



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT
PREBLE COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

North Central Ambulance District
Preble County
130 East Main Cross Street
Eldorado, Ohio 45321

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

July 28, 2006

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

North Central Ambulance District
Preble County
130 East Main Cross Street
Eldorado, Ohio 45321

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of North Central Ambulance District, Preble County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District'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. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District 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 District to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. Instead of the accompanying fund financial statement presented for 2004 and 2005, the revisions require presenting an entity wide statement (statement of net assets and the statement of activities) and also to present a fund statement (balance sheet and statement of changes in revenue, expenditures and changes in fund balance) separately for 2004 and 2005. While the District 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 District has elected not to reformat its statements. Since this District 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 years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2005 and 2004 or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances of North Central Ambulance District, Preble County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and its 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 District to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. The District 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 28, 2006, on our consideration of the District'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

July 28, 2006

**NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT
PREBLE COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cash Receipts: | | |
| Local Taxes | \$58,147 | \$58,251 |
| Intergovernmental | 35,744 | 20,008 |
| Charges for Services | 70,777 | 54,024 |
| Earnings on Investments | 727 | 871 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,532 | 6,772 |
| Total Cash Receipts | 167,927 | 139,926 |
| Cash Disbursements: | | |
| Current: | | |
| Public Safety | 104,805 | 109,406 |
| Debt Service: | | |
| Redemption of Principal | 15,100 | 25,052 |
| Interest | 862 | 1,457 |
| Total Disbursements | 120,767 | 135,915 |
| Total Receipts Over Disbursements | 47,160 | 4,011 |
| Fund Cash Balances, January 1 | 45,812 | 41,801 |
| Fund Cash Balances, December 31 | \$92,972 | \$45,812 |

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

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**NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

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 North Central Ambulance District, Preble County, Ohio (the District), as a body corporate and politic. A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. One board member is appointed by each political subdivision within the District. Those subdivisions are the Village of West Manchester, the Village of Eldorado, and Monroe Township. The District provides ambulance services within the District and by mutual aid agreement to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting the Auditor of State prescribes or permits, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. This basis 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 adequately disclose material matters the Auditor of State prescribes.

C. Cash and Deposits

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

D. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to budget annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the 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 unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

**NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The District did not use the encumbrance method of accounting during 2004. The District did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law. A review was performed to determine the amount of encumbrances at year-end which were not encumbered. There were no material outstanding encumbrances at year-end.

A summary of 2005 and 2004 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The District 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 AND DEPOSITS

The District maintains a cash and deposits pool used by all funds. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and deposits at December 31 follows:

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Demand deposits | \$65,972 | \$18,812 |
| Certificates of deposit | 27,000 | 27,000 |
| Total deposits | \$92,972 | \$45,812 |

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2005 and 2004 follows:

| 2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Budgeted | Actual | |
| Receipts | Receipts | Variance |
| \$121,070 | \$167,927 | \$46,857 |

**NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

| 2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------|
| Appropriation Authority | Budgetary Expenditures | Variance |
| \$165,500 | \$120,767 | \$44,733 |

| 2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Budgeted Receipts | Actual Receipts | Variance |
| \$94,609 | \$139,926 | \$45,317 |

| 2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------|
| Appropriation Authority | Budgetary Expenditures | Variance |
| \$110,000 | \$135,915 | (\$25,915) |

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Board of Trustees adopts rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The State then pays the District amounts equaling the homestead and rollback deductions. 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 District.

Tangible personal property tax owners assess that property. The property owners must file a tangible property list 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 District.

5. DEBT

The District had two loans outstanding at December 31, 2003. Both of these loans were paid in full during the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004.

**NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT
PREBLE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2005 and 2004, members of OPERS contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.



Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

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

North Central Ambulance District
Preble County
130 East Main Cross Street
Eldorado, Ohio 45321

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of North Central Ambulance District, Preble County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005, and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated July 28, 2006, wherein we noted the District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 District's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures in order 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 District'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 2005-001.

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. In a separate letter to the District's management dated July 28, 2006, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting which we did not deem reportable conditions.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District'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 or other matter that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2005-001. In a separate letter to the District's management dated July 28, 2006, 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 Board of Trustees. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

July 28, 2006

**NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT
PREBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2005-001

Reportable Condition/Noncompliance

Ohio Revised Code, § 5705.41(D)(1), prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

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 that 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 District can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The District 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 expenditures by the District.

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 District may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. 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.

Of 40 expenditures tested, 20 (100%) were not properly certified in 2004 and 13 (65%) were not properly certified in 2005. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

**FINDING NUMBER 2005-001
(Continued)**

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the District's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Clerk-Treasurer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the District. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the District certify purchases to which section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The fiscal officer should sign the certification at the time the District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

We did not receive a response from Officials to this finding.

**NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT
PREBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

| Finding Number | Finding Summary | Fully Corrected? | Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> |
|----------------|---|------------------|--|
| 2003-001 | Revised Code 117.38, failure to complete annual reports and publish notice in the newspaper | No | Partially corrected – reissued as management letter citation |
| 2003-002 | Revised Code 149.351, destruction of records | Yes | |
| 2003-003 | Revised Code 5705.41(D), failure to properly certify funds | No | Not corrected – reissued as Finding 2005-001 |
| 2003-004 | Revised Code 5705.41(B), expenditures exceeded appropriations | No | Partially corrected – reissued as management letter citation |
| 2003-005 | Failure to remit payroll withholdings and contributions in a timely manner | Yes | |
| 2003-006 | Failure to book activity from an outside bank account on the District's financial records | Yes | |



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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800-282-0370

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NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT

PREBLE 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 Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
AUGUST 17, 2006**