



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**STARK COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
STARK COUNTY**

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Stark County Port Authority
Stark County
116 Cleveland Avenue, NW
Suite 600
Canton, Ohio 44702

To the Board of Directors:

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.

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 5, 2009

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Stark County Port Authority
Stark County
116 Cleveland Avenue, NW
Suite 600
Canton, Ohio 44702

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Stark County Port Authority, Stark County, Ohio, (the Port Authority) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Port Authority'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 Port Authority 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 Port Authority's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Port Authority 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 Port Authorities to reformat their statements. The Port Authority 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 year ended December 31, 2008 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Port Authority as of December 31, 2008, 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 fund cash balance and reserves for encumbrances of the Stark County Port Authority, Stark County, as of December 31, 2008, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The Port Authority 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 5, 2009, on our consideration of the Port Authority'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 5, 2009

**STARK COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
STARK COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE - PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	Enterprise Fund
Operating Cash Receipts:	
Charges for Services	\$18,862
Intergovernmental	25,000
Financing Program Fees	5,000
Total Operating Cash Receipts	48,862
Operating Cash Disbursements:	
Administration	141,562
Professional Services	7,655
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	149,217
Operating (Loss)	(100,355)
Non-Operating Cash Receipts	
Investment Income	30,102
Total Non-Operating Cash Receipts (Under) Operating Cash Disbursements	(70,253)
Non-Operating Cash Disbursements	
Interest Expense	1,171
Net Receipts Under Disbursements	(71,424)
Cash Balance, January 1	\$940,364
Cash Balance, December 31	\$868,940
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$40,000

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

STARK COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
STARK COUNTY

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	<u>Debt Service</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$94,342</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Debt Service - Interest Payment	<u>94,342</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	0
Cash Balance, January 1	<u>0</u>
Cash Balance, December 31	<u><u>\$0</u></u>

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

**STARK COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
STARK COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The Stark County Port Authority, Stark County, Ohio, (the Port Authority) is a body corporate and politic established to promote, develop and advance the general welfare, commerce, and economic development of Stark County and its citizens, and to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Port Authority is directed by a five-member Board appointed by the Stark County Commissioners.

The Port Authority is a component unit of Stark County since the members of the Port Authority's Board are appointed by the Stark County Board of Commissioners and the Port Authority is economically dependent on the County for financial support.

The Port Authority's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Port Authority 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 Port Authority 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 Port Authority's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or disbursements investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The Port Authority values certificates of deposits, and U.S. Treasury Notes at cost. Money market mutual funds are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

D. Fund Accounting

The Port Authority maintains an Enterprise Fund, a proprietary fund type, which is the general operating fund and is used to account for all financial resources of the Port Authority. This fund is used to account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises where management intends that the significant costs of providing certain goods or services will be recovered through user charges.

The Port Authority maintains a Debt Service Fund to record loan proceeds from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) for construction of facilities at Superior Dairy, Inc.

**STARK COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
STARK COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

Ohio Revised Code Section 4582.13, requires that each fund be budgeted annually. This budget includes estimated receipts and appropriations.

1. Appropriations

Pursuant to the bylaws of the Port Authority, the Board shall adopt an appropriation resolution.

2. Encumbrances

The Port Authority reserves (encumbers) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are carried over and are not re-appropriated.

A summary of 2008 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Port Authority records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Port Authority maintains a cash and investments pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and investments at December 31, 2008 was as follows:

Demand deposits	\$26,182
Money market account	<u>842,758</u>
Total deposits	<u><u>\$868,940</u></u>

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2008 follows:

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
Enterprise Fund	\$99,700	\$78,964	(\$20,736)
Debt Service Fund	94,342	94,342	0
	<u>\$194,042</u>	<u>\$173,306</u>	<u>(\$20,736)</u>

**STARK COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
STARK COUNTY**

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
Enterprise Fund	\$231,645	\$190,388	\$41,257
Debt Service Fund	94,342	94,342	0
Total	\$325,987	\$284,730	\$41,257

4. DEBT

- A.** The Port Authority obtained a loan during 1998 from the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) for \$50,000 with a 3% interest rate for operating purposes.

Amortization of the debt, including interest, is \$50,000 and was scheduled to be paid in full by the end of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. However, the loan was deferred by the Stark County CIC.

As of July 24, 2008, this debt was forgiven by the Stark County Commissioners.

- B.** On October 11, 2004, the Port Authority, in conjunction with Superior Dairy, Inc., entered into an agreement to construct a Pre-treatment System. In order to obtain funds for the construction of the project, the Port Authority entered into a loan agreement with the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA).

The loan agreement authorized the Port Authority to obtain loan funds in an amount up to \$3,200,000 at a rate of 3% for 15 years. As of December 31, 2008, \$3,144,739 had been drawn against the loan. The Port Authority is required to pay interest only on the loan for five years.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Port Authority has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Public Officials liability, and
- Commercial general liability

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Port Authority contracts with the Stark Development Board (SDB) for administrative and management services. During 2008, the Port Authority paid SDB a total of \$90,194 for those services.

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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*

Stark County Port Authority
Stark County
116 Cleveland Avenue, NW
Suite 600
Canton, Ohio 44702

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the financial statements of the Stark County Port Authority, Stark County, Ohio, (the Port Authority) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated June 5, 2009, wherein we noted the Port Authority 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 Port Authority'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 Port Authority's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Port Authority'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 Port Authority'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 Port Authority'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 Port Authority's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting 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.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Port Authority'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 a certain noncompliance or other matter that we reported to the Port Authority's management in a separate letter dated June 5, 2009.

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

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

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 5, 2009



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

STARK COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

STARK 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 28, 2009**