



CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT/PROTHONOTARY

CENTRE COUNTY

EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006

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Independent Auditor's Report

Mr. Stephen H. Stetler
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
Harrisburg, PA 17128

We have examined the accompanying statements of receipts and disbursements (Statements) of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/Probation and Parole Department/Prothonotary, Centre County, Pennsylvania (County Officers), for the period January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006, pursuant to the requirements of Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(b) and § 401(d). These Statements are the responsibility of the county office's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Statements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. An examination includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the Statements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are mandated by Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code* to audit the accounts of each county officer to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted. *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States include attestation engagements as a separate type of audit. An attestation engagement performed pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards* involves additional standards that exceed the standards provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, this attestation engagement complies with both *Government Auditing Standards* and Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code*.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

In our opinion, the Statements referred to above present, in all material respects, the operations of the County Officers as it pertains to receipts made on behalf of the Commonwealth for the period ended December 31, 2006, in conformity with the criteria set forth in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report findings of significant deficiencies in internal control, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that are material to the Statements and any fraud and illegal acts that are more than inconsequential that come to our attention during our examination. We are also required to obtain the views of management on those matters. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Statements are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the internal control over reporting on the Statements or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

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 County Officers' ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report data reliably in accordance with the applicable criteria such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the County Officers' Statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the County Officers' 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 Statements will not be prevented or detected by the County Officers' internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over reporting on the Statements 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 significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, as defined above, in internal control over reporting on the Statements.

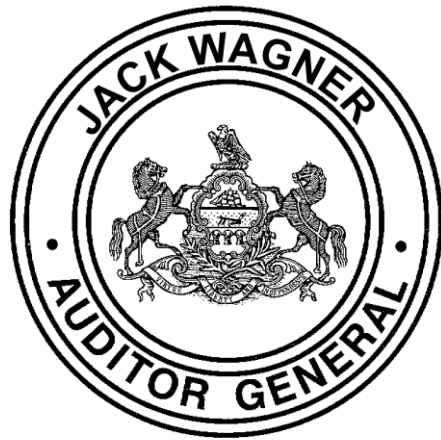
Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, and the County Officers and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

August 8, 2008

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General



CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT
CENTRE COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006

Receipts:

Department of Transportation		
Title 75 Fines	\$	237,070
Overweight Fines		3,000
Department of Revenue Court Costs		94,495
Crime Victims' Compensation Costs		214,610
Crime Commission Costs/Victim Witness Services Costs		155,751
Domestic Violence Costs		25,414
Emergency Medical Services Fines		46,896
DUI - ARD/EMS Fees		24,671
CAT/MCARE Fund Surcharges		224,992
Judicial Computer System/Access to Justice Fees		49,428
Offender Supervision Fees		687,928
Constable Service Surcharges		5
Criminal Laboratory Users' Fees		82,486
Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education Costs		23,252
Substance Abuse Education Costs		241,929
Office of Victims' Services Costs		8,376
Miscellaneous State Fines and Costs		<u>214,918</u>
 Total receipts (Note 2)		 \$ 2,335,221
 Disbursements to Commonwealth (Note 3)		 <u>(2,335,288)</u>
 Balance due Commonwealth (County) per settled reports (Note 4)		 (67)
 Examination adjustments		 <u>-</u>
 Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (County) January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006		 <u><u>\$ (67)</u></u>

Notes to the Statements of Receipts and Disbursements are an integral part of this report.

PROTHONOTARY
CENTRE COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006

Receipts:

Writ Taxes	\$ 3,972
Divorce Complaint Surcharges	11,320
Judicial Computer System/Access To Justice Fees	53,860
Protection From Abuse Surcharges and Contempt Fines	8,670
Criminal Charge Information System Fees	2,306
Interest Earned On Commonwealth Funds	<u>40</u>
Total Receipts (Note 2)	80,168
Commissions (Note 3)	<u>(119)</u>
Net Receipts	80,049
Disbursements to Commonwealth (Note 4)	<u>(80,049)</u>
Balance due Commonwealth (County) per settled reports (Note 5)	-
Examination adjustments	<u>-</u>
Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (County) January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

Notes to the Statements of Receipts and Disbursements are an integral part of this report.

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT/PROTHONOTARY
CENTRE COUNTY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006

1. Criteria

The Statements of Receipts and Disbursements (Statements) have been prepared in accordance with Section 401(b) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S § 401(b), which requires the Department of the Auditor General to determine whether all money collected on behalf of the Commonwealth has been remitted properly and to provide the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (Department of Revenue) with a report to enable them to settle an account covering any delinquency.

The Statements were prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Department of Revenue. Under this method, only the Commonwealth portion of cash receipts and disbursements are presented, revenues are recognized when received, and expenditures are recognized when paid.

2. Receipts

Clerk Of The Court Of Common Pleas/Probation And Parole Department

Receipts are comprised of fines, costs, fees, and surcharges collected on behalf of the Commonwealth. These fines, costs, fees, and surcharges represent collections made on summary and criminal cases filed with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas' Office.

Prothonotary

Receipts are comprised of taxes, surcharges, fees, and fines collected on behalf of the Department of Revenue and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

These include monies collected for the following taxes, surcharges, fees, and fines:

- Writ Taxes represent a \$.50 or \$.25 tax imposed on taxable instruments filed with the Prothonotary.
- Divorce Complaint Surcharges represent a \$10 surcharge imposed on all divorce decrees.
- Judicial Computer System/Access To Justice Fees represent a \$10 fee imposed for the filing of any legal paper to initiate a civil action or proceeding.

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT/PROTHONOTARY
CENTRE COUNTY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
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2. Receipts (Continued)

Prothonotary (Continued)

- Protection From Abuse Surcharges represent a \$25 surcharge imposed against defendants when a protection order is granted as a result of a hearing. Effective May 9, 2006, the surcharge was increased to \$100. Protection From Abuse Contempt Fines represent fines of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 imposed against a defendant who is found to be in violation of a protection from abuse order. Effective May 9, 2006, the fine was increased to a minimum of \$300 and maximum of \$1000.
- Criminal Charge Information System Fees represent a fee imposed on all custody cases. Of the fee imposed, 80% is payable to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) and 20% is payable to the County in which the action took place. The fee was \$5.00 for the period January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004, \$6.00 for the period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, and \$6.50 for the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007. The statement of receipts and disbursements only reflects the portion collected on behalf of the AOPC.

3. Commissions

Acting in the capacity of an agent for the Commonwealth, the Prothonotary is authorized to collect a commission of 3 percent on the Commonwealth portion of writ taxes. Accordingly, commissions owed the county are not included in the balance due the Commonwealth.

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
 PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT/PROTHONOTARY
 CENTRE COUNTY
 NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
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 JANUARY 1, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006

4. Disbursements

Clerk Of The Court Of Common Pleas/Adult Probation

Total disbursements are comprised as follows:

Clerk of the Court checks issued to:

Department of Revenue	\$ 2,171,357
Bureau of Motor Fuel Tax	86,115
Department of Public Welfare	20,059
Fish and Boat Commission	1,120
Liquor Control Board	1,465
Office of Attorney General	13,423
Office of Inspector General	20,647
Bureau of Victims' Services	4,809
Bureau of Narcotics	13,969
Department of General Services	183
Miscellaneous State Agencies	<u>2,141</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 2,335,288</u></u>

Prothonotary

Total disbursements are comprised as follows:

Prothonotary checks issued to:

Department of Revenue	\$ 77,743
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts	<u>2,306</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 80,049</u></u>

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT/PROTHONOTARY
CENTRE COUNTY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
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5. Balance Due Commonwealth (County) For The Period January 1, 2004 To December 31, 2006

Clerk Of The Court Of Common Pleas/Probation And Parole Department

This balance reflects a summary of monthly transmittal reports as settled by the Department of Revenue. The balance also reflects a summary of any receipts disbursed directly to other state agencies.

Prothonotary

This balance reflects a summary of monthly transmittal reports as settled by the Department of Revenue. The balance also reflects a summary of receipts that were disbursed directly to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

6. County Officers Serving During Examination Period

Debra Immel served as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/Prothonotary for the period January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006.

Thomas J. Young served as the Director of the Probation and Parole Department for the period January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006.

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT/PROTHONOTARY
CENTRE COUNTY
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006

This report was initially distributed to:

Mr. Stephen H. Stetler
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

The Honorable Zygmunt Pines
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

Mr. Thomas J. Dougherty
Director
Division of Grants and Standards
Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole
1101 South Front Street, Suite 5900
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2545

Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/Prothonotary
Centre County
Centre County Courthouse
Allegheny and High Streets
Bellefonte, PA 16823

The Honorable Debra C. Immel	Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/Prothonotary
The Honorable Charles L. Witmer	Controller
The Honorable Jon W. Eich	Chairman of the Board of Commissioners
Mr. Thomas J. Young	Director, Probation and Parole Department

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. To view this report online or to contact the Department of the Auditor General, please access our web site at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us.