



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Bristol Township
Morgan County
314 East Bone Road
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756

To the Board of Township Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Bristol Township, Morgan 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 § 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 described 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 of Bristol Township, Morgan 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.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 13, 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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Bristol Township
Morgan County
Independent Accountants' Report
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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.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 13, 2004

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN 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>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$15,982	\$20,579	\$	\$36,561
Intergovernmental	7,284	65,175		72,459
Earnings on Investments	766	1,148	223	2,137
Other Revenue	3,348			3,348
Total Cash Receipts	<u>27,380</u>	<u>86,902</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>114,505</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	21,833			21,833
Public Safety		10,301		10,301
Public Works		51,392		51,392
Health		2,449	115	2,564
Conservaton/Recreation		3,739		3,739
Capital Outlay	1,500	3,399		4,899
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>23,333</u>	<u>71,280</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>94,728</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>4,047</u>	<u>15,622</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>19,777</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>6,195</u>	<u>76,171</u>	<u>9,095</u>	<u>91,461</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$10,242</u></u>	<u><u>\$91,793</u></u>	<u><u>\$9,203</u></u>	<u><u>\$111,238</u></u>

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

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN 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, 2002**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$15,602	\$19,869	\$	\$35,471
Intergovernmental	7,299	56,974		64,273
Earnings on Investments	724	1,086	351	2,161
Other Revenue	796			796
Total Cash Receipts	<u>24,421</u>	<u>77,929</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>102,701</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	27,295			27,295
Public Safety		9,833		9,833
Public Works		49,794		49,794
Health		3,265	280	3,545
Conservation - Recreation		6,248		6,248
Capital Outlay		1,150		1,150
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>27,295</u>	<u>70,290</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>97,865</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(2,874)</u>	<u>7,639</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>4,836</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>9,069</u>	<u>68,532</u>	<u>9,024</u>	<u>86,625</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$6,195</u>	<u>\$76,171</u>	<u>\$9,095</u>	<u>\$91,461</u>

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

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Bristol Township, Morgan 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 road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance and fire protection services. The Township contracts with the Malta/McConnelsville Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire 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. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is 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 Fund:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

3. Fiduciary Funds

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

Lebanon Cemetery Bequest Fund - This nonexpendable trust fund receives interest earned on principal of \$5,000 which is invested in a certificate of deposit. Proceeds are used for the upkeep of the cemetery.

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. Fund Accounting (Continued)

3. Fiduciary Funds (Continued)

Mt. Zion Cemetery Bequest Fund - This nonexpendable trust fund receives interest earned on principal of \$150 which is invested in a certificate of deposit. Proceeds are used for the upkeep of the cemetery.

Bristol Cemetery Bequest Fund - This nonexpendable trust fund receives interest earned on principal of \$2,000 which is invested in two certificates of deposit. Proceeds are used for the upkeep of the cemetery.

D. 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 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. The Township did not properly encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2003 and 2002 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. 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.

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

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

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	\$104,088	\$84,311
Certificates of deposit	7,150	7,150
Total deposits	\$111,238	\$91,461

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or 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

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$23,032	\$27,380	\$4,348
Special Revenue	79,119	86,902	7,783
Nonexpendable Trust	356	223	(133)
Total	\$102,507	\$114,505	\$11,998

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$29,532	\$23,333	\$6,199
Special Revenue	154,486	71,280	83,206
Nonexpendable Trust	2,801	115	2,686
Total	\$186,819	\$94,728	\$92,091

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$25,004	\$24,421	(\$583)
Special Revenue	77,954	77,929	(25)
Nonexpendable Trust	404	351	(53)
Total	\$103,362	\$102,701	(\$661)

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$34,073	\$27,295	\$6,778
Special Revenue	146,486	70,290	76,196
Nonexpendable Trust	2,778	280	2,498
Total	\$183,337	\$97,865	\$85,472

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 elected officials and employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS 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, OPERS 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 contributions required through December 31, 2003.

6. 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.

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

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. 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 \$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:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$27,792,223	\$23,757,036
Liabilities	(11,791,300)	(9,197,512)
Retained earnings	<u>\$16,000,923</u>	<u>\$14,559,524</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$6,791,060	\$6,596,996
Liabilities	(750,956)	(1,204,326)
Retained earnings	<u>\$6,040,104</u>	<u>\$5,392,670</u>

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

Bristol Township
Morgan County
314 East Bone Road
McConelsville, Ohio 43756

To the Board of Township Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Bristol Township, Morgan County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated September 13, 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 tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, 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 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. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated September 13, 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 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.

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Bristol Township
Morgan County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by *Governmental Auditing Standards*
Page 2

This report is intended 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.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 13, 2004

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2003-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D) (1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in Sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. "Then and Now" certificate – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.
2. Amounts of less than \$1,000 (which was increased to \$3,000 on April 7, 2003) may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.
3. Fiscal officers may prepare so-called "blanket" certificates not exceeding \$5,000 against any specific line item account over a period not exceeding 3 months or running beyond the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation. Effective September 26, 2003, the \$5,000 limit on the issuance of purchase orders and the requirement that purchase orders not extend beyond three months have been removed from the law. Effective September 26, 2003, purchase orders may not exceed an amount established by resolution or ordinance of the legislative authority, and cannot extend past the end of the fiscal year. In other words, blanket certificates cannot be issued unless there has been an amount approved by the legislative authority for the blanket.
4. Super Blanket Certificate – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to exceed beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 25% of tested expenditures in 2002 and 42% of tested expenditures in 2003. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

**FINDING NUMBER 2003-001
(Continued)**

Noncompliance Citation (Continued)

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D) (1) (Continued)

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Township Clerk certify that funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the Township certify purchases to which Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The fiscal officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase orders to the proper appropriation code to reduce the available appropriation.

**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN COUNTY**

**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>
2001-41058-001	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D): failure to certify funds	No	Not corrected; repeated as Finding 2003-001.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
MORGAN 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 4, 2004**