating Cash Receipts:</b>	
Earnings on Investments	\$52
	<hr/>
Total Operating Cash Receipts	52
	<hr/>
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements:</b>	
Personal Services	18
Supplies and Materials	78
	<hr/>
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	96
	<hr/>
Operating Income/(Loss)	(44)
	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	4,173
	<hr/>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b><u><u>\$4,129</u></u></b>

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

**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>				
Local Taxes	\$92,733	\$147,617	\$56,603	\$296,953
Intergovernmental	20,448	98,429		118,877
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		11,444		11,444
Earnings on Investments	2,053	152		2,205
Other Revenue	9,177	5,409		14,586
	<u>124,411</u>	<u>263,051</u>	<u>56,603</u>	<u>444,065</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>				
	<u>124,411</u>	<u>263,051</u>	<u>56,603</u>	<u>444,065</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>				
Current:				
General Government	105,587	43,004		148,591
Public Works		173,717		173,717
Health	12,002	12,879		24,881
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal		530	51,111	51,641
Capital Outlay	6,205		5,492	11,697
	<u>123,794</u>	<u>230,130</u>	<u>56,603</u>	<u>410,527</u>
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>				
	<u>123,794</u>	<u>230,130</u>	<u>56,603</u>	<u>410,527</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>617</u>	<u>32,921</u>		<u>33,538</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>71,881</u>	<u>137,902</u>		<u>209,783</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><b>\$72,498</b></u>	<u><b>\$170,823</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$243,321</b></u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,288</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,288</u>

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

**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND TYPE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	<b>Fiduciary Fund</b>
	<b>Non-Expendable Trust</b>
<b>Operating Cash Receipts:</b>	
Earnings on Investment	\$45
Total Operating Cash Receipts	45
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements:</b>	
Personal Services	45
Supplies and Materials	75
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	120
Operating Income/(Loss)	(75)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	4,248
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<b>\$4,173</b>

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

**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Description of the Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Monroe Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, community center maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Monroe Township Volunteer Fire department to provide fire services and Conneaut City and Pierpont Township to provide 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

**C. Cash and Investments**

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or disbursements investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The Township maintains a general checking account and 2 STAR Ohio accounts. STAR Ohio funds are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

**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 reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**2. Special Revenue Funds**

These funds 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:

**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

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

*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 Levy Fund* – This fund receives property tax money for covering costs for providing fire protection services.

*Permissive Motor Vehicle License Fund* – This fund receives motor vehicle license tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

**3. Capital Project Fund**

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant capital project fund:

*Issue II Funds* - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio to widen Fox Road.

**4. Debt Service Fund**

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

*General Note Retirement* – This fund receives property tax money for the repayment of notes issued to purchase a dump truck.

**5. Fiduciary Fund (Trust Fund)**

This fund accounts for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

Holbrook Bequest Nonexpendable Trust Fund – This fund was established for grave site and cemetery maintenance.

**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 function 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.

**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

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

**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 2004 and 2003 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**F. Property, Plant, and Equipment**

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

**G. Accumulated Leave**

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

**2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

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

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Demand deposits	\$242,488	\$231,317
STAR Ohio - Investments	<u>32,668</u>	<u>16,177</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u><u>\$275,156</u></u>	<u><u>\$247,494</u></u>

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

**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2004 and 2003 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$104,505	\$131,980	\$27,475
Special Revenue	255,104	283,717	28,613
Debt Service	54,697	54,697	0
Capital Projects	60,100	60,100	0
Fiduciary	100	52	(48)
Total	\$474,506	\$530,546	\$56,040

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$134,197	\$110,727	\$23,470
Special Revenue	325,144	282,925	42,219
Debt Service	54,697	54,697	0
Capital Projects	60,100	60,100	0
Fiduciary	4,000	96	3,904
Total	\$578,138	\$508,545	\$69,593

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$95,000	\$124,411	\$29,411
Special Revenue	281,259	263,051	(18,208)
Debt Service	57,133	56,603	(530)
Capital Projects	60,100	0	(60,100)
Fiduciary	200	45	(155)
Total	\$493,692	\$444,110	(\$49,582)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$133,340	\$123,794	\$9,546
Special Revenue	292,341	231,418	60,923
Debt Service	57,133	56,603	530
Capital Projects	60,100	0	60,100
Fiduciary	200	120	80
Total	\$543,114	\$411,935	\$131,179



**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

**4. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopt rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, 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. DEBT**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Notes	\$30,048	4.2%

The Township has an outstanding loan for a dump truck. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

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

	General Obligation Notes
Year ending December 31:	
2005	\$15,831
2006	15,831
Total	\$31,662

**6. 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. For 2004 and 2003, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2004 and 2003. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003  
(Continued)**

**7. 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 townships 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. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Townships 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.

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500,000,000 per occurrence. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding 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 township.

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 2004 and 2003.

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$30,687,203	\$27,792,223
Liabilities	(13,640,962)	(11,791,300)
Retained earnings	<u>\$17,046,241</u>	<u>\$16,000,923</u>
<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$7,799,073	\$6,791,060
Liabilities	(753,906)	(750,956)
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,045,167</u>	<u>\$6,040,104</u>



## Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Monroe Township  
Ashtabula County  
5578 S. Monroe Center Road  
Conneaut, Ohio 44030

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Monroe Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated August 18, 2005, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted that the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable 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 caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider material weaknesses. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 18, 2005, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

#### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect 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 an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated August 18, 2005, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

Voinovich Government Center / 242 Federal Plaza W. / Suite 302 / Youngstown, OH 44503  
Telephone: (330) 797-9900 (800) 443-9271 Fax: (330) 797-9949  
[www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us)

Monroe Township  
Ashtabula County  
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over  
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters  
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*  
Page 2

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. It is not intended for 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

August 18, 2005



**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

**MONROE 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  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005**