

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY
Regular Audit
December 31, 2005 and 2004**



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Board of Trustees
Warren Township, Belmont County
P.O. Box 2
Barnesville, OH 43713

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report* of Warren Township, Belmont County, prepared by Perry and Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Accountants' Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State 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. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Independent Accountants' Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State permits.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Warren Township, Belmont County is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery".

BETTY MONTGOMERY
Auditor of State

June 8, 2006

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**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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Perry & Associates
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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

May 5, 2006

Warren Township
Belmont County
P.O. Box 2
Barnesville, OH 43713

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Warren Township, Belmont County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. 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.

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 years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2005 and 2004, the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present it's larger (i.e. major) funds separately beginning in 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 fourth following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in paragraphs four and five, 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 Township as of December 31, 2005 and 2004 or their changes in financial position for the year then ended.

During the prior audit, it was noted in 2003 the Township improperly posted February 2003 property tax settlement amounts to the General Fund, in the amount of \$28,111 and these revenues were due to the Road and Bridge Fund, Special Revenue Fund type, in the amount of \$24,918 and the Fire Levy Fund, Special Revenue Fund type, in the amount of \$3,193. Had the posting error been properly posted to the Township's accounting system, the 2005 and 2004 General Fund revenues would have been decreased by \$28,111 and the December 31, 2005 and 2004 cash balance of the General Fund would have been decreased by \$28,111 and the December 31, 2005 and 2004 Special Revenue Fund revenues would have been increased by \$28,111 and the December 31, 2005 and 2004 cash balance of the Special Revenue Fund would have been increased by \$28,111.

The posting error noted in the above paragraph had not been adjusted to the Township's accounting system as of December 31, 2005.

Also, in our opinion, because of the effect of the misposting discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances and reserve for encumbrances of Warren Township, Belmont County, as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, 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 years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. The Government 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 May 5, 2006, 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>				Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service Projects</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$16,402	\$75,243	\$5,150		\$96,795
Intergovernmental	82,685	180,495			263,180
Earnings on Investments	69	24		0	93
Other Revenue	1,238				1,238
Total Cash Receipts	<u>100,394</u>	<u>255,762</u>	<u>5,150</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>361,306</u>
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	64,462				64,462
Public Safety	995	5,412			6,407
Public Works	12,650	189,803			202,453
Health	5,500				5,500
Human Services		40,286			40,286
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal/Interest	12,810				12,810
Capital Outlay	70,926	1,964			72,890
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>167,343</u>	<u>237,465</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>404,808</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(66,949)</u>	<u>18,297</u>	<u>5,150</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(43,502)</u>
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):					
Note Proceeds	53,853				53,853
Sale of Fixed Assets	16,000				16,000
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>69,853</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>69,853</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	2,904	18,297	5,150	0	26,351
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	55,735	55,288	5,092	1,292	117,407
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$58,639</u>	<u>\$73,585</u>	<u>\$10,242</u>	<u>\$1,292</u>	<u>\$143,758</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$1,035</u>	<u>\$2,105</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,140</u>

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>				Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service Projects</u>	<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	
Cash Receipts:					
Local Taxes	\$13,412	\$74,094	\$5,000		\$92,506
Intergovernmental	90,194	116,070			206,264
Earnings on Investments	62	17			79
Other Revenue	150				150
	<u>103,818</u>	<u>190,181</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>298,999</u>
Total Cash Receipts					
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	63,886				63,886
Public Safety	1,299	6,953			8,252
Public Works	30,488	153,256			183,744
Health	7,841				7,841
Human Services		31,981			31,981
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal/Interest	11,000				11,000
Capital Outlay	226				226
	<u>114,740</u>	<u>192,190</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>306,930</u>
Total Cash Disbursements					
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>(10,922)</u>	<u>(2,009)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(7,931)</u>
Other Financing Receipts and (Disbursements):					
Advances-In		5,000			5,000
Advances-Out	(5,000)				(5,000)
	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)					
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(15,922)	2,991	5,000	0	(7,931)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	71,657	52,297	92	1,292	125,338
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$55,735</u>	<u>\$55,288</u>	<u>\$5,092</u>	<u>\$1,292</u>	<u>\$117,407</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$246</u>	<u>\$798</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,044</u>

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Warren Township, Belmont County, (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Barnesville to provide fire and emergency services.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

The Township Clerk invests all available funds of the Township in an interest-bearing checking account and certificates of deposit. Certificates of deposit are valued 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 is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township has the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

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

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

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund – This fund receives motor vehicle license tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

Federal Emergency Management Agency – (FEMA) Fund – This fund received money from the Federal and State Emergency Management Agencies to provide flood damage relief.

3. Debt Service Funds

The debt service fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of bonds and note indebtedness. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

Note Retirement Fund – This fund receives property tax levy monies to pay principal and interest on the Township's note issues.

4. Fiduciary Funds (Trust Funds)

Trust funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. If the agreements require the Township to maintain the corpus of the trust, the fund is classified as a Nonexpendable Trust Fund. The Township had the following significant Fiduciary Fund:

Bethel Cemetery Fund – The interest earned is used to pay for the cost of maintaining the Township's cemetery. This fund is classified as a Nonexpendable Trust Fund.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process (Continued)

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function, and 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 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 commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated in the subsequent year.

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

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Demand deposits	\$ 101,843	\$ 74,584
Certificates of Deposit	<u>41,915</u>	<u>42,823</u>
Total deposits	<u>\$ 143,758</u>	<u>\$ 117,407</u>

Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, or (3) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$77,398	\$170,247	\$92,849
Special Revenue	218,529	255,762	37,233
Debt Service	5,150	5,150	0
Fiduciary	5	0	(5)
Total	<u>\$301,082</u>	<u>\$431,159</u>	<u>\$130,077</u>

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$169,257	\$168,378	\$879
Special Revenue	311,059	239,570	71,489
Debt Service	5,092	0	5,092
Fiduciary	0	0	0
Total	<u>\$485,408</u>	<u>\$407,948</u>	<u>\$77,460</u>

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$76,150	\$103,818	\$27,668
Special Revenue	167,992	195,181	27,189
Debt Service	5,000	5,000	0
Fiduciary	10	0	(10)
Total	<u>\$249,152</u>	<u>\$303,999</u>	<u>\$54,847</u>

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$168,152	\$119,986	\$48,166
Special Revenue	244,828	192,988	51,840
Debt Service	5,092	0	5,092
Fiduciary	0	0	0
Total	<u>\$418,072</u>	<u>\$312,974</u>	<u>\$105,098</u>

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

Contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (D), the certification of availability of unencumbered appropriations for expenditure was not obtained for 68% of expenditures tested during 2005 and 50% of expenditures testing during 2004.

Contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36, current year appropriations exceeded beginning fund balance plus actual receipts in 2005 in the General Fund, MVL Fund, Gas Fund, Road and Bridge Fund and Fire Fund and the General Fund, MVL Fund, Gas Fund, Road and Bridge Fund, Fire Fund and FEMA Fund in 2004.

4. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2005 was as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Promissory Note	\$50,642	4.69 %

The promissory note was issued in 2005 for \$53,853 to finance the purchase of a new backhoe. The note is collateralized solely by the backhoe. The Township makes payments on a monthly basis.

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

Year ending December 31:	Promissory Note
2006	\$ 12,106.39
2007	12,106.36
2008	12,106.37
2009	12,106.36
2010	<u>8,070.91</u>
Total	\$ <u>56,496.39</u>

5. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

5. PROPERTY TAX (Continued)

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.

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multi-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including post retirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2005 and 2004, members of PERS contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2005.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

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

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 are reinsured with APEEP up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000 from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

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

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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 (the latest information available):

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

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<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>

Perry & Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

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

May 5, 2006

Warren Township
Belmont County
34723 State Route 7
Sardis, Ohio 43946

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Warren Township, Belmont County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated May 5, 2006, wherein we opined the financial statements were not fairly presented since the Township declined to adjust its financial statements or accounting records for a prior audit improper posting of restricted receipts to the General Fund. We also noted the Township 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 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 May 5, 2006, 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 one instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying schedule of Findings as item 2005-001. In a separate letter to the Township's management dated May 5, 2006, we reported matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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

Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT 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

Noncompliance Citation

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 (Clerk) 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 taxing authority (Board of Township Trustees) can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The taxing authority has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution. Amounts of less than \$1,000 (which was increased to \$3,000 on 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 Township.
2. Blanket Certificate – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates not exceeding \$5,000 against any specific line item account over a period not exceeding three months or running beyond the current year. 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. Effective September 26, 2003, certificates may not exceed an amount established by resolution or ordinance of the legislative authority, and cannot extend beyond the end of the fiscal year. Blanket certificates cannot be issued unless there has been an amount approved by the legislative authority for the blanket.
3. Super Blanket Certificate – The Township 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.

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2005-001 (Continued)

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 68% of the expenditures tested during 2005 and 50% of the expenditures tested during 2004 and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Without these certifications, the management of the Township lost budgetary control over expenditures.

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 Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Clerk certify that the funds are or will be available prior to an obligation being incurred by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

Management's Response – Management chose to not respond.

**WARREN TOWNSHIP
BELMONT 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	ORC § 5705.41 (B) – Expenditures exceeding Appropriations	Yes	Corrected
2003-002	ORC § 5705.41(D)– Prior Certification of Expenditures	No	Not Corrected – Repeated as Finding 2005-001



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WARREN 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.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JUNE 20, 2006**