



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HOUSTON JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
SHELBY COUNTY

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Houston Joint Ambulance District
Shelby County
5544 Cecil Road
Sidney, Ohio 45365

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 an 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.

Mary Taylor

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June 5, 2009

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Houston Joint Ambulance District
Shelby County
5544 Cecil Road
Sidney, Ohio 45365

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Houston Joint Ambulance District, Shelby County, (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District'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. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District 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.

While the District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require the District to reformat their statements. The District has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. 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.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances of the Houston Joint Ambulance District, Shelby County, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The District 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 June 5, 2009, on our consideration of the District'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. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

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

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 5, 2009

**HOUSTON JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
SHELBY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGE IN FUND CASH BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	<u>General</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Local Taxes	\$38,984
Intergovernmental	<u>7,197</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>46,181</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Current:	
Salaries and Benefits	1,149
Contract Services	43,969
Other	<u>963</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>46,081</u>
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	<u>100</u>
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	<u>1,002</u>
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	<u><u>\$1,102</u></u>

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

**HOUSTON JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
SHELBY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGE IN FUND CASH BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	<u>General</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Local Taxes	\$41,698
Intergovernmental	5,706
Total Cash Receipts	<u>47,404</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Current:	
Salaries and Benefits	1,143
Contract Services	48,119
Other	2,025
Total Disbursements	<u>51,287</u>
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	<u>(3,883)</u>
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	<u>4,885</u>
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	<u><u>\$1,002</u></u>

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

**HOUSTON JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
SHELBY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

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 Houston Joint Ambulance District, Shelby County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District. One member is appointed by the Village of Lockington, and Washington, Cynthian, Loramie and Turtle Creek Townships. The District contracts with Houston Rescue Services to provide ambulance services to the residents within the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting the Auditor of State prescribes or permits, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. This basis 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 adequately disclose material matters the Auditor of State prescribes.

C. Cash and Investments

The District maintained a checking account which is valued at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting and classifies its fund as the following type:

General Fund

The General Fund accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to budget its fund annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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.

**HOUSTON JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
SHELBY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. There were no encumbrances outstanding at year-end.

A summary of 2008 and 2007 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The District maintains a cash and investments pool. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and investments at December 31 follows:

	2008	2007
Demand deposits	\$1,102	\$1,002

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2006 and 2005 follows:

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$45,444	\$46,181	\$737

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$46,446	\$46,081	\$365

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$48,926	\$47,404	(\$1,522)

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$53,811	\$51,287	\$2,524

**HOUSTON JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
SHELBY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Board of Trustees adopted tax 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 District.

Tangible personal property tax owners assess that property. The property owners must file a tangible property list 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 District.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The District belongs to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plans' benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2008 and 2007, OPERS members contributed 10 and 9.5 percent, respectively, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 14.0 and 13.85 percent, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2008.

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

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

Houston Joint Ambulance District
Shelby County
5544 Cecil Road
Sidney, Ohio 45365

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Houston Joint Ambulance District, Shelby County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated June 5, 2009, wherein we noted the District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

We consider finding 2008-001 described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. We believe the significant deficiency described above as finding number 2008-001 is also material weaknesses.

We also noted a certain internal control matter that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 5, 2009.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District'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 an instance of noncompliance or other matter that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2008-001.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 5, 2009.

The District's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the management and the Board of Trustees. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 5, 2009

HOUSTON JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
SHELBY COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

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

FINDING NUMBER 2008-001

Material Weakness - Account Classifications

Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.38 requires that each public office, shall file a financial report for each fiscal year, which shall contain the amount of collections and receipts from each source and the amount of expenditures for each purpose.

Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-02(D) stipulates that such records should include the following: 1) cash journal, which typically contains the following information: The amount, date, receipt number, check number, account code, purchase order number, and any other information necessary to properly classify the transaction; (2) receipts ledger, which typically assembles and classifies receipts into separate accounts for each type of receipt of each fund the public office uses. The amount, date, name of the payor, purpose, receipt number, and other information required for the transactions can be recorded on this ledger; and (3) appropriation ledger, which may assemble and classify disbursements or expenditure/expenses into separate accounts for, at a minimum, each account listed in the appropriation resolution. The amount, fund, date, check number, purchase order number, encumbrance amount, unencumbered balance, amount of disbursement, uncommitted balance of appropriations and any other information required may be entered in the appropriate columns.

The District did not report receipts by source or expenditures by purpose in the annual financial statements filed for both 2008 and 2007. In addition, the District did not maintain a receipt ledger that would show budgeted revenue by source to actual amounts received.

Without properly classifying receipts by revenue source and disbursements by purpose, the financial statements are not presented in the format required by law, and do not present a reporting format to adequately inform the general public of the activities of the District. In addition, the District is unable to properly monitor compliance with budgetary requirements.

The District should use appropriate account classifications and the aforementioned accounting records to provide the District with the information required to prepare annual reports in the required format that will inform the general public of the District's activities. This would also allow the proper monitoring of budgetary activity. The District may refer to the Ohio Township Handbook for an example of the classifications and accounts available to present the appropriate classifications in the records and in the financial report. The presented financial statements have been amended to present the appropriate classifications.

Officials' Response:

I will begin using the suggested form of proper reporting for 2009.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HOUSTON JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
SHELBY COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED
JULY 14, 2009