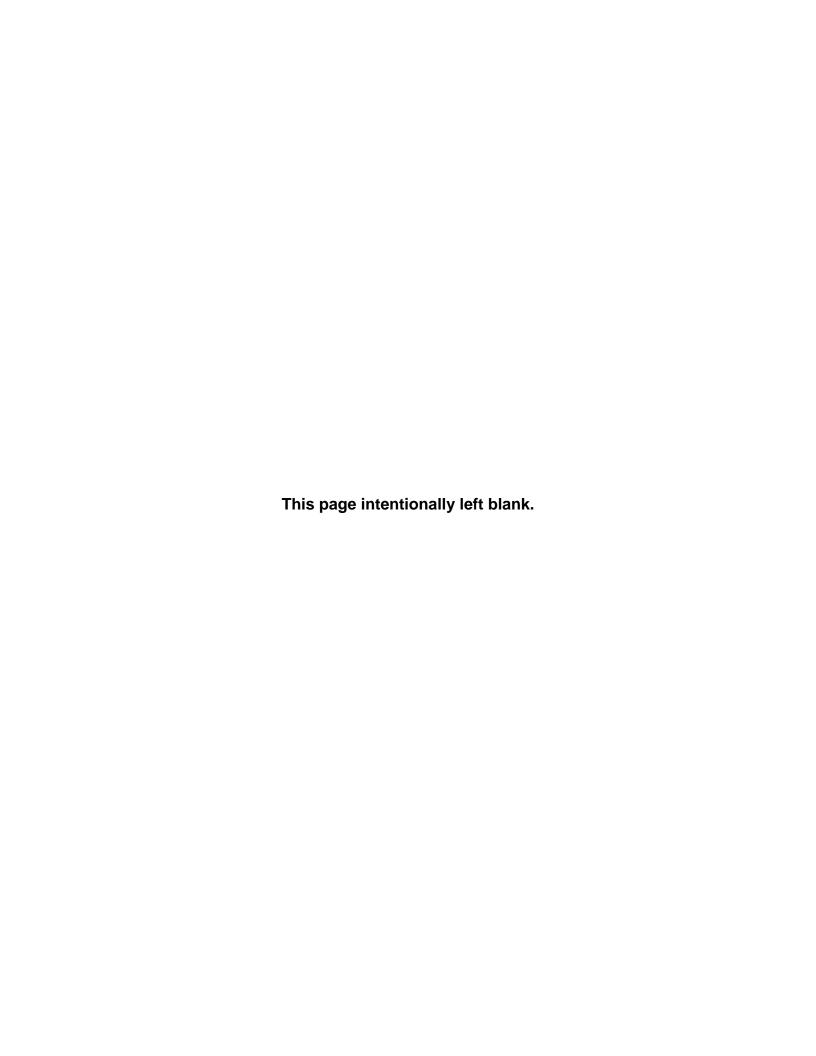




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Florence Township Erie County 11015 Chapel Street, P.O. Box 81 Birmingham, Ohio 44816-0081

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

**Betty Montgomery** Auditor of State

Betty Montgomeny

April 20, 2005

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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Florence Township Erie County 11015 Chapel Street, P.O. Box 81 Birmingham, Ohio 44816-0081

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Florence Township, Erie County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. 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 audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to reasonably assure 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 processes its financial transactions with 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 audit 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 our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

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Florence Township Erie County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Revisions to GAAP would require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2004 (and 2003), the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since the Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2004, or their changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, 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 Florence Township, Erie County, as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 20, 2005, 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 grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audits.

**Betty Montgomery** Auditor of State

Betty Montgomery

April 20, 2005

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	Gove			
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Special Assessments Charges for Services Licenses, Permits, and Fees Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$ 91,811 58,895 490 29,918 17,389 1,914 1,816	\$ 110,625 94,733 483 1,760	\$ 39,731 4,221	\$ 242,167 157,849 490 29,918 17,389 2,397 3,576
Total Cash Receipts	202,233	207,601	43,952	453,786
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Debt Service:	101,966 5,880 24,177 13,605	44,431 92,818 7,255	2,156	101,966 52,467 116,995 20,860
Redemption of Principal Interest and Fiscal Charges Capital Outlay	30,024 1,628 4,861	58,312	33,910 1,473	63,934 3,101 63,173
Total Cash Disbursements	182,141	202,816	37,539	422,496
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	20,092	4,785	6,413	31,290
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt: Sale of Notes Transfers-In Advances-In Transfers-Out Advances-Out	5,000 (20,000) (5,000)	25,000 20,000 5,000 (5,000)		25,000 20,000 10,000 (20,000) (10,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(20,000)	45,000		25,000
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	92	49,785	6,413	56,290
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	80,444	90,860	8,283	179,587
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 80,536	\$ 140,645	\$ 14,696	\$ 235,877
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31		\$ 36,285		\$ 36,285

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, 2003

	Governmental Fund Types						
	G	Seneral		Special Sevenue		apital rojects	Totals norandum Only)
Cash Receipts:							
Local Taxes	\$	79,972	\$	99,746	\$	38,936	\$ 218,654
Intergovernmental		61,327		76,791		4,160	142,278
Special Assessments		273					273
Charges for Services		24,341					24,341
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		26,517					26,517
Earnings on Investments		1,128		302			1,430
Other Revenue		500		4,000			4,500
Total Cash Receipts		194,058		180,839		43,096	417,993
Cash Disbursements: Current:							
General Government		112,074					112,074
Public Safety		6,034		32,981		3,289	42,304
Public Works		40,170		116,268		0,200	156,438
Health		21,163		181			21,344
Debt Service:		,					,-
Redemption of Principal		34,887				32,453	67,340
Interest and Fiscal Charges		2,543				3,297	5,840
Capital Outlay		1,350		14,999			 16,349
Total Cash Disbursements		218,221		164,429		39,039	421,689
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements		(24,163)		16,410		4,057	 (3,696)
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements): Sale of Fixed Assets		1,111					1,111
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)		1,111					 1,111
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements		(23,052)		16,410		4,057	(2,585)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	-	103,496		74,450		4,226	 182,172
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	80,444	\$	90,860	\$	8,283	\$ 179,587
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$	1,810	\$	5,203			\$ 7,013

THE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

#### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Florence Township, Erie County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees Township directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, including road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection. The Township contracts with Citizens Ambulance Services, Inc., to provide ambulance 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements 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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

#### C. Cash and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or disbursements investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The Township values certificates of deposit at cost.

#### 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 reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

### 2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds 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:

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

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

<u>Gasoline Tax Fund</u> - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

### 3. Capital Project Funds

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects. The Township had the following significant capital project funds:

<u>Special Fire Levy Equipment Fund</u> – This fund receives property tax money for purchasing equipment used to provide fire protection.

### 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, function or 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.

#### 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 2004 and 2003 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

### F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

### G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

	 2004	 2003
Demand deposits	\$ 235,877	\$ (3,413)
Certificates of deposit		 183,000
Total deposits	\$ 235,877	\$ 179,587

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

### 3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2004 and 2003 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted		Actual			
Fund Type		Receipts		Receipts		/ariance
General	\$	183,590	\$	202,233	\$	18,643
Special Revenue		199,981		252,601		52,620
Capital Projects		42,275		43,952		1,677
Total	\$	425,846	\$	498,786	\$	72,940

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation		Budgetary			
Fund Type	Authority		Expenditures		Variance	
General	\$	262,167	\$	202,141	\$	60,026
Special Revenue		260,424		239,101		21,323
Capital Projects		48,481		37,539		10,942
Total	\$	571,072	\$	478,781	\$	92,291

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted		Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts		Receipts		Variance	
General	\$	170,928	\$	195,169	\$	24,241
Special Revenue		159,067		180,839		21,772
Capital Projects		41,505		43,096		1,591
Total	\$	371,500	\$	419,104	\$	47,604

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation		Budgetary			
Fund Type	Authority		Expenditures		Variance	
General	\$	281,910	\$	220,031	\$	61,879
Special Revenue		227,885		169,632		58,253
Capital Projects		43,657		39,039		4,618
Total	\$	553,452	\$	428,702	\$	124,750

#### 4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopt rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, 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. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2004 was as follows:

	 rincipal	Interest Rate
Fire Hall Loan	\$ 17,365	4.00%
John Deere Tractor Loan	 25,000	3.76%
Total	\$ 42,365	

The \$100,000 fire hall loan was obtained to finance the construction of a new fire hall and was dated September 5, 2001 in the amount of \$100,000. The terms of the loan required repayment through semiannual installments of \$11,255. The Township has made payments totaling \$15,012 for the year ending December 31, 2004 and \$20,790 for the year ending December 31, 2003 in excess of the required principal amounts due. Amount of principal outstanding as of December 31, 2004 is reflected in the table above. The bank has not provided the Township with a revised amortization schedule. Early payoff is permitted by the bank without penalty, with the Township intending to pay the balance of the loan during the year ending December 31, 2005.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

The \$25,000 John Deere tractor loan was obtained to finance the purchase of a new tractor and was dated December 14, 2004 in the amount of \$25,000. The loan will be paid in semiannual installments of \$4,418.

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

	Joh	nn Deere
Year ending December 31:	Tra	ctor Loan
2005	\$	8,836
2006		8,836
2007		8,835
Total	\$	26,507

#### 6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which includes postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004 and 2003, OPERS members contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equaling 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

### 7. RISK MANAGEMENT

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 § 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 percent portion the Plan retains. With policies effective September 1, 2003 and after, the Plan pays the lesser of 5 percent or \$25,000 for casualty losses up to the coverage limit and the lesser of 5 percent 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 Plan'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, 2003 and 2002 (the latest information available):

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

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

You can read the complete audited financial statements for The Ohio Government Risk Management Plan at the Plan's website, <a href="https://www.ohioplan.org">www.ohioplan.org</a>.

### 8. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.



## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Florence Township Erie County 11015 Chapel Street, P.O. Box 81 Birmingham, Ohio 44816-0081

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Florence Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated April 20, 2005, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted that the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. We conducted our audits 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.

### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audits, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable 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 caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider material weaknesses. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated April 20, 2005, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting.

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Florence Township
Erie County
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, 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 audits and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated April 20, 2005, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.

**Betty Montgomery** Auditor of State

Betty Montgomeny

April 20, 2005

### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain
2002-001	Revised Code § 5705.39 failure to limit appropriations to amounts within estimated revenue.	No	Partially corrected. Reported as a management letter comment.
2002-002	Revised Code § 5549.21 failure to follow competitive bidding procedures on the maintenance and repair of roads where the amount involved exceeds \$15,000.	Yes	



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## FLORENCE TOWNSHIP ERIE 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 MAY 31, 2005