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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Harrison Township Licking County 6570 Outville Road Pataskala, Ohio 43062

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Harrison Township, Licking 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. 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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 the Township 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 July 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.

Harrison Township Licking County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Butty Montgomery

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 § 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** 

July 20, 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

	Gover	Governmental Fund Types		
	<u>General</u>	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$126,563	\$612,889	\$0	\$739,452
Intergovernmental	44,541	85,237	114,563	244,341
Special Assessments	0	1,906	0	1,906
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	45,885	0	0	45,885
Earnings on Investments	14,101	3,260	0	17,361
Other Revenue	1,458	860	0	2,318
Total Cash Receipts	232,548	704,152	114,563	1,051,263
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	206,760	0	0	206,760
Public Safety	51	0	0	51
Public Works	896	208,382	0	209,278
Health	22,424	0	0	22,424
Capital Outlay	0	467,034	114,563	581,597
Total Cash Disbursements	230,131	675,416	114,563	1,020,110
Total Receipts Over Disbursements	2,417	28,736	0	31,153
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	367,574	957,053	0	1,324,627
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$369,991	\$985,789	\$0	\$1,355,780

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

	Gove	Governmental Fund Types		
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$106,169	\$554,767	\$0	\$660,936
Intergovernmental	65,518	117,335	0	182,853
Special Assessments	0	1,943	0	1,943
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	48,444	0	0	48,444
Earnings on Investments	13,167	3,313	0	16,480
Other Revenue	15,270	13,213	0	28,483
Total Cash Receipts	248,568	690,571	0	939,139
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	201,892	0	0	201,892
Public Safety	907	0	0	907
Public Works	896	183,757	0	184,653
Health	19,020	0	0	19,020
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	216,468	30,853	247,321
Total Cash Disbursements	222,715	400,225	30,853	653,793
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	25,853	290,346	(30,853)	285,346
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	341,721	666,707	30,853	1,039,281
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$367,574	\$957,053	\$0	\$1,324,627
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>	\$6,437	\$0	\$6,437

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

Harrison Township, Licking County, Ohio, (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 and cemetery maintenance.

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

#### **Jointly Governed Organization**

The Township is a participant among six local government entities in a jointly governed organization to operate the West Licking Joint Fire District. The Fire District was formed to provide emergency services to the residents of West Licking County. The Fire District is governed by a Fire Board consisting of an appointed member from each participating entity. The Township does not have an ongoing financial interest in or ongoing financial responsibility for the Fire District.

#### 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 included in fund cash balances. 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.

STAR Ohio is recorded at share values reported by the mutual fund.

#### 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.

#### 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

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:

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

#### 3. Debt Service Fund

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

General Note Retirement Fund - This fund had an unexpended balance comprised of property tax money apportioned from the Road and Bridge Fund for the purchase of a truck prior to 2001. In 2002, the remaining funds were used to purchase a tractor and mowing equipment rather than the retirement of existing or new debt. Although the funds were used for road equipment, Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.10 requires that funds that are set aside for debt service should be used for that purpose.

#### 4. Capital Projects Funds

These funds are used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

Issue II Fund - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio for road work.

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

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 investment 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	\$455,765	\$424,612
STAR Ohio	900,015	900,015
Total deposits and investments	\$1,355,780	\$1,324,627

**Deposits:** Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository 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 December 31, 2002 follows:

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts				
	Budgeted			
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance	
General	\$273,855	\$232,548	(\$41,307)	
Special Revenue	828,213	704,152	(124,061)	
Capital Projects	0	114,563	114,563	
Total	\$1,102,068	\$1,051,263	(\$50,805)	

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

#### 3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$648,583	\$230,131	\$418,452
1,787,549	675,416	1,112,133
0	114,563	(114,563)
\$2,436,132	\$1,020,110	\$1,416,022
	Authority \$648,583 1,787,549	Authority         Expenditures           \$648,583         \$230,131           1,787,549         675,416           0         114,563

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$238,853	\$248,568	\$9,715
Special Revenue	678,411	690,571	12,160
Total	\$917,264	\$939,139	\$21,875

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$580,575	\$222,715	\$357,860
Special Revenue	1,345,118	406,662	938,456
Debt Service	30,853	30,853	0
Total	\$1,956,546	\$660,230	\$1,296,316

#### 4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by the 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 payments, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

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. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Township's employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The 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, PERS 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

#### **Risk Pool Membership**

The Township belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the "Plan"), an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to approximately 500 Ohio governments ("Members").

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Plan is a separate legal entity. The Plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages, modified for each Member's needs. The Plan pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the Member's deductible.

The Plan issues its own policies and reinsures with A- VII or better rated carriers, except for a 5% portion the Plan retains. With policies effective September 1, 2003 and after, The Plan pays the lesser of 5% or \$25,000 for casualty losses up to the coverage limit and the lesser of 5% or \$50,000 for property losses up to the coverage limit. The individual members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member.

The Pool's financial statements (audited by other auditors) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$5,402,167	\$5,584,592
Liabilities	(1,871,123)	(2,441,793)
Members' Equity	<u>\$3,531,044</u>	<u>\$3,142,799</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for The Ohio Government Risk Management Plan at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

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

Harrison Township Licking County 6570 Outville Road Pataskala. Ohio 43062

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Harrison Township, Licking 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 July 20, 2004. 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 instances of noncompliance that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2003-001 and 2003-002. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance, which we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated July 20, 2004.

#### **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 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 the Township's management in a separate letter dated July 20, 2004.

35 N. Fourth St. / Second Floor / Columbus, OH 43215 Telephone: (614) 466-3402 (800) 443-9275 Fax: (614) 728-7199 www.auditor.state.oh.us Harrison Township Licking 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 Auditor of State** 

Butty Montgomery

July 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**

#### **Certification of Funds**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity 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 that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The <u>main</u> 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 the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 (\$1,000 prior to 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.

- **2. Blanket Certificate** Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. (Prior to September 26, 2003, blanket certificates were limited to \$5,000 and three months.) 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.
- **3. 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 extend 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 certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 57% of the expenditures tested and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

#### 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)

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 the fiscal officer certify that the 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 Clerk certify purchases to which section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 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 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2003-002**

#### **Unexpended Debt Service Fund Balance**

**Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.10** states in part that all revenue derived from general or special levies for debt charges, whether within or in excess of the ten-mill limitation, which is levied for the debt charges on serial bonds, notes, or certificates of indebtedness having a life less than five years, shall be paid into the bond retirement fund; and all such revenue which is levied for the debt charges on all other bonds, notes, or certificates of indebtedness shall be paid into the sinking fund. Money paid into any fund shall be used only for the purposes for which such fund is established.

Prior to 2001, \$30,853 of excess funds had accumulated in the Debt Service Fund from funds apportioned from the Road and Bridge Levy Fund, to pay off notes issued for the purchase of a truck. It appears that amounts apportioned to the Debt Service Fund by the County Auditor were in excess of the required annual note payments on the truck notes. The truck notes were paid off in 2001.

In 2002, the remaining \$30,853 in the Debt Service Fund was used for the purchase of a tractor and mowing equipment rather than to pay off new or existing debt. Although these levy funds were used for the purpose of road equipment, the funds were in the Debt Service Fund to retire future debt.

We recommend that when new debt is issued, the Township Clerk assure that only amounts needed to retire annual debt payments are apportioned to the Debt Service Fund. Any future excess debt service funds should be handled in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.14.

## SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDING DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

			Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective
Finding	Finding	Fully	Action Taken; or Finding No Longer
Number	Summary	Corrected?	Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
2001-40645-001	Revised Code 5705.41 (D),	No	Not Corrected
	Failure to Certify Funds		



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#### HARRISON TOWNSHIP

#### LICKING 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 SEPTEMBER 7, 2004