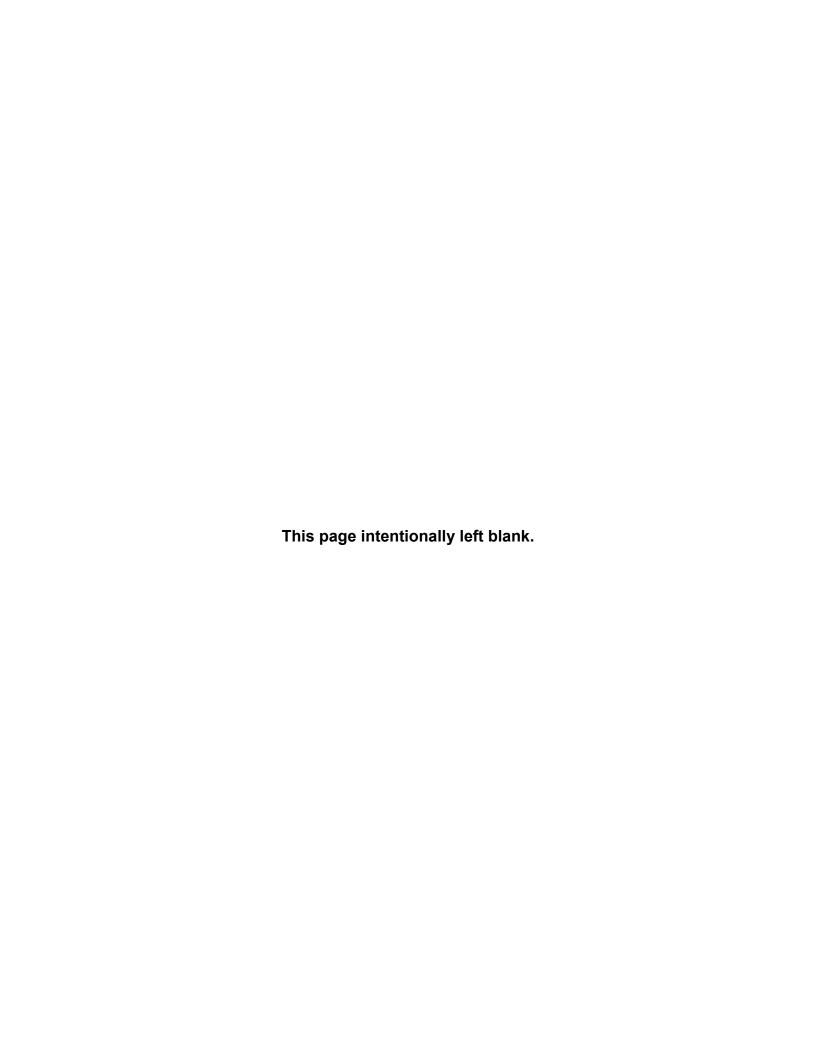




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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Athens Township Athens County P.O. Box 193 The Plains, Ohio 45780

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Athens Township, Athens 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.

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 Section 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code Sections 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 reserves for encumbrances of Athens Township, Athens County, 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.

743 E. State St. / Athens Mall Suite B / Athens, OH 45701 Telephone: (740) 594-3300 (800) 441-1389 Fax: (740) 594-2110 www.auditor.state.oh.us Athens Township
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Independent Accountants' Report
Page 2

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 5, 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 audit committee, management, the Board of Trustees and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Betty Montgomery

April 5, 2004

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

	Governmental Fund Types							
	General			Special Revenue	Debt Service		(Me	Totals emorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:								
Local Taxes	\$	93,959	\$	662,979	\$	42,399	\$	799,337
Intergovernmental		145,689		211,319		,		357,008
Earnings on Investments		5,270		4,167				9,437
Miscellaneous		31,126		7,200				38,326
Total Cash Receipts		276,044		885,665		42,399		1,204,108
Cash Disbursements:								
Current:								
General Government		198,336						198,336
Public Safety				182,042				182,042
Public Works		3,500		429,968				433,468
Health		10,869						10,869
Debt Service:		,						•
Redemption of Principal				70.581		32,512		103,093
Interest and Fiscal Charges				6,885		9,887		16,772
Capital Outlay				346,615		0,00.		346,615
Suprice Suddy				040,010	_			040,010
Total Cash Disbursements		212,705		1,036,091		42,399		1,291,195
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements		63,339		(150,426)		0		(87,087)
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):								
Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt:								
Sale of Notes				276,683				276,683
Sale of Fixed Assets				15,000				15,000
Advances-In		20,000		20,000				40,000
Advances-Out		(20,000)		(20,000)				(40,000)
Other Sources		190		(=0,000)				190
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)		190		291,683		0		291,873
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing								
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements								
and Other Financing Disbursements		63,529		141,257		0		204,786
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		372,817		508,149		4,765		885,731
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	436,346	\$	649,406	\$	4,765	\$	1,090,517
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0

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

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Governmental Fund Types							
	General			Special Revenue		Debt Service	(Me	Totals morandum Only)
Cash Receipts:								
Local Taxes	\$	78,504	\$	542,396	\$	70,986	\$	691,886
Intergovernmental		150,301		170,432				320,733
Charges for Services				17				17
Earnings on Investments		7,075		1,383				8,458
Miscellaneous		8,111		4,675				12,786
Total Cash Receipts		243,991		718,903		70,986		1,033,880
Cash Disbursements:								
Current:								
General Government		206,842						206,842
Public Safety				121,166				121,166
Public Works		3,277		355,104				358,381
Health		11,420						11,420
Miscellaneous		1,732						1,732
Debt Service:								
Redemption of Principal				67,371		59,180		126,551
Interest and Fiscal Charges				10,095		11,806		21,901
Capital Outlay		1,000						1,000
Total Cash Disbursements		224,271		553,736		70,986		848,993
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements		19,720		165,167		0		184,887
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):								
Advances-In		41,000		41,000				82,000
Advances-Out		(41,000)		(41,000)				(82,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)		0		0		0		0
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing								
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements								
and Other Financing Disbursements		19,720		165,167		0		184,887
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		353,097		342,982		4,765		700,844
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	372,817	\$	508,149	\$	4,765	\$	885,731
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$	0	\$	11,375	\$	0	\$	11,375

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Athens Township, Athens County (the Township), is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees and a publicly-elected Clerk. The Township provides general governmental services, including road and bridge maintenance (public works), cemetery maintenance (health), and fire protection (public safety).

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 and Investments

The Township Clerk invests all available funds of the Township in an interest-bearing checking account and a market index (savings) account.

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 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 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 for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

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

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Richland Fire District Fund - This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection to the residents of the Township through a contract with the Richland Fire Department.

The Plains Fire District Fund - This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection to the residents of the Township through The Plains Fire Department.

The Plains Fire Equipment Fund - This fund receives property tax money to provide for fire equipment for The Plains Fire Department.

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

3. Debt Service Fund

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bonds and note indebtedness. The Township had the following Debt Service Fund:

General Note Retirement Fund - This fund receives road and bridge property tax money to retire debt incurred by the Township for road maintenance and equipment.

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 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.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process (Continued)

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.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	2003	2002
Demand Deposits	 	
Checking Account	\$ 993,291	\$ 789,563
Market Index (Savings) Account	 97,226	96,168
Total Demand Deposits	\$ 1,090,517	\$ 885,731

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Deposit 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									
	Budgeted Actual								
Fund Type	Receipts Rece			Receipts	ots Variance				
General	\$	244,304	\$	\$ 296,234		51,930			
Special Revenue		958,717		1,197,348		238,631			
Debt Service		42,400 42,399			(1)				
Total	\$	1,245,421	\$	1,535,981	\$	290,560			

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

3. **BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Fund Type	Authority Expenditures		Variance
General	\$ 538,445	\$ 232,705	\$ 305,740
Special Revenue	1,356,741	1,056,091	300,650
Debt Service	43,000	42,399	601
Total	\$ 1,938,186	\$ 1,331,195	\$ 606,991

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	-			_		
	В	Budgeted		Actual		
Fund Type	Receipts		Receipts		\	/ariance
General	\$	244,304	\$	284,991	\$	40,687
Special Revenue		664,875		759,903		95,028
Debt Service		70,986		70,986		0
Total	\$	980,165	\$	1,115,880	\$	135,715

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

2002 Badgoted Vo. Alotadi Badgotai y Badio Experiantai de								
	Αp	propriation	В	udgetary		_		
Fund Type	Authority Expenditures		\	/ariance				
General	\$	550,499	\$	265,271	\$	285,228		
Special Revenue		995,288		606,111		389,177		
Debt Service		70,986		70,986		0		
Total	\$	1,616,773	\$	942,368	\$	674,405		

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.

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

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2003 was as follows:

	F	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Note - Fire Truck	\$	74,015	4.75%
General Obligation Note - Wheel Loader		26,110	4.80%
General Obligation Note - Pumper Truck		175,000	2.35%
General Obligation Note - Grader/Roller		101,683	1.65%
OPWC Loan - Road Improvement		387,071	2.00%
Total	\$	763,879	

The Township issued a general obligation note in 2000 for \$276,324 for the purchase of a fire truck. This note is backed by the full faith and credit of the Township.

The Township issued a general obligation note in 2000 for \$61,000 for the purchase of a wheel loader. This note is backed by the full faith and credit of the Township.

The Township issued a general obligation note in 2003 for \$175,000 for the purchase of a pumper truck. This note is backed by the full faith and credit of the Township.

The Township issued a general obligation note in 2003 for \$101,683 for the purchase of a grader and roller. This note is backed by the full faith and credit of the Township.

In 2000, payments began on the Ohio Public Works Commission loan which was entered into by the Township in 1998. This loan is backed by the full faith and credit of the Township.

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

Year Ending December 31:	Fire Truck		Wheel Loader		_ F	Pumper Truck		•		•		•		•				Grader/ Roller		OPWC Loan
2004	æ	77 466	\$	14.012	Ф	27 500	æ	21 255	\$	20 200										
	\$	77,466	Ф	, -	\$	37,508	\$	21,355	Ф	28,388										
2005				13,370		37,508		21,355		28,388										
2006						37,508		21,355		28,388										
2007						37,508		21,355		28,388										
2008						37,495		21,350		28,388										
2009-2013										141,940										
2014-2018										141,940										
2019										28,388										
Total	\$	77,466	\$	27,382	\$	187,527	\$	106,770	\$	454,208										

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

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Township's elected officials and 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 2003 and 2002, members of PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all employer contributions required through December 31, 2003.

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 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.

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.

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

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 (latest information available):

Casualty Coverage	 2002	2001		
Assets Liabilities	\$ 23,757,036 (9,197,512)	\$	23,707,776 (9,379,003)	
Retained Earnings	\$ 14,559,524	\$	14,328,773	
Property Coverage	 2002		2001	
Assets Liabilities	\$ 6,596,996 (1,204,326)	\$	5,011,131 (647,667)	
Retained Earnings	\$ 5,392,670	\$	4,363,464	

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

Athens Township Athens County P.O. Box 193 The Plains, Ohio 45780

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Athens Township, Athens County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated April 5, 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 no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated April 5, 2004.

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 statement 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 the management of the Township in a separate letter dated April 5, 2004.

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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 audit committee, management and the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Butty Montgomery

April 5, 2004

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; <i>Explain</i> :
2001-40705-001	A material noncompliance citation was issued under Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.39 for appropriations exceeding estimated resources in several funds at December 31, 2001.	No	Partially Corrected: This issue is no longer significant. It is repeated in the current audit Management Letter.
2001-40705-002	A material noncompliance citation was issued under Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) for the failure to obtain the prior certification of the Clerk before an obligation was incurred.	Yes	N/A



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ATHENS TOWNSHIP

ATHENS 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.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED MAY 13, 2004