

***WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO***

AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

Charles E. Harris and Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants and Government Consultants



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

Board of Trustees
Washington Township
1853 Finley Chapel Road
Wellston, Ohio 45692

We have reviewed the *Report of Independent Accountants* of Washington Township, Jackson County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. 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 *Report of Independent Accountants* 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 *Report of Independent Accountants* 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. Washington Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

October 6, 2009

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**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Audit Report
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

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Rockefeller Building
614 West Superior Avenue #1242
Cleveland, OH 44113-1306
Office Phone - (216) 575-1630
Fax - (216) 436-2411

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Washington Township
Jackson County
1853 Finley Chapel Road
Wellston, Ohio 45692

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Washington Township, Jackson 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. We believe that 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, 2008 and 2007. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2008 and 2007, the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2008 and 2007. 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 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 the Township, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and its cash receipts and disbursements and changes in fund cash balances 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, 2008 and 2007. 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 August 31, 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 do not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal controls 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.

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

August 31, 2009

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
 JACKSON 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

	Governmental Fund Types			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	
Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 25,579	\$ -	-	\$ 25,579
Intergovernmental	22,392	104,358	\$ 51,300	178,050
Interest	530	1,060	-	1,590
Miscellaneous	13,219	900	-	14,119
Total Receipts	61,721	106,318	51,300	219,339
Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	52,313	-	514	52,827
Public Safety	2,600	-	-	2,600
Public Works	-	95,743	-	95,743
Public Health Services	530	7,734	-	8,264
Capital Outlay	-	-	49,735	49,735
Total Disbursements	55,443	103,477	50,249	209,169
Total Receipts Over(Under) Disbursements	6,278	2,841	1,051	10,170
Fund Balance 1/1/2008	140,534	119,875	18,806	279,215
Fund Balance 12/31/2008	\$ 146,812	\$ 122,716	\$ 19,857	\$ 289,385

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
 JACKSON 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

	Governmental Fund Types			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	
Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 26,083	-	-	\$ 26,083
Intergovernmental	23,775	\$ 111,891	\$ 53,053	188,719
Interest	484	969	-	1,453
Miscellaneous	9,227	850	-	10,077
Total Receipts	59,569	113,710	53,053	226,332
Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	55,479	-	530	56,009
Public Safety	2,720	-	-	2,720
Public Works	-	96,081	-	96,081
Public Health	524	7,580	-	8,104
Capital Outlay	-	-	50,681	50,681
Total Disbursements	58,723	103,661	51,211	213,595
Total Receipts Over(Under) Disbursements	846	10,049	1,842	12,737
Fund Balance 1/1/2007	139,688	109,826	16,964	266,478
Fund Balance 12/31/2007	\$ 140,534	\$ 119,875	\$ 18,806	\$ 279,215

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTITY

Washington Township, Jackson County (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established for the purpose of exercising 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, and fire protection. The Township contracts with the Hamden Fire Department and Wellston Fire Department to provide fire services.

The Township's management believes these financial statements included in this report represent all of the funds of the Township over which the Township has the ability to exercise direct operating control.

B. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Township prepares its financial statements following 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.)

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

C. CASH

Investments are included in the fund cash balances. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

D. FUND ACCOUNTING

The Township maintains its accounting records in accordance with the principles of "Fund" accounting. Fund accounting is a concept developed to meet the needs of governmental entities in which legal or other restraints require the recording of specific receipts and disbursements. The transactions of each fund are reflected in a self-balancing group of accounts, an accounting entity, which stands separate from the activities reported in other funds. The restrictions associated with each class of funds are as follows:

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

D. FUND ACCOUNTING - (Continued)

Governmental Fund Types:

General Fund: The general operating fund of the Township. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required by law or contract to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds: These funds are used to account for proceeds from special sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. The Township has the following significant Special Revenue funds:

- *Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund* – This fund received motor vehicle license tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.
- *Gasoline Tax Fund* – This fund receives gasoline tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.
- *Fire Fund* – This fund receives property tax proceeds to pay for the fire protection for the Township.

Capital Projects Funds: These funds are used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

- *Permanent Improvement Fund* – This fund receives a portion of the monies collected for sales tax from the County Auditor for permanent improvement and repayment of debt relating to capital expenditures.

E. BUDGETARY PROCESS

A budget of estimated cash receipts and disbursements is prepared by the Fiscal Officer, approved by the Township Board of Trustees, and submitted to the county auditor, as secretary of the County Budget Commission, by July 20 of each year, for the period January 1 to December 31 of the following year.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

E. BUDGETARY PROCESS - (Continued)

1. Estimated Resources

The county auditor calculates the estimated revenues available to the Township. He prepares a certificate of estimated resources based upon this calculation and upon the other financial information supplied in the budget sent by the Township. The certificate is approved by the county budget commission and sent to the Township Fiscal Officer by September 1.

Prior to December 31, the Township must revise its budget so that the total budgeted expenditures for a fund will not exceed the amount of estimated resources stated in the certificate of estimated resources. The revised budget serves as the basis for the annual appropriation measure.

On or about January 1, the Fiscal Officer sends the county auditor a certificate which includes the actual unencumbered balances from the preceding year. The county auditor prepares an amended certificate, submits it to the county budget commission for approval. This amended certificate may be further amended during the year if projected revenue increases or the Fiscal Officer identifies decreases in revenue.

Budgeted receipts, as shown in Note 4, do not include the unencumbered fund balances as of January 1, 2008 and 2007. However, those fund balances are available for appropriation.

2. Appropriations

A temporary appropriation measure to control cash expenditures may be passed on or about January 1 of each year for the period January 1 to March 31. An annual appropriation measure must be passed by March 31 of each year for the period January 1 to December 31. The appropriation measure may be amended or supplemented during the year as new information becomes available. Appropriations may not exceed estimated resources.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

E. BUDGETARY PROCESS - (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

The Township is required to use the encumbrance method of accounting by virtue of Ohio law. Under this system, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of funds are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation and to determine and maintain legal compliance. The sum of expenditures and encumbrances may not exceed appropriated totals at any level of budgetary control. The legal level of control is the object level.

Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end. Encumbered appropriations are carried forward to the succeeding year without being re-appropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

F. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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

G. ACCUMULATED LEAVE

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

	2007	2008
Demand Deposits	\$ 279,215	\$ 289,385

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

3. PROPERTY TAXES

Real property taxes become a lien on all non-exempt real property located in the county on January 1. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20 of the following year. Under certain circumstances, state statute permits later payment dates to be established.

Real property owners' tax bills are further reduced by homestead and rollback deductions when applicable. The amount of these homestead and rollback reductions is reimbursed to the Township by the State of Ohio. The amounts reimbursed by the State of Ohio are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as intergovernmental receipts.

Owners of tangible personal property are required to file a list of such property including costs, by April 30 of each year. The property is assessed for tax purposes at varying statutory percentages of cost.

The Jackson County Treasurer collects property tax on behalf of all taxing Townships within the county. The Jackson County Auditor periodically remits to the taxing Townships their portions of the taxes collected.

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

2008 Budgeted vs Actual Receipts

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$ 45,000	\$ 61,721	\$ 16,721
Special Revenue	105,255	106,318	1,063
Capital Projects	51,000	51,300	300

2008 Budgeted vs Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Appropriation Authority</u>	<u>Budgetary Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$ 107,953	\$ 55,443	\$ 52,510
Special Revenue	199,000	103,477	95,523
Capital Projects	51,500	50,249	1,251

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

4. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY - (Continued)

2007 Budgeted vs Actual Receipts

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$ 55,000	\$ 59,569	\$ 4,569
Special Revenue	97,880	113,710	15,830
Capital Projects	61,800	53,053	(8,747)

2007 Budgeted vs Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Appropriation Authority</u>	<u>Budgetary Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$ 107,080	\$ 58,723	\$ 48,357
Special Revenue	195,000	103,661	91,339
Capital Projects	69,000	51,211	17,789

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Employees of the Township belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a state operated, cost sharing, multiple employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement 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 2008 and 2007, members of OPERS contributed 10 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively, of their wages. The Township contributes an amount equal to 14 percent and 13.85 percent, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2008.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees. The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

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.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT - (Continued)

Casualty Coverage For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006 OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA. If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP provides excess of funds available coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000 (for claims prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (for claims on or after January 1, 2006).

Property Coverage

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. This amount increased to \$300,000 in 2007. For 2007, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$300,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable values. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in 2006, or \$100,000 and \$300,000 in 2007, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2007 was \$2,014,548.

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 government. Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

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, 2007 and 2006:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$ 43,210,703	\$ 42,042,275
Liabilities	<u>(13,357,837)</u>	<u>(12,120,661)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$ 29,852,866</u>	<u>\$ 29,921,614</u>

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007

6. RISK MANAGEMENT - (Continued)

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, liabilities above include approximately \$12.5 million and \$11.3 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$11.6 million and \$10.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 950 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$6,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Township terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with OTARMA, the expected rates OTARMA charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to OTARMA for each year of membership.

7. CONTINGENT LIABILITES/SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management believes there are no pending claims or lawsuits.

8. BUDGETARY NONCOMPLIANCE

The Township had the following citation for budgetary noncompliance:

- Contrary to **Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)**, the Township did not obtain prior certification for expenditures.

Rockefeller Building
614 W Superior Ave Ste 1242
Cleveland OH 44113-1306
Office phone - (216) 575-1630
Fax - (216) 436-2411

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE
AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Washington Township
Jackson County
1853 Finley Chapel Road
Wellston, Ohio 45692

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Washington Township, Jackson County (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated August 31, 2009, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Controls 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 auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion 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 the normal course of 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 a misstatement of the Township's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the Township's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the Township's internal control.

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 deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grants agreements and other matters, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2008-001.

The Township's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. We did not audit the Township's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

We noted certain matters that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated August 31, 2009.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management and the Township Board of Trustees. It is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
August 31, 2009

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY**

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

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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**FINDING NUMBER 2008-001
Noncompliance Citation**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 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.

"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 Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the Fiscal Officer without a resolution 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.

Blanket Certificate – Fiscal Officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution 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. 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.

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.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – (Continued)
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS – (Continued)
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FINDING NUMBER 2008-001 – (Continued)

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 20 percent of the expenditures tested in 2007 and 2008, and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

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 Township Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

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

Official's Response: We will comply with the Ohio Revised Code requirements.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

FINDING NUMBER	FUNDING SUMMARY	FULLY CORRECTED?	Not Corrected. Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain
2006-001	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) - funds not being encumbered prior to purchase commitment during 2006 and 2005.	No	Not Corrected: Reissued in current Schedule of Findings as 2008-001.
2006-002	Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-02 - not maintaining sufficient accounting records during 2006 and 2005.	Yes	Finding no longer valid.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

JACKSON 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
OCTOBER 19, 2009**