



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**



PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY

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**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

Pierpont Township  
Ashtabula County  
5657 Caine Rd.  
Pierpont, Ohio 44082

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.

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**Betty Montgomery**  
Auditor of State

October 25, 2005

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## Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Pierpont Township  
Ashtabula County  
5657 Caine Rd.  
Pierpont, Ohio 44082

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pierpont 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 independence of the Auditor of State 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.

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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 its 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 of Pierpont Township, Ashtabula County, as of December 31, 2004 and December 31, 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 October 25, 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

October 25, 2005



PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA 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, 2004**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Nonexpendable Trust</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>					
Local Taxes	\$42,078	\$64,828	\$6,539		\$113,445
Intergovernmental	13,609	107,589			121,198
Special Assessments		1,656			1,656
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	130	3,327			3,457
Earnings on Investments	420	274		41	735
Other Revenue		2,120			2,120
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<u>56,237</u>	<u>179,794</u>	<u>6,539</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>242,611</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>					
Current:					
General Government	30,805				30,805
Public Safety		27,436			27,436
Public Works		154,671			154,671
Health	7,060	10,174			17,234
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal			6,000		6,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges			539		539
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>37,865</u>	<u>192,281</u>	<u>6,539</u>		<u>236,685</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>18,372</u>	<u>(12,487)</u>		<u>41</u>	<u>5,926</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):</b>					
Reduction of a Receipt				(415)	(415)
Transfers-In		6,704			6,704
Transfers-Out	(6,704)				(6,704)
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>	<u>(6,704)</u>	<u>6,704</u>		<u>(415)</u>	<u>(415)</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	11,668	(5,783)		(374)	5,511
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	46,907	72,079		3,571	122,557
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><b>\$58,575</b></u>	<u><b>\$66,296</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$3,197</b></u>	<u><b>\$128,068</b></u>

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

PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA 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>			<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Nonexpendable Trust</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>					
Local Taxes	\$44,751	\$70,604	\$6,023		\$121,378
Intergovernmental	13,440				13,440
Special Assessments		1,857			1,857
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	204	3,888			4,092
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties		85,770			85,770
Earnings on Investments	597	512		56	1,165
Other Revenue		860			860
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<u>58,992</u>	<u>163,491</u>	<u>6,023</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>228,562</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>					
Current:					
General Government	29,458				29,458
Public Safety		27,514			27,514
Public Works		138,087			138,087
Health	6,856	9,249			16,105
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal			4,922		4,922
Interest and Fiscal Charges			1,617		1,617
Capital Outlay		1,150			1,150
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>36,314</u>	<u>176,000</u>	<u>6,539</u>		<u>218,853</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>22,678</u>	<u>(12,509)</u>	<u>(516)</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>9,709</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):</b>					
Transfers-In		5,000			5,000
Transfers-Out	(5,000)				(5,000)
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>5,000</u>			
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	17,678	(7,509)	(516)	56	9,709
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	29,229	79,588	516	3,515	112,848
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><b>\$46,907</b></u>	<u><b>\$72,079</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$3,571</b></u>	<u><b>\$122,557</b></u>

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

**PIERPONT 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 Pierpont 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, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Pierpont Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire services and 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 values certificates of deposit at cost.

**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:

**PIERPONT 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.

**3. Debt Service Fund**

This fund accounts for resources the Township accumulates to pay note debt. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

*Note Retirement Fund* – This fund receives property tax money to repay debt for the purchase of equipment.

**4. Fiduciary Funds (Trust Funds)**

These funds account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

*Cemetery Bequest Fund* – This fund receives interest revenue from monies held in trust on behalf of the estates of Green, Partch, Wright and Hopkins, for the general upkeep of graves.

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

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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

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

**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:

	2004	2003
Demand deposits	\$124,968	\$119,042
Certificates of deposit	3,100	3,515
Total deposits	\$128,068	\$122,557

**Deposits:** Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**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	\$54,250	\$56,237	\$1,987
Special Revenue	153,860	186,498	32,638
Debt Service	6,539	6,539	0
Fiduciary	56	41	(15)
Total	\$214,705	\$249,315	\$34,610

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$91,141	\$44,569	\$46,572
Special Revenue	235,878	192,281	43,597
Debt Service	6,539	6,539	0
Fiduciary	3,705	415	3,290
Total	<u>\$337,263</u>	<u>\$243,804</u>	<u>\$93,459</u>

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$50,531	\$58,992	\$8,461
Special Revenue	157,386	168,491	11,105
Debt Service	6,023	6,023	0
Fiduciary	74	56	(18)
Total	<u>\$214,014</u>	<u>\$233,562</u>	<u>\$19,548</u>

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$71,782	\$41,314	\$30,468
Special Revenue	231,104	176,000	55,104
Debt Service	6,539	6,539	0
Fiduciary	4,512	0	4,512
Total	<u>\$313,937</u>	<u>\$223,853</u>	<u>\$90,084</u>

**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.

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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

**5. DEBT**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Note	\$6,000	4.50%

The Township issued the general obligation note to finance the purchase of a new truck for Township road maintenance. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the note.

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

	General Obligation Note
Year ending December 31: 2005	\$6,539

**6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

The Township's employees belong 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 2004 and 2003, members of OPERS contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equaling 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

**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 local governments. 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. 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.

**PIERPONT TOWNSHIP  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)**

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$1,250,000 for 2002. There is no aggregate for 2003 and future accident years. Beginning in 2003, 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. 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	<u>(13,640,962)</u>	<u>(11,791,300)</u>
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	<u>(753,906)</u>	<u>(750,956)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,045,167</u>	<u>\$6,040,104</u>





## **Auditor of State Betty Montgomery**

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

Pierpont Township  
Ashtabula County  
5657 Caine Rd.  
Pierpont, Ohio 44082

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Pierpont Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated October 25, 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 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 Library 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 in order 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 October 25, 2005, we reported one matter involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem a reportable condition.

#### **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*.

We intended this report solely for the information and use of the 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

October 25, 2005



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

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**PIERPONT 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  
NOVEMBER 29, 2005**