REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 & 2002



Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Accountants' Report	1
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	3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances – All Governmental and Fiduciary Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2002	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	11
Schedule of Findings	

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Auburn Township Geauga County 11010 East Washington Street Auburn, Ohio 44023

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Auburn Township, Geauga County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 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 the Ohio Revised Code §117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of Auburn Township, Geauga County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 20, 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.

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Auburn Township Geauga County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

This report is intended solely for the information and use of 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

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

April 20, 2004

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

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$236,792	\$929,689	\$0	\$0	\$1,166,481
Intergovernmental	704,351	187,928	0	0	892,279
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	26,394	3,140	0	0	29,534
Earnings on Investments	13,029	199	0	149	13,377
Other Revenue	33,723	4,682	0	0	38,405
Total Cash Receipts	1,014,289	1,125,638	0	149	2,140,076
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	265,993	38,442	0	0	304,435
Public Safety	0	407,787	0	0	407,787
Public Works	287,171	655,113	0	0	942,284
Health	18,174	4,928	0	0	23,102
Capital Outlay	9,768	17,229	79,211	0	106,208
Total Cash Disbursements	581,106	1,123,499	79,211	0	1,783,816
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	433,183	2,139	(79,211)	149	356,260
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):					
Transfers-In	0	0	558,598	0	558,598
Transfers-Out	(558,598)	0	0	0	(558,598)
Other Uses	(15,586)	0	0	0	(15,586)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(574,184)	0	558,598	0	(15,586)
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing					
Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements					
and Other Financing Disbursements	(141,001)	2,139	479,387	149	340,674
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	212,955	139,785	141,939	11,866	506,545
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$71,954	\$141,924	\$621,326	\$12,015	\$847,219
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$6,355	\$10,287	\$0	\$0	\$16,642

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 AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Governmental Fund Types			Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)			
Cash Receipts:								
Local Taxes	\$211,297	\$896,269	\$0	\$0	\$1,107,566			
Intergovernmental	183,359	226,043	0	0	409,402			
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	26,559	3,430	0	0	29,989			
Earnings on Investments	15,914	338	0	328	16,580			
Other Revenue	5,363	4,281	0	0	9,644			
Total Cash Receipts	442,492	1,130,361	0	328	1,573,181			
Cash Disbursements: Current:								
General Government	254,584	12,274	0	0	266,858			
Public Safety	2,000	687,370	0	0	689,370			
Public Works	110,597	612,604	0	0	723,201			
Health	21,237	5,344	0	0	26,581			
Capital Outlay	10,798	24,360	166,956	0	202,114			
Total Cash Disbursements	399,216	1,341,952	166,956	0	1,908,124			
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	43,276	(211,591)	(166,956)	328	(334,943)			
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Other Uses	(24,223)	0	0	0	(24,223)			
Other Oses	(24,223)	0	0	0	(24,223)			
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(24,223)	0	0	0	(24,223)			
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements								
and Other Financing Disbursements	19,053	(211,591)	(166,956)	328	(359,166)			
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	193,902	351,376	308,895	11,538	865,711			
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$212,955	\$139,785	\$141,939	\$11,866	\$506,545			
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$6,525	\$11,130	\$10,249	\$0	\$27,904			

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

Auburn Township, Geauga 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. The Township provides general government services, including road and bridge maintenance, and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with Auburn Volunteer Fire Department for fire protection and emergency medical services.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively. The investment in STAR Ohio (the State Treasurer's investment pool) is valued at amounts reported by the State Treasurer.

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 (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

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

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)

Fire Fund – This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection for residents.

3. Capital Project Fund

This fund is used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects. The Township had the following significant capital projects fund:

Land/Acquisition Improvement Fund – This fund is used to acquire and make improvements to a passive park area and building for public meetings.

4. Fiduciary Funds (Trust and Agency Funds)

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

Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund is used for the beautification and maintenance of the Township's cemetery.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) 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 in 2002 and the fund level of control in 2003, 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 (Continued)

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 AND INVESTMENTS

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

	2003	2002
Demand deposits	\$3,090	\$29,911
Savings Bond	1,000	1,000
Total deposits	4,090	30,911
STAR Ohio	843,129	475,634
Total investments	843,129	475,634
Total deposits and investments	\$847,219	\$506,545

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

Investments: Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$989,094	\$1,014,289	\$25,195
Special Revenue	1,117,293	1,125,638	8,345
Capital Projects	558,598	558,598	0
Fiduciary	412	149	(263)
Total	\$2,665,397	\$2,698,674	\$33,277

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures				
Appropriation Budgetary				
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance	
General	\$643,287	\$1,161,645	(\$518,358)	
Special Revenue	1,257,078	1,133,786	123,292	
Capital Projects	141,938	79,211	62,727	
Fiduciary	12,279	0	12,279	
Total	\$2,054,582	\$2,374,642	(\$320,060)	

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$405,302	\$442,492	\$37,190
Special Revenue	1,047,770	1,130,361	82,591
Capital Projects	30,000	0	(30,000)
Fiduciary	583	328	(255)
Total	\$1,483,655	\$1,573,181	\$89,526

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary	Basis Expenditures	

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$599,204	\$429,964	\$169,240
Special Revenue	1,399,147	1,353,082	46,065
Capital Projects	338,895	177,205	161,690
Fiduciary	12,122	0	12,122
Total	\$2,349,368	\$1,960,251	\$389,117

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the General Fund by \$518,358 for the year ended December 31, 2003.

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

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) of Ohio. OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. These plans provide retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2003 and 2002, OPERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2003 and 2002. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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 insurance 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 Insurance

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 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.

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Property Insurance

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. AEEP's Operating Fund and Guarantee Fund pay for losses and loss adjustment expenses should they exceed operating contributions.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31 (the latest information available):

Casualty Coverage	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Assets	\$23,757,036	\$23,703,776
Liabilities	9,197,512	9,379,003
Retained Earnings	14,559,524	14,324,773
Property Coverage	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Assets	\$6,596,996	\$5,011,131
Liabilities	1,204,326	647,667
Retained Earnings	5,392,670	4,363,464



Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

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

Auburn Township Geauga County 11010 East Washington Street Auburn, Ohio 44023

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Auburn Township, Geauga County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated April 20, 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, and implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2003-001.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated April 20, 2004.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of 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

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

April 20, 2004

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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

FINDING NUMBER 2003-001

Noncompliance Citation

Expenditures and Encumbrances in Excess of Appropriations

Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.41(B) and (D) prohibits a subdivision or taxing unit from making an expenditure or an expenditure plus encumbrances unless it has been appropriated. During our year end testing for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, we noted expenditures plus encumbrances exceeded appropriations at the legal level of control (fund level) as follows:

	Appropriations Plus Prior Year	Expenditures Plus	
Fund Description	Encumbrances	Encumbrances	Difference
<u>December 31, 2003</u> General Fund	\$643,287	\$1,161,645	(\$518,358)

The variance is due to a transfer that was approved by the Trustees, but was not approved by the County.

We recommend that the Township amend appropriations as deemed appropriate and have the amendments approved by the County in accordance with the above revised code section.



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AUBURN TOWNSHIP

GEAUGA 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 Babbett

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED JUNE 1, 2004