



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| TITLE | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Cover Letter | 1 |
| Independent Accountants' Report | 3 |
| Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2004 | 5 |
| Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2003 | 6 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements | 7 |
| Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> | 13 |
| Schedule of Findings | 15 |

This page intentionally left blank.



Huntington Township Ross County 8335 Blain Highway Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

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 Township 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 Montgomeny

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

July 22, 2005

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 This page intentionally left blank.



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Huntington Township Ross County 8335 Blain Highway Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Huntington Township, Ross County, Ohio (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 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit 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 audit Ohio governments. We believe our audit provides 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.

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 this 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.

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 Huntington Township Ross County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

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 the 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 Huntington Township, Ross County, Ohio, 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 July 22, 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 audit.

Betty Montgomeny

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

July 22, 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

| | Governmental Fund Types | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| | General | Special Revenue | Debt Service | Totals (Memorandum Only) |
| Cash Receipts: | | | | |
| Local Taxes | \$42,912 | \$213,111 | \$148,164 | \$404,187 |
| Intergovernmental | 51,268 | 179,429 | 0 | 230,697 |
| Charges for Services | 0 | 3,925 | 0 | 3,925 |
| Earnings on Investments | 549 | 149 | 0 | 698 |
| Other Revenue | 180 | 8,681 | 0 | 8,861 |
| Total Cash Receipts | 94,909 | 405,295 | 148,164 | 648,368 |
| Cash Disbursements: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| General Government | 92,030 | 0 | 0 | 92,030 |
| Public Safety | 0 | 102,809 | 0 | 102,809 |
| Public Works | 0 | 202,719 | 0 | 202,719 |
| Health | 0 | 3,168 | 0 | 3,168 |
| Debt Service: | | | | |
| Redemption of Principal | 0 | 0 | 133,123 | 133,123 |
| Interest and Fiscal Charges | 0 | 0 | 15,041 | 15,041 |
| Capital Outlay | 0 | 76,250 | 0 | 76,250 |
| Total Cash Disbursements | 92,030 | 384,946 | 148,164 | 625,140 |
| Total Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements | 2,879 | 20,349 | 0 | 23,228 |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | 7,966 | 81,655 | 0 | 89,621 |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | \$10,845 | \$102,004 | \$0 | \$112,849 |
| Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31 | \$0 | \$4,889 | \$0 | \$4,889 |

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 | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| | General | Special Revenue | Debt Service | Capital Projects | Totals (Memorandum Only) |
| Cash Receipts: | | | | | |
| Local Taxes | \$41,264 | \$190,081 | \$137,802 | \$0 | \$369,147 |
| Intergovernmental | 50,995 | 142,437 | 0 | 86,800 | 280,232 |
| Charges for Services | 0 | 4,625 | 0 | 0 | 4,625 |
| Earnings on Investments | 851 | 178 | 0 | 0 | 1,029 |
| Other Revenue | 290 | 14,317 | 0 | 0 | 14,607 |
| Total Cash Receipts | 93,400 | 351,638 | 137,802 | 86,800 | 669,640 |
| Cash Disbursements: | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | |
| General Government | 85,447 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85,447 |
| Public Safety | 0 | 92,758 | 0 | 0 | 92,758 |
| Public Works | 5,096 | 198,308 | 0 | 86,800 | 290,204 |
| Health | 5,940 | 2,569 | 0 | 0 | 8,509 |
| Debt Service: | | | | | |
| Redemption of Principal | 0 | 36,680 | 118,957 | 0 | 155,637 |
| Interest and Fiscal Charges | 0 | 0 | 18,845 | 0 | 18,845 |
| Capital Outlay | 100 | 182,494 | 0 | 0 | 182,594 |
| Total Cash Disbursements | 96,583 | 512,809 | 137,802 | 86,800 | 833,994 |
| Total Cash Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements | (3,183) | (161,171) | 0 | 0 | (164,354) |
| Other Financing Receipts | | | | | |
| Sale of Notes | 0 | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |
| Total Other Financing Receipts | 0 | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |
| Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing | | | | | |
| Receipts(Under) Cash Disbursements | (3,183) | (61,171) | 0 | 0 | (64,354) |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | 11,149 | 142,826 | 0 | 0 | 153,975 |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | \$7,966 | \$81,655 | \$0 | \$0 | \$89,621 |
| Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31 | \$0 | \$3,600 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,600 |

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

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Huntington Township, Ross County, Ohio (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical 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 accounting basis. 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. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund 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:

<u>Road and Bridge Fund</u> – This fund receives property tax money for the maintenance and upkeep of Township roads and bridges.

<u>Fire Fund</u> - This fund receives property tax money to provide fire fighting services to the Township.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. Fund Accounting (Continued)

3. Debt Service Fund

This fund accounts for resources the Township accumulates to pay bond and note debt. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

<u>Miscellaneous Debt Service Fund</u> - This fund receives property tax money for the retirement of Township debt.

4. Capital Projects Funds

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant Capital Project Funds:

Issue II Fund - The Township received a grant to replace roadways within the Township.

<u>Natural Resources Conservation Service Fund</u> – The Township received a grant for work on a water shed in the Township.

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

A summary of 2004 and 2003 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. 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.

F. 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.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Demand deposits | \$112,849 | \$89,621 |
| Total deposits | \$112,849 | \$89,621 |

Deposits: 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 | Variance |
| General | \$93,825 | \$94,909 | \$1,084 |
| Special Revenue | 385,900 | 405,295 | 19,395 |
| Debt Service | 148,164 | 148,164 | 0 |
| Total | \$627,889 | \$648,368 | \$20,479 |

| 2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|----------|
| | Appropriation | Budgetary | |
| Fund Type | Authority | Expenditures | Variance |
| General | \$101,791 | \$92,030 | \$9,761 |
| Special Revenue | 467,555 | 389,835 | 77,720 |
| Debt Service | 148,164 | 148,164 | 0 |
| Total | \$717,510 | \$630,029 | \$87,481 |

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

| 2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Budgeted | Actual | |
| Fund Type | Receipts | Receipts | Variance |
| General | \$101,075 | \$93,400 | (\$7,675) |
| Special Revenue | 437,878 | 451,638 | 13,760 |
| Debt Service | 137,802 | 137,802 | 0 |
| Capital Projects | 93,750 | 86,800 | (6,950) |
| Total | \$770,505 | \$769,640 | (\$865) |

| 2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|----------|
| | Appropriation | Budgetary | |
| Fund Type | Authority | Expenditures | Variance |
| General | \$110,787 | \$96,583 | \$14,204 |
| Special Revenue | 574,454 | 516,409 | 58,045 |
| Debt Service | 137,802 | 137,802 | 0 |
| Capital Projects | 93,750 | 86,800 | 6,950 |
| Total | \$916,793 | \$837,594 | \$79,199 |

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.

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:

| Principal | Interest Rate |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| \$73,616 | 5.63% |
| 36,139 | 5.63% |
| 80,000 | 3.87% |
| \$189,755 | |
| | \$73,616 36,139 80,000 |

The Fire Station Note relates to the purchase of a fire station in 2000. The Note will be repaid in annual installments of \$76,771, including interest.

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

5. DEBT (Continued)

The Fire Equipment Note relates to the purchase of fire equipment in 2000. The Note will be repaid in annual installments of \$37,688, including interest

The Fire Truck Note relates to the purchase of a fire truck in 2003. The Note will be repaid in annual installments of \$20,000 for principal and any interest accrued on the outstanding balance at 3.87%.

The above notes will be paid with assessed taxes levied for the retirement of the debt.

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

| | 2000 Fire | 2000 Fire | 2003 Fire |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Year ending December 31: | Station | Equipment | Truck |
| 2005 | \$76,771 | \$37,688 | \$22,903 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 22,129 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 21,354 |
| 2008 | 0 | 0 | 20,583 |
| Total | \$76,771 | \$37,688 | \$86,969 |

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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 include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. 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 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.

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31: 2004 and 2003:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Assets | \$6,685,522 | \$5,402,167 |
| Liabilities | <u>\$2,227,808</u> | <u>\$1,871,123</u> |
| Members' Equity | <u>\$4,457,714</u> | <u>\$3,531,044</u> |

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



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

Huntington Township Ross County 8335 Blain Highway Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Huntington Township, Ross County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated July 22, 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 audit 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*.

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 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 July 22, 2005, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

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 audit and, accordingly, we do not express 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 2004-001.

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

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

Betty Montgomery

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

July 22, 2005

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

Finding Number

2004-001

Non-Compliance Citation

Certifying Funds Prior to Expenditure

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (D) (1) provides no subdivision shall make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless the certificate of the fiscal officer is attached. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet such a commitment 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 encumbrance. The amount so certified shall be recorded against the applicable appropriation account.

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 main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D) (3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. "Then and Now" certificate- If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time 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 expenditure 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 issue certificates for any amount for expenditures and contracts from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expenses. 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.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 (Continued)

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

Finding Number

2004-001

Non-Compliance Citation

Certifying Funds Prior to Expenditure (Continued)

Twenty percent of the expenditures tested were not certified at the time of the obligation. Then and Now Certificates were not issued for the transactions that were not certified.

We recommend the Clerk ensure funds are certified as available prior to the obligation through the issuance of a purchase order containing appropriate certification, or through the use of then and now certificates or so-called blanket or super blanket certificates as further permitted by Section 5705.41(D) (1) and 5705.41(D)(3).



88 East Broad Street P.O. Box 1140 Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140 Telephone 614-466-4514 800-282-0370

Facsimile 614-466-4490

HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP

ROSS COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbrtt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED AUGUST 30, 2005