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Richland Township Belmont County 118 Overbaugh Avenue St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

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 Montgomery

July 18, 2005

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Richland Township Belmont County 118 Overbaugh Avenue St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Richland Township, Belmont 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 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 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.

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Richland Township Belmont County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statement referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2004 does 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 its 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 of Richland Township, Belmont 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 July 18, 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 Montgomery Auditor of State

Betty Montgomery

July 18, 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		Totals
	General	Special Revenue	(Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Licenses, Permits, and Fees Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$325,093 145,382 19,053 1,040 6,453 10,158	\$363,396 222,510 235 509 8,531	\$688,489 367,892 19,053 1,275 6,962 18,689
Total Cash Receipts	507,179	595,181	1,102,360
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Conservation - Recreation Capital Outlay	144,704 100,930 129,016 68,439 10,000 25,545	462,507 23,629	144,704 100,930 591,523 68,439 10,000 49,174
Total Cash Disbursements	478,634	486,136	964,770
Total Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	28,545	109,045	137,590
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	448,288	246,906	695,194
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$476,833	\$355,951	\$832,784

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		Totala
	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Local Taxes Intergovernmental Licenses, Permits, and Fees Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties Earnings on Investments Other Revenue	\$307,339 123,291 18,077 1,652 7,571 24,208	\$343,834 150,754 610 520 15,622	\$651,173 274,045 18,077 2,262 8,091 39,830
Total Cash Receipts	482,138	511,340	993,478
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Safety Public Works Health Conservation - Recreation Capital Outlay	109,305 101,276 218,748 69,329 10,000 73,000	486,769 215 39,502	109,305 101,276 705,517 69,329 10,215 112,502
Total Cash Disbursements	581,658	526,486	1,108,144
Total Cash Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements Fund Cash Balances, January 1	(99,520) 547,808	(15,146) 262,052	(114,666) 809,860
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$448,288	\$246.906	\$695,194

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 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 Richland Township, Belmont County, (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, and police 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 values certificates of deposit at cost. Money market mutual funds (including STAROhio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

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:

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.

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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. 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 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.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a cash and investments pool which 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:

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

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

	2004	2003
Demand deposits	\$422,907	\$270,477
Certificates of deposit	11,000	11,000
Total deposits	433,907	281,477
STAROhio	398,877	413,717
Total investments	398,877	413,717
Total deposits and investments	\$832,784	\$695,194

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

At December 31, 2004, \$30,050 of deposits were not insured or collateralized, contrary to Ohio law.

Investments: Investments in STAROhio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Budgeted	Actual	
Receipts	Receipts	Variance
\$337,811	\$507,179	\$169,368
541,980	595,181	53,201
\$879,791	\$1,102,360	\$222,569
	Receipts \$337,811 541,980	Receipts Receipts \$337,811 \$507,179 541,980 595,181

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$764,709	\$478,634	\$286,075
Special Revenue	746,644	486,136	260,508
Total	\$1,511,353	\$964,770	\$546,583

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	90100 1017 101001					
	Budgeted	Actual	_			
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance			
General	\$297,958	\$482,138	\$184,180			
Special Revenue	459,634	511,340	51,706			
Total	\$757,592	\$993,478	\$235,886			

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

3. **BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$809,756	\$581,658	\$228,098
Special Revenue	678,834	526,486	152,348
Total	\$1,488,590	\$1,108,144	\$380,446

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. LODGING TAX

The Township levies a three percent hotel and motel tax on lodging furnished to transient guests throughout the Township. The Township receives the tax directly from the hotels and motels and is receipted into the General Fund and reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Local Taxes.

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's full-time police officers belong to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). Other employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OP&F and OPERS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes these plans' benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2004 and 2003, members of OP&F participants contributed 10 percent of their wages. The Township contributed an amount equal to 24 percent of their wages to OP&F. 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

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).

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

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. Townships 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 in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500,000,000 per occurrence. 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, 2004 and 2003:

Casualty Coverage	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$30,687,203	\$27,792,223
Liabilities	(13,640,962)	(11,791,300)
Retained earnings	<u>\$17,046,241</u>	<u>\$16,000,923</u>

Property Coverage	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets	\$7,799,073	\$6,791,060
Liabilities	<u>(753,906)</u>	<u>(750,956)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,045,167</u>	<u>\$6,040,104</u>

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

8. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. 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

Richland Township Belmont County 118 Overbaugh Avenue St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Richland Township, Belmont County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated July 18, 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. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider 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 management's assertions in the financial statements. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2004-001.

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. 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 material weaknesses. However, we do not believe the reportable condition described above is a material weakness.

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Belmont 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 audit 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 July 18, 2005, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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 Auditor of State

Butty Montgomeny

July 18, 2005

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003

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

FINDING NUMBER 2004 - 001

Reportable Condition

Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-02(C)(1) requires the government's internal controls to reasonably assure that budgetary accounts are integrated into the financial accounting system. This means designing an accounting system to provide ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts.

The Township Clerk did not properly post budgeted receipts, and any amendments made to them, to the accounting system. Variances existed between the certificate of estimated resources and the amounts posted to the accounting system throughout the year. The following table details these variances:

	<u>Fund</u>	Amount Per Last Amended Certificate	Amounts Posted to the Accounting System	<u>Variance</u>
2004				
	General Fund	\$337,811	\$337,999	\$188
	Road and Bridge Fund	390,000	378,500	(11,500)
	Federal Emergency Management			
	Agency (FEMA) Fund	53,841	0	(53,841)
2003				
	General Fund	297,958	294,618	(3,340)
	Road and Bridge Fund	365,000	355,000	(10,000)
	FEMA Fund	8,605	0	(8,605)

Because the information entered into the accounting system was inaccurate, Township management was unable to effectively monitor budgetary activity throughout the year.

We recommend the Township Clerk record only estimated receipts from the Certificate of Estimated Resources and any amendments thereto. The Township Clerk should periodically present budget vs. actual results to the Township Trustees. As part of their monitoring responsibilities, the Township Trustees should review this information and should inquire to the Township Clerk if they note apparent errors in the budget or actual data and should also use this information to determine if they should amend estimated revenue or appropriations. The accompanying budgetary presentation includes only budgeted receipts certified to the County Auditor.

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; <i>Explain</i>
2002-41007-001	Reportable Condition - Issue II fund activity not posted to accounting records.	Yes	Finding No Longer Valid.
2002-41007-002	Reportable Condition - Estimated receipts were not always correctly posted to the accounting system.	No	Not Corrected; Reissued as Finding No. 2004-001.



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RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

BELMONT COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

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

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED SEPTEMBER 6, 2005