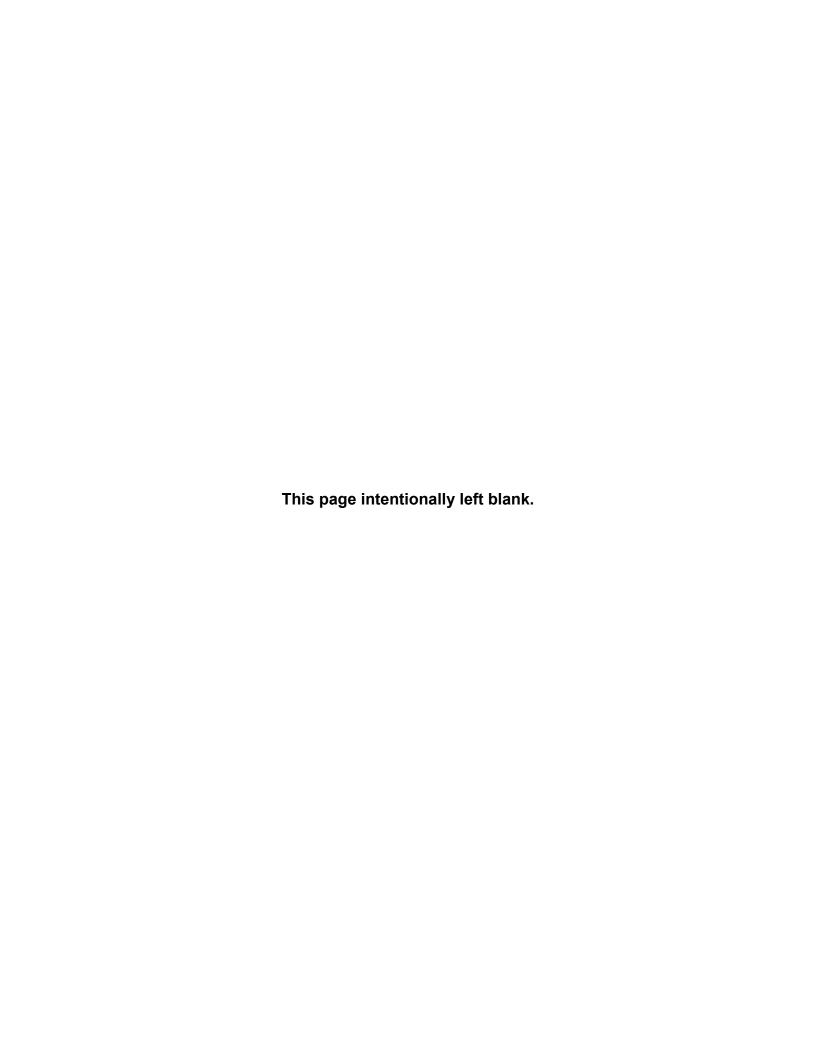




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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Swan Township Vinton County 23290 Locust Grove Road Creola, Ohio 45622

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Swan Township, Vinton County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

The Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code Section 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code Sections 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments.

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

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Swan Township, Vinton 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.

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Betty Montgomery

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 18, 2004 on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, the Board of Trustees, and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be, and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

May 18, 2004

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

	Governmental Fund Types		
	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$29,887 8,862 200 66	\$8,537 120,932 92	\$38,424 129,794 292 66
Total Cash Receipts	39,015	129,561	168,576
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Debt Service: Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges Capital Outlay	34,190 1,884 382	5,588 100,283 4,551 6,885 1,295 153	34,190 7,472 100,283 4,933 0 6,885 1,295 153
Total Cash Disbursements	36,456	118,755	155,211
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	2,559	10,806	13,365
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	4,033	24,885	28,918
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$6,592	\$35,691	\$42,283

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

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

	Governmental Fund Types		
	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$26,883 8,590 323 272	\$7,314 60,741 147	\$34,197 69,331 470 272
Total Cash Receipts	36,068	68,202	104,270
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Debt Service: Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges	40,750 137	4,964 50,915 3,064 6,466 1,714	40,750 5,101 50,915 3,064 6,466 1,714
Total Cash Disbursements	40,887	67,123	108,010
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(4,819)	1,079	(3,740)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	8,852	23,806	32,658
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$4,033	\$24,885	\$28,918

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

Swan Township, Vinton 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 (public works), cemetery maintenance (health), and fire protection (public safety)and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of McArthur Fire Department to provide fire and emergency 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 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:

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

Fire District Fund - This fund received real estate and property tax money for fire protection.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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 fund function 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.

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.

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	\$42,283	\$28,918
		. —

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

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$20,588	\$39,015	\$18,427
Special Revenue	91,942	129,561	37,619
Total	\$112,530	\$168,576	\$56,046

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$28,181	\$36,456	(\$8,275)
Special Revenue	112,082	118,755	(6,673)
Total	\$140,263	\$155,211	(\$14,948)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$20,677	\$36,068	\$15,391
Special Revenue	87,419	68,202	(19,217)
Total	\$108,096	\$104,270	(\$3,826)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$33,089	\$40,887	(\$7,798)
Special Revenue	107,665	67,123	40,542
Total	\$140,754	\$108,010	\$32,744

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the General fund by \$8,275 and in the Special Revenue Funds by \$6,673 for the year ended December 31, 2003 and in the Special Revenue Funds by \$7,798 for the year ended 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.

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.

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

4. PROPERTY TAX (Continued)

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

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2003 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Tractor Loan	\$4,281	6.00%
Truck Loan	\$8,654	6.85%

The truck loan was issued in 2000 to finance the purchase of a truck to be used for Township road maintenance. The loan is collateralized by the truck.

The tractor loan was issued in 1999 to finance the purchase of a tractor, cab and bucket to be used for Township road maintenance. The loan is collateralized by the tractor, cab and bucket.

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

	Truck Loan	Tractor Loan	
Year ending December 31:			
2004	\$4,783	\$4,538	
2005	4,775		
Total	\$9,558	\$4,538	

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's certified elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS 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, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

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

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Risk Pool Membership(Continued)

Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured with APEEP up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000, from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$10,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$700,000 for 2001 and \$1,250,000 for 2002. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$10,000 if the annual aggregate is reached and all specific losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Operating Fund and Guarantee Fund pay for losses and loss adjustment expenses should they exceed operating contributions.

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

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31 2002 and 2001 (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	<u>\$14,559,524</u>	\$14,324,773
Property Coverage	2002	<u>2001</u>
Assets	\$6,596,996	\$5,011,131
Liabilities	(1,204,326)	<u>(647,667)</u>
Retained earnings	\$5,392,670	\$4,363,464

8. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Vinton County Visitors and Convention Bureau used the facilities of Swan School, which is owned by the Swan Township Board of Trustees, free of charge. The Clerk of Swan Township is also a member of the Vinton County Visitors and Convention Bureau.

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

Swan Township Vinton County 23290 Locust Grove Road Creola, Ohio 45622

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Swan Township, Vinton County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated May 18, 2004, wherein we noted that the Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). Government Auditing Standards considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed two instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2003-001 through 2003-002. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated May 18, 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. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Township's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2003-003.

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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. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we do not believe the reportable condition described above is a material weakness. We also 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 Township in a separate letter dated May 18, 2004.

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

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Butty Montgomery

May 18, 2004

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

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (B) states that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated.

Expenditures exceeded appropriations in the following funds:

2003

	Approved Appropriations	Actual Expenditures per Financial Statements	<u>Variance</u> (\$ 8,275)
General Fund	\$28,181	\$28,181 \$36,456	
Fire District Fund Federal Emergency Management Agency	\$ 3,542	\$ 5,220	(\$ 1,678)
Fund	\$ 0	\$35,661	(\$35,661)
2002			
	Approved	Actual Expenditures per	
	<u>Appropriations</u>	Financial Statements	<u>Variance</u>
General Fund	\$33,089	\$40,887	(\$ 7,798)
Fire District Fund	\$ 2,883	\$ 4,582	(\$ 1,699)

This could result in deficit spending.

We recommend the Board of Trustees review the appropriation balances at least monthly and approve appropriation amendments as needed. In addition, we recommend the Township Clerk refrain from expending funds in excess of existing appropriations at the legal level of control.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) states that no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is a certificate of the fiscal officer that the amount required for the order or contract has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances.

The following exceptions to this basic requirement are provided by statute:

Then and Now Certificate: This exception provides that, if the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made and at the time that he is completing his certification, 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 taxing authority can authorize the drawing of a warrant. The taxing authority has 30 days from the receipt of such certificate to approve payment by resolution or ordinance. If approval is not made within 30 days, there is no legal liability on the part of the subdivision or taxing district.

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 2003-002(Continued)

Noncompliance Citation (Continued)

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) (Continued)

Amounts of less than \$100 for counties, or less than \$1,000 (which was increased to \$3,000 on April 7, 2003) for other political subdivisions, may be paid by the fiscal officer without such affirmation of the taxing authority 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 taxing authority.

Funds were not certified prior to purchase commitment being made and no "then and now" certificate was obtained for fifty percent of the transactions tested. This could lead to obligations being entered into when there is not sufficient funds available to cover the transaction.

We recommend the Board of Trustees establish procedures to assure the required certification of funds from the Township Clerk is obtained prior to purchases being made. In the event this does not occur, we recommend the Township pursue a "then and now" certificate as stated above.

FINDING NUMBER 2003-003

Reportable Condition

The Estimated Receipts, as approved by the Board of Trustees and the County Auditor, did not match the amounts posted to the Revenue ledger for 2003. The Estimated Receipts were not posted to the system until June, 2003. The amounts posted did not agree to the approved amounts.

In addition, appropriations for 2003 and 2002 were approved by the Board of Trustees at the fund, function and object level of control, (the Township's legal level of control). The Township Clerk made numerous adjustments within the Township's established legal level of control without receiving amended appropriations from the Board of Township Trustees. This resulted in expenditures exceeding approved amounts in several line items in the General Fund, Gasoline Tax Fund, Fire District Fund, and Federal Emergency Management Agency Fund in 2003 and in the General Fund and Fire District Fund in 2002. In addition, appropriations were transferred between the funds without proper authorization resulting in expenditures exceeding approved appropriations at the fund level as well. Refer to finding number 2003-001.

Note 3 to the audited financial statements have been adjusted to reflect the amounts actually approved by the Board of Trustees.

We recommend the Township Clerk enter budgetary amounts in to the accounting system as approved by the Board of Township Trustees. We also recommend the Township obtain amended certificates of estimated resources and appropriation amendments as needed. The Township should refer to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.40 for guidance on amending appropriations.

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> :
2001-001	Revised Code 5705.41(B) Expenditures exceeded appropriations.	No	Repeated as current year finding 2003-001.
2001-002	Revised Code 5705.41(D) Failure to certify funds.	No	Repeated as current year finding 2003-002.



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

Telephone 614-466-4514

800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

SWAN TOWNSHIP

VINTON 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 JUNE 17, 2004