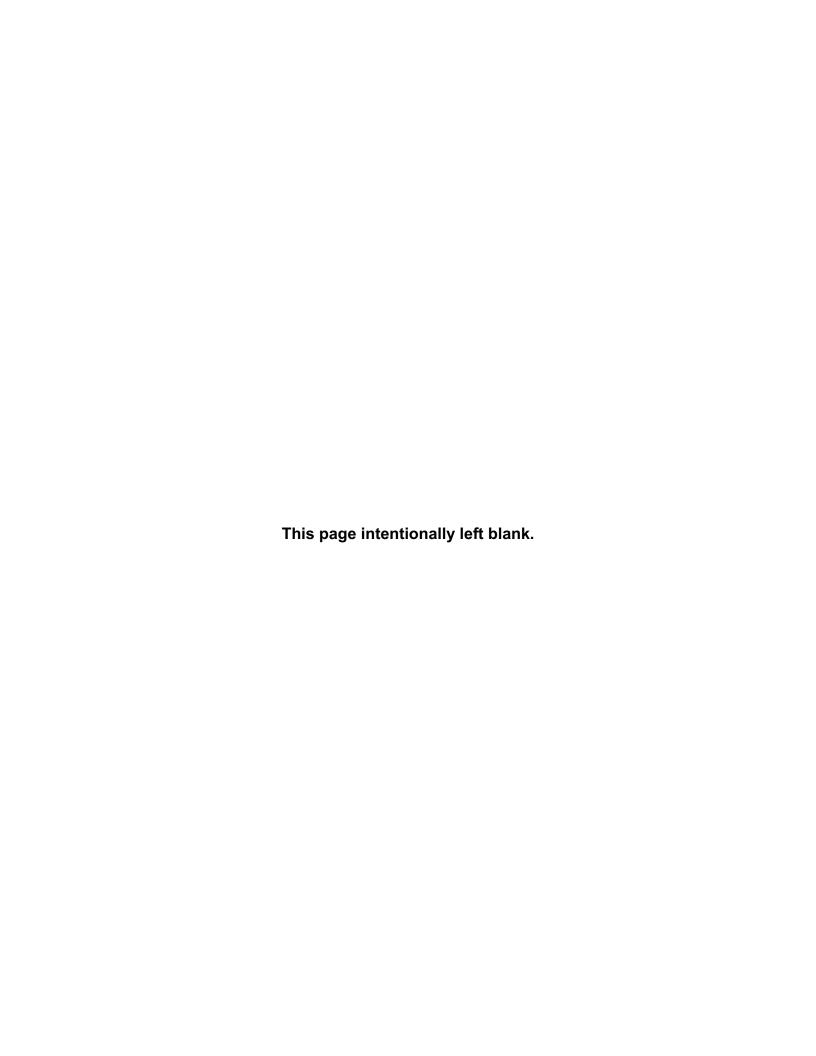




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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS'REPORT

New Russia Township Lorain County 46268 Butternut Ridge Road Oberlin, Ohio 44074

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of New Russia Township, Lorain 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 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 reserve for encumbrances of New Russia Township, Lorain County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 8, 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.

Lausche Building / 615 Superior Ave., NW / Twelfth Floor / Cleveland, OH 44113-1801 Telephone: (216) 787-3665 (800) 626-2297 Fax: (216) 787-3361

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New Russia Township Lorain County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Butty Montgomery

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the 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

October 8, 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

	Governmenta	l Fund Tynes	Fiduciary Fund	
	General	Special Revenue	Agency Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$15,753	\$73,101	\$0	\$88,854
Intergovernmental	74,504	90,420	0	164,924
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	1,225,504	0	0	1,225,504
Earnings on Investments	27,298	390	0	27,688
Other Revenue	12,584	0	26	12,610
Total Cash Receipts	1,355,643	163,911	26	1,519,580
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	315,342	0	0	315,342
Public Safety	51,315	0	0	51,315
Public Works	3,927	126,440	0	130,367
Health	5,615	0	0	5,615
Human Services	10,200	0	0	10,200
Miscellaneous	0	0	26	26
Capital Outlay	839,405	0	0	839,405
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal	7,205	0	0	7,205
Total Cash Disbursements	1,233,009	126,440	26	1,359,475
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	122,634	37,471	0	160,105
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2003	2,233,444	79,367	0	2,312,811
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2003	\$2,356,078	\$116,838	\$0	\$2,472,916
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31, 2003	\$210,062	\$2,655	\$0	\$212,717

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			Fiduciary Fund	Tatala	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Agency Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:						
Local Taxes	\$15,581	\$72,476	\$0	\$0	\$88,057	
Intergovernmental	121,853	76,046	79,517	0	277,416	
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	1,191,725	0	0	0	1,191,725	
Earnings on Investments	30,592	514	0	0	31,106	
Other Revenue	2,562	0	0	106	2,668	
Total Cash Receipts	1,362,313	149,036	79,517	106	1,590,972	
Cash Disbursements:						
Current:	0.40.000		_		0.40.000	
General Government	248,882	0	0	0	248,882	
Public Safety	52,060	0	0	0	52,060	
Public Works	80,165	153,849	0	0	234,014	
Health	5,517 9,300	0	0	0	5,517	
Human Services	,	<del>-</del>	0	-	9,300	
Miscellaneous	0	0	•	106 0	106	
Capital Outlay Debt Service:	50,320	U	110,331	U	160,651	
Redemption of Principal	4,637	0	0	0	4,637	
Total Cash Disbursements	450,881	153,849	110,331	106	715,167	
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	911,432	(4,813)	(30,814)	0	875,805	
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):						
OPWC Loan Proceeds	0	0 -	30,814	0	30,814	
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	0	0	30,814	0	30,814	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements						
and Other Financing Disbursements	911,432	(4,813)	0	0	906,619	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2002	1,322,012	84,180	0	0	1,406,192	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2002	\$2,233,444	\$79,367	<u>\$0</u>	\$0	\$2,312,811	
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31, 2002	\$38,499	\$5,275	\$0	\$0	\$43,774	

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

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. Description of the Entity

New Russia Township, Lorain 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 general governmental services including road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the City of Oberlin for fire protection services. The Township's police protection is provided by the Lorain County Sheriff and emergency medical services are provided by the Central Lorain County Joint Ambulance District.

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.

The investment in STAR Ohio (The State of Ohio 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 for capital projects) 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)

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

#### 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 project fund:

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Project Fund – This fund accounts for an Issue II grant and OPWC loan received from the State of Ohio for repairs and reconstruction of Butternut Ridge Road.

#### 4. Fiduciary Fund (Agency Fund)

This fund is used to account for resources for which the Township is acting in an agency capacity. The Township had the following significant fiduciary fund:

3% Board of Building Standards Fee Assessment Fund – This fund accounts for the three percent Board of Building Standards fee that is remitted to the State of Ohio.

#### 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.

#### 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.

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

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

#### 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	\$42,514	\$58,313
Total deposits	42,514	58,313
		_
STAR Ohio	2,430,402	2,254,498
Total investments	2,430,402	2,254,498
Total deposits and investments	\$2,472,916	\$2,312,811

**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 are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

#### 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 \$941,426 \$1,355,643 \$414,217 Special Revenue 159,921 163,911 3,990 **Fiduciary** 225 26 (199)\$1,519,580 \$418.008 Total \$1,101,572

#### 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	\$1,938,012	\$1,443,071	\$494,941
Special Revenue	236,739	129,095	107,644
Fiduciary	225	26	199
Total	\$2,174,976	\$1,572,192	\$602,784

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$792,770	\$1,362,313	\$569,543
Special Revenue	145,730	149,036	3,306
Capital Projects	159,034	110,331	(48,703)
Fiduciary	219	106	(113)
Total	\$1,097,753	\$1,621,786	\$524,033

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,131,268	\$489,380	\$641,888
Special Revenue	229,911	159,124	70,787
Capital Projects	0	110,331	(110,331)
Fiduciary	219	106	113
Total	\$1,361,398	\$758,941	\$602,457

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the Capital Projects fund by \$110,331 at December 31, 2002.

#### 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:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Ohio Public Works Commission Loan	\$79,252	0.00%
Total	\$79,252	

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

	Ohio Public Works
	Commission Loan
Year ending December 31:	
2004	\$3,602
2005	7,205
2006	7,205
2007	7,205
2008	7,205
2009-2013	36,023
2014-2015	10,807
Total	\$79,252

The Ohio Public Works Commission Loans consist of two loans from 1999 and 2003. Both loans were for the improvement of Butternut Ridge Road.

#### **6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

All Township employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) of Ohio. 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, members of 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.

#### 7. RISK MANAGEMENT

#### Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

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

#### 7. RISK MANAGEMENT (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, 2003 and 2002:

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



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

New Russia Township Lorain County 46268 Butternut Ridge Road Oberlin, Ohio 44074

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of New Russia Township, Lorain 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 October 8, 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 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 we must report 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 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 October 8, 2004.

Lausche Building / 615 Superior Ave., NW / Twelfth Floor / Cleveland, OH 44113-1801 Telephone: (216) 787-3665 (800) 626-2297 Fax: (216) 787-3361 www.auditor.state.oh.us New Russia Township Lorain 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

Betty Montgomery

October 8, 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**

Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code sets forth a scheme that provides for a uniform budget and appropriation process in order to assure that a governmental entity expends no more than it expects to receive in revenue. In order to accomplish this end, all appropriations must be accounted to and from each appropriation fund. While federal and state loan and grants are deemed appropriated and in the process of collection so as to be available for expenditure, they must still be recorded. Rev. Code Section 5705.42. Thus, a mechanism is still required to account for receipt and expenditure. That mechanism is an amendment of, or a supplement to, the entity's estimated resources, or its appropriation measure, which shall comply with all provisions of law governing the taxing authority in making an original appropriation. Rev. Code Section 5705.40. An original appropriation measure must be passed by the taxing authority, and any amendment of, or supplement to, that measure also requires legislative action. Rev. Code Section 5705.38.

During our year end testing for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2002, we noted expenditures plus encumbrances exceeded appropriations at the legal level of control (fund level) as follows:

Fund Description	Appropriations Plus Prior Year Encumbrances	Expenditures Plus Encumbrances	<u>Difference</u>
<u>December 31, 2002</u> Capital Projects Fund  Ohio Public Works Commission Project Fund	\$0	\$110,331	(\$110,331)

The above violation occurred because the Township received an Issue II grant and an OPWC loan. The Township properly receipted the funds and included them on their certificate of estimated resources; however, the funds were expended and not appropriated.

We recommend the Township follow the budgetary scheme of Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code and monitor appropriations, amending them as appropriate to record these funds. When the Township receives notice that they have been approved for funding by a State or Federal agency, they should review the reporting requirements established by Auditor of State Bulletins 2000-008 and 2002-004, appropriate the grant funds, and when notified that funds have been expended on their behalf, make memo entries to post the revenues and expenditures to the Township's books.

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

Finding	Finding	Fully	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid;
	_		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Number	Summary	Corrected?	Explain:
2001-40847-001	ORC 5705.36	Fully	
	Certification of Tax	Corrected	
	Revenue		



88 East Broad Street P.O. Box 1140 Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140

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## NEW RUSSIA TOWNSHIP LORAIN 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 NOVEMBER 16, 2004