



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

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, 2008.....	5
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2007.....	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>	11
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.....	13

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Benton Township
Paulding County
3708 SR 500
Payne, Ohio 45880-9319

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 an 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 adverse 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.

Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 23, 2009

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Benton Township
Paulding County
3708 SR 500
Payne, Ohio 45880-9319

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Benton Township, Paulding County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. 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.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. 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 GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require townships to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. 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, 2008 and 2007 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, 2008 and 2007, 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 combined fund cash balances of Benton Township, Paulding County, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

As described in note 2 to the financial statements, during 2007, the Township changed its financial statement presentation method to conform to presentation methods the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

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 June 23, 2009, 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.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 23, 2009

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$29,816	\$52,172	\$81,988
Charges for Services		3,126	3,126
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	150	7,685	7,835
Intergovernmental	30,287	108,976	139,263
Earnings on Investments	3,388	1,207	4,595
Miscellaneous	4,690	8,272	12,962
Total Cash Receipts	<u>68,331</u>	<u>181,438</u>	<u>249,769</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	51,883	1,061	52,944
Public Safety	6,083	21,697	27,780
Public Works		115,051	115,051
Health		3,230	3,230
Human Services	7,932		7,932
Capital Outlay	11,495	35,069	46,564
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>77,393</u>	<u>176,108</u>	<u>253,501</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements	(9,062)	5,330	(3,732)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>127,021</u>	<u>277,487</u>	<u>404,508</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$117,959</u>	<u>\$282,817</u>	<u>\$400,776</u>

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

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$29,748	\$52,993	\$82,741
Charges for Services		3,876	3,876
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	120	9,750	9,870
Intergovernmental	85,635	116,975	202,610
Earnings on Investments	3,812	1,559	5,371
Miscellaneous	94	489	583
Total Cash Receipts	<u>119,409</u>	<u>185,642</u>	<u>305,051</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	59,373		59,373
Public Safety	2,967	19,940	22,907
Public Works		98,325	98,325
Health		7,430	7,430
Human Services	8,031		8,031
Capital Outlay	5,209	1,944	7,153
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>75,580</u>	<u>127,639</u>	<u>203,219</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	43,829	58,003	101,832
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>83,192</u>	<u>219,484</u>	<u>302,676</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$127,021</u></u>	<u><u>\$277,487</u></u>	<u><u>\$404,508</u></u>

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

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

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 Benton Township, Paulding 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 and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Village of Payne to provide fire protection and emergency medical services.

The Township participates in the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan, a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis 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. Deposits and Investments

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

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 private-purpose trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay 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.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(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 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 2008 and 2007 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

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.

2. CHANGES IN FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

In 2006, the Township reported the financial statements on the cash basis of accounting comparable to the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standard No. 34. For 2007, the Township reported on a regulatory basis. The Township no longer presents entity wide financial statements. The fund financial statements now present a column for each fund type, rather than a separate column for each major fund with non-major funds aggregated and presented in a single column.

3. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS

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

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Demand deposits	\$133,158	\$281,174
Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	267,618	123,334
Total deposits	<u>\$400,776</u>	<u>\$404,508</u>

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township; or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2008 and 2007 follows:

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 45,945	\$ 68,331	\$22,386
Special Revenue	174,903	181,438	6,535
Total	<u>\$220,848</u>	<u>\$249,769</u>	<u>\$28,921</u>

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$172,966	\$ 77,393	\$ 95,573
Special Revenue	452,390	176,108	276,282
Total	<u>\$625,356</u>	<u>\$253,501</u>	<u>\$371,855</u>

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$107,622	\$119,409	\$11,787
Special Revenue	151,717	185,642	33,925
Total	<u>\$259,339</u>	<u>\$305,051</u>	<u>\$45,712</u>

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$181,588	\$ 75,580	\$106,008
Special Revenue	359,656	127,639	232,017
Total	<u>\$541,244</u>	<u>\$203,219</u>	<u>\$338,025</u>

5. PROPERTY TAX

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

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

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. For 2008 and 2007, OPERS members contributed 9.5 and 10%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 13.85 and 14%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2008.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

The Government belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to over 550 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.

The Plan issues its own policies and reinsures the Plan with A- VII or better rated carriers, except the Plan retains the lesser of 15% or \$37,500 of casualty losses and the lesser of 10% or \$100,000 of property losses. Individual Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member.

Plan members are responsible to notify the Plan of their intent to renew coverage by their renewal date. If a member chooses not to renew with the Plan, they have no other financial obligation to the Plan, but still need to promptly notify the Plan of any potential claims occurring during their membership period. The former member's covered claims, which occurred during their membership period, remain the responsibility of the Plan.

Settlement amounts did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31: 2007 and 2006 (the latest information available):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$11,136,455	\$9,620,148
Liabilities	(4,273,553)	(3,329,620)
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 6,862,902</u>	<u>\$6,290,528</u>

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



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

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

Benton Township
Paulding County
3708 SR 500
Payne, Ohio 45880-9319

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Benton Township, Paulding County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated June 23, 2009 wherein we noted the Township changed its financial statement presentation method to conform to presentation methods the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. We also noted 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. 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 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 as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Township's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting
(Continued)**

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

We noted a certain matter that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated June 23, 2009.

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*.

We did note certain noncompliance matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated June 23, 2009.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the management, audit committee and Board of Trustees. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 23, 2009

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2006-01	Ohio Revised Code §5704.42 - failure to record "on-behalf-of" activity	Yes	
2006-02	Material weakness due to errors on the financial statements	Yes	



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

BENTON TOWNSHIP

PAULDING 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
JULY 23, 2009**