

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Annual Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Year Ended
December 31, 2023
With Supplemental Information Schedules

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Annual Financial Statements
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Member:
American Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
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Practice Limited to
Governmental Accounting,
Auditing and
Financial Reporting

Independent Auditor's Report

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinions

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities and the major fund of the Village of Forest, as of December 31, 2023, and for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the village's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinions

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, business-type activities, and the major fund of the Village of Forest as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my 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, and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am required to be independent of the Village of Forest and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to my audit. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Responsibility of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Village of Forest's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report

December 31, 2023

an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, I:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village of Forest's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in my judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Village of Forest's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

I am required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that I identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Budgetary Comparison Schedule and notes to required supplementary information, schedule of water rates and schedule of insurance coverage as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. I have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with managements's responses to my inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report
December 31, 2023

knowledge I obtained during my audit of the basic financial statements. I do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide me with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

My audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Village of Forest's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head, compensation paid to alderman and proposed operating budget as listed in the table of contents, are presented for purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In my opinion the schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head, compensation paid to alderman and proposed operating budget are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued a report dated April 23, 2024, on my consideration of the Village of Forest's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village of Forest's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Village of Forest's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



West Monroe, Louisiana
April 23, 2024

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
PART I**

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023

As management of the Village of Forest, we offer readers of the Village of Forest's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Village of Forest for the year ended December 31, 2023. Please read it in conjunction with the basic financial statements and the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This Management Discussion and Analysis document introduces the Village's basic financial statements. The annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities (Government-wide Financial Statements) provide information about the financial activities as a whole and illustrate a longer-term view of the Village's finances. The Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Fund (Fund Financial Statements) tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund Financial Statements also report the operations in more detail than the Government-Wide Financial Statements by providing information about the most significant funds. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Our auditor has provided assurance in her independent auditor's report that the Basic Financial Statements are fairly stated. The auditor, regarding the Required Supplemental Information and the Supplemental Information is providing varying degrees of assurance. A user of this report should read the independent auditor's report carefully to ascertain the level of assurance being provided for each of the other parts in the Financial Section.

Government-wide financial statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Village of Forest's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of the Village of Forest's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Village of Forest is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (for example, earned, but unused, sick leave).

Fund financial statements. A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Village of Forest, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Village of Forest can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and proprietary funds.

Governmental funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Village of Forest adopts an annual appropriated budget for the general fund. A budgetary comparison statement is provided for the major fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Proprietary funds. Enterprise funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. The Village uses its enterprise fund to account for its water utility operations.

Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. The proprietary funds financial statements provide separate information for the enterprise fund, which is considered to be a major fund of the Village.

Notes to the financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *required supplementary information* concerning the Village of Forest's performance.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At the close of the most recent fiscal year, assets of the Village of Forest exceeded liabilities by \$1,326,795. Approximately 83% of the Village of Forest's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. These assets are not available for future spending.

The balance in unrestricted net position is affected by two factors: 1) resources expended, over time, by the Village of Forest to acquire capital assets from sources other than internally generated funds (i.e., debt), and 2) required depreciation on assets being included in the statement of net position.

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$202,345	\$359,030
Receivables	23,005	32,515
Total current assets	<u>225,350</u>	<u>391,545</u>
Restricted assets - cash and cash equivalents		
Debt service requirements	52,240	50,873
Meter deposits	48,081	46,822
Capital assets - not depreciated	409,577	52,717
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	<u>1,389,998</u>	<u>1,483,490</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$2,125,246</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,025,447</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$11,056	\$11,318
Salaries payable	3,769	3,519
Customer meter deposits	43,825	43,040
Payable from restricted assets - accrued interest	2,764	2,824
Total current liabilities	<u>61,414</u>	<u>60,701</u>
Long term liabilities:		
Due in one year	16,878	16,136
Due in more than one year	<u>720,159</u>	<u>737,031</u>
Total long term liabilities	<u>737,037</u>	<u>753,167</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>798,451</u>	<u>813,868</u>
NET POSITION		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	1,095,538	783,040
Restricted	96,065	97,695
Unrestricted	<u>135,192</u>	<u>330,844</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u><u>\$1,326,795</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,211,579</u></u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Primary Government:		
Governmental Activities:		
Personal services	\$14,635	\$11,321
Operating services	26,518	15,127
Materials and supplies	1,478	2,770
Public safety	2,952	3,362
Depreciation expense	4,080	4,188
Total Governmental Activities	<u>49,663</u>	<u>36,768</u>
Business-type Activities:		
Water and sewer		
Salaries	72,115	70,765
Payroll taxes	7,770	7,234
Administrative	67,520	23,646
Utilities	19,083	19,895
Repairs and maintenance	6,613	34,889

Insurance	\$16,085	\$18,544
Materials and supplies	75,908	36,466
Testing expense	8,200	8,305
Truck expense	9,000	4,500
Depreciation expense	89,411	89,411
Total Business-type Activities	<u>371,705</u>	<u>313,655</u>
Total Primary Government	<u>421,368</u>	<u>350,423</u>
Governmental Activities:		
Occupational licenses	7,518	8,156
Fees, charges and commissions	11,556	14,606
Other revenue	10,034	5,052
Business-type - Water sales	<u>290,151</u>	<u>284,507</u>
Total program revenues	<u>319,259</u>	<u>312,321</u>
Net Program Expenses (Revenues)	<u>(102,109)</u>	<u>(38,102)</u>
General revenues (expenses)		
Tax, franchise	7,262	8,362
Interest earned	3,054	802
Interest expense	(33,501)	(34,212)
Intergovernmental:		
Federal grant	81,736	7,801
State grant	17,250	113,689
Local grant	<u>141,524</u>	
Total general revenues (expenses)	<u>217,325</u>	<u>96,442</u>
Change in Net Position	115,216	58,340
Net Position - Beginning of year	<u>1,211,579</u>	<u>1,153,239</u>
Net Position - End of year	<u>\$1,326,795</u>	<u>\$1,211,579</u>

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

As noted earlier, the Village of Forest uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The focus of the governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of expendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of December 31, 2023, the General Fund unassigned fund balance of \$33,799 showed a decrease of \$8,956 over December 31, 2022.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Differences between the revenues of the original budget and the final budget was due to an increase in franchise taxes and fees, charges and commissions and a decrease in occupational licenses. Differences between the expenditures of the original budget and the final budget were due to an increase in personal services, operating services and materials and supplies.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital assets. The Village of Forest's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2023, amounts to \$129,507 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment includes land, furniture and equipment. There were no increases or decreases in capital outlay for the year ended

December 31, 2023.

Long-term debt. At the end of the fiscal year, the Village of Forest had business type activity debt outstanding, in the form of revenue bonds, of \$737,037. During the year ended December 31, 2023, \$16,131 of debt was paid in accordance with the debt agreement.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Village of Forest's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Village of Forest, P.O. Box 338, Forest, LA 71242.

April 23, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$32,647	\$169,698	\$202,345
Accounts receivable	1,611	21,394	23,005
Total current assets	<u>34,258</u>	<u>191,092</u>	<u>225,350</u>
Restricted assets - cash and cash equivalents:			
Debt service requirements		52,240	52,240
Meter deposits		48,081	48,081
Capital assets - not depreciated	27,500	382,077	409,577
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	<u>102,007</u>	<u>1,287,991</u>	<u>1,389,998</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>163,765</u>	<u>1,961,481</u>	<u>2,125,246</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	459	10,597	11,056
Salaries payable		3,769	3,769
Customer meter deposits		43,825	43,825
Payable from restricted assets - accrued interest		2,764	2,764
Total current liabilities	<u>459</u>	<u>60,955</u>	<u>61,414</u>
Long term liabilities:			
Due in one year		16,878	16,878
Due in more than one year		720,159	720,159
Total long term liabilities	<u>NONE</u>	<u>737,037</u>	<u>737,037</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>459</u>	<u>797,992</u>	<u>798,451</u>
NET POSITION			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	129,507	966,031	1,095,538
Restricted		96,065	96,065
Unrestricted	33,799	101,393	135,192
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>\$163,306</u>	<u>\$1,163,489</u>	<u>\$1,326,795</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
December 31, 2023

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total Primary Government
Primary Government:			
Governmental Activities:			
Personal services	\$14,635		\$14,635
Operating services	26,518		26,518
Materials and supplies	1,478		1,478
Depreciation expense	4,080		4,080
Public safety	2,952		2,952
Total Primary Governmental Activities	<u>49,663</u>	NONE	<u>49,663</u>
Business-type Activities:			
Water and sewer			
Salaries		\$72,115	72,115
Payroll taxes		7,770	7,770
Administrative		67,520	67,520
Utilities and telephone		19,083	19,083
Repairs and maintenance		6,613	6,613
Insurance		16,085	16,085
Materials and supplies		75,908	75,908
Testing expense		8,200	8,200
Truck expense		9,000	9,000
Depreciation expense		89,411	89,411
Total Business-type Activities	NONE	<u>371,705</u>	<u>371,705</u>
Total Primary Government	<u>49,663</u>	<u>371,705</u>	<u>421,368</u>
Governmental Activities -			
Charges for service:			
Occupational licenses	7,518		7,518
Fees, charges and commissions	11,556		11,556
Other revenue	10,034		10,034
Business-type Activity - Water sales		290,151	290,151
Total program revenues	<u>29,108</u>	<u>290,151</u>	<u>319,259</u>
Net Program Expenses (Revenues)	<u>(20,555)</u>	<u>(81,554)</u>	<u>(102,109)</u>
General revenues (expenses)			
Tax, franchise	7,262		7,262
Interest earned	257	2,797	3,054
Interest expense		(33,501)	(33,501)
Intergovernmental -			
Federal grant		81,736	81,736
State grant		17,250	17,250
Local grant		141,524	141,524
Total general revenues (expenses)	<u>7,519</u>	<u>209,806</u>	<u>217,325</u>
Change in Net Position	(13,036)	128,252	115,216
Net Position - Beginning of year	176,342	1,035,237	1,211,579
Net Position - End of year	<u>\$163,306</u>	<u>\$1,163,489</u>	<u>\$1,326,795</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND

Balance Sheet, December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Cash	\$32,647
Accounts receivables	<u>1,611</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$34,258</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:

Accounts payable	<u>\$459</u>
Fund balance unassigned	<u>33,799</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$34,258</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Reconciliation of Governmental Fund
Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total Fund Balance - Governmental Fund (Statement C)		<u>\$33,799</u>
Cost of capital assets	\$253,639	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(124,132)</u>	<u>129,507</u>
Net Position (Statement A)		<u><u>\$163,306</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

REVENUES	
Tax, franchise	\$7,262
Occupational licenses	7,518
Fees, charges and commissions	11,556
Use of money and property - interest earnings	257
Other revenue	<u>10,034</u>
Total revenues	<u>36,627</u>
EXPENDITURES	
General government - current:	
Personal services	14,635
Operating services	26,518
Materials and supplies	1,478
Public safety	<u>2,952</u>
Total expenditures	<u>45,583</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(8,956)
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>42,755</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$33,799</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Reconciliation of Governmental Fund
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes
in Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total net change in fund balance - governmental fund (Statement D)	(\$8,956)
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:	
Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceed depreciation for the period.	<u>(4,080)</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities (Statement B)	<u><u>(\$13,036)</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
 Forest, Louisiana
 Statement of Net Position
 Proprietary Fund Type - Water Enterprise Fund
 December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Current assets:

Cash	\$169,698
Accounts receivables	21,394
Total current assets	191,092

Restricted assets - cash and equivalents

Debt service requirements	52,240
Meter deposits	48,081

Capital assets - not depreciated

382,077

Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)

1,287,991

TOTAL ASSETS

	\$1,961,481
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LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable	10,597
Salaries payable	3,769
Customer meter deposits	43,825
Payable from restricted assets - accrued interest	2,764
Total current liabilities	60,955

Long term liabilities

Due in one year	16,878
Due in more than one year	720,159
Total long term liabilities	737,037

TOTAL LIABILITIES

797,992

NET POSITION

Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	966,031
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Restricted	96,065
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Unrestricted	101,393
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TOTAL NET POSITION

	1,163,489
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See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
 FOREST, Louisiana
 PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE -
 WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

OPERATING REVENUES	
Water sales	<u>\$290,151</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Salaries	72,115
Payroll taxes	7,770
Administrative	67,520
Utilities and telephone	19,083
Repairs and maintenance	6,613
Insurance	16,085
Materials and supplies	75,908
Testing Expense	8,200
Truck expense	9,000
Depreciation	89,411
Total Operating Expenses	<u>371,705</u>
OPERATING INCOME	<u>(81,554)</u>
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (Expenses)	
Interest income	2,797
Federal grant	81,736
State grant	17,250
Local grant	141,524
Interest expense	(33,501)
Total Non-Operating Revenues (expenses)	<u>209,806</u>
NET INCOME (loss)	<u>128,252</u>
NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,035,237</u>
NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$1,163,489</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
FOREST, Louisiana
PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE -
WATER ENTERPRISE FUND
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Receipts from customers	\$290,151
Customer meter deposits (net)	785
Payments to suppliers	(195,282)
Payments to employees	<u>(77,885)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>17,769</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Principal paid on capital debt	(16,131)
Interest paid on capital debt	(33,501)
Grant proceeds	240,510
Capital expenditures paid in cash	<u>(356,860)</u>
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities	<u>(165,982)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Interest income	<u>2,797</u>
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	<u>2,797</u>
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(145,416)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>415,435</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$270,019</u></u>
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Operating Income (Loss)	(\$81,554)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income to Net Cash	
Used by Operating Activities:	
Depreciation	89,411
Change in Assets and Liabilities:	
Decrease in accounts receivable	9,353
Increase in accounts payable	415
Decrease in accrued interest payable	(61)
Increase in meter deposits	<u>785</u>
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	<u>18,349</u>
Reconciliation of Total Cash and Cash Equivalents:	
Current Assets - Cash and Cash Equivalents	169,698
Restricted Assets - Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>100,321</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u><u>\$270,019</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Village of Forest was incorporated under the provisions of the Lawrason Act in 1966. The village operates under a Mayor-Board of Aldermen form of government. The mayor and aldermen serve four-year terms which expire on December 31, 2024.

The accompanying financial statements of the Village of Forest have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements-and Management's Discussion and Analysis -for State and Local Governments*, issued in June 1999.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

As the governing authority of the village, for reporting purposes, the Village of Forest is considered a separate financial reporting entity. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (the village), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Village of Forest for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and:
 - a. The ability of the village to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the village.

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

2. Organizations for which the village does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the village.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Based on the previous criteria, the village has determined that there are no component units that are part of the reporting entity.

B. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS

The village's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the village as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the village's major funds). Both government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type.

The Statement of Net Position (Statement A) and the Statement of Activities (Statement B) display information about the reporting government as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the village.

In the Statement of Net Position, governmental activities are presented on a consolidated basis and are presented on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term obligations. Net position are reported in three parts; invested in capital assets, net of any related debt; restricted net position; and unrestricted net position. The village first uses restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*.

Program Revenues - Program revenues included in the Statement of Activities (Statement B) are derived directly from parties outside the village's taxpayers or citizenry. Program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the village's general revenues.

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Allocation of Indirect Expenses - The village reports all direct expenses by function in the Statement of Activities (Statement B). Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a function. Indirect expenses of other functions are not allocated to those functions but are reported separately in the Statement of Activities. Depreciation expense, which can be specifically identified by function, is included in the direct expenses of each function. Depreciation on buildings is assigned to the "general administration" function due to the fact that buildings serve multiple purposes. Interest on general long-term debt is considered an indirect expense and is reported separately on the Statement of Activities.

C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial transactions of the village are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

Fund financial statements report detailed information about the village. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. Funds are classified into three categories; governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate "fund types". Governmental funds are used to account for a government's general activities, where the focus of attention is on the providing of services to the public as opposed to proprietary funds where the focus of attention is on recovering the cost of providing services to the public or other agencies through service charges or user fees. Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held for others. The village's current operations require the use of only governmental and proprietary funds. The governmental and proprietary fund types used by the village are described as follows:

Governmental Fund Type

General Fund - The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781, is the principal fund of the village and is used to account for the operations of the village's office. The various fees and charges due to the village's office are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Proprietary Fund Type - Water Enterprise Fund

The Water Enterprise Fund is used to account for the operations of the village's water system. The operations are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is that the cost (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenditures/expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurement made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

1. Accrual:

Both governmental and business type activities in the government-wide financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

2. Modified Accrual:

The governmental funds financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The village considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Franchise taxes and intergovernmental revenues are recorded when the village is entitled to the funds.

Interest income on bank deposits is recorded when the interest has been earned and the amount is determinable.

Substantially all other revenues are recorded when they are received by the village.

Based on the above criteria, franchise taxes have been treated as susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

Proprietary Fund Type - Water Enterprise Fund

The Water Enterprise Fund is accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

E. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Under state law, the village may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 2023, the village has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$302,666.

Demand deposits	\$32,647
Time deposits	<u>270,019</u>
Total	<u>\$302,666</u>

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the government will not be able to recover its deposits. Under state law, the deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Village that the fiscal agent bank has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the Village's name. The Village does not have a policy concerning custodial risk.

Cash and cash equivalents (bank balances) at December 31, 2023, are secured as follows:

Bank balances	<u>\$307,740</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$250,000
Pledged securities (uncollateralized)	<u>200,432</u>
Total	<u>\$450,432</u>

F. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The village maintains a threshold level of \$500 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

Capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements but not in the fund financial statements. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes by the village, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets, other than land, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Buildings and building improvements	20 - 40 years
Furniture and fixtures	5 - 10 years
Vehicles	5 - 15 years
Equipment	5 - 20 years

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

G. ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE

The Village of Forest has not adopted vacation and sick leave policies; therefore, there is no liability for compensated absences.

H. RISK MANAGEMENT

The village is exposed to various risk of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; and injuries to employees. To handle such risk of loss, the fire district maintains a commercial insurance policy covering property, employee liability, and public officials liability. No claims were paid on any of the policies during the past three years which exceeded the policies' coverage amounts. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage during the year ended December 31, 2023.

I. EQUITY CLASSIFICATIONS

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets - Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowing that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position - Consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups, such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted net position - All other net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

When an expense is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available, management applies unrestricted resources first, unless a determination is made to use restricted resources. The policy concerning which to apply first varies with the intended use and legal requirements. This decision is typically made by management at the incurrence of the expense.

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance and displayed in five components. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

Nonspendable - represents amounts that are not expected to be converted to cash because they are either not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted - represents balances where constraints have been established by parties outside the Village's office or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed - represents balances that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Village's highest level of decision-making authority.

Assigned - represents balances that are constrained by the government's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are not restricted nor committed.

Unassigned - represents balances that have not been assigned to other funds and that have not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.

The General Fund has an unassigned fund balance of \$42,755. If applicable, the Village would typically use restricted fund balances first, followed by committed resources and assigned resources as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend unassigned resources first and to defer the use of these other classified funds. The Village considers restricted amounts have been spent when an expenditure has been incurred for the purpose for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available.

J. INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

Transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund are recorded as expenditures in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures in the fund that is reimbursed. All other interfund transactions are reported as transfers.

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

K. RESTRICTED ASSETS

Restricted assets represent primarily cash held separately and restricted according to bond indenture agreements. Cash held for water customer deposits is also reported as restricted.

L. ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. RECEIVABLES

The following is a summary of receivables at December 31, 2023:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Water Enterprise Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Taxes:			
Franchise	\$1,611		\$1,611
Water accounts		\$21,394	21,394
Total	<u>\$1,611</u>	<u>\$21,394</u>	<u>\$23,005</u>

3. CHANGES IN CAPITAL ASSETS

The following presents changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital assets not being depreciated - Land	\$27,500			\$27,500
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings	169,768			169,768
Improvements other than buildings	13,001			13,001
Vehicles	22,443			22,443
Equipment	<u>20,927</u>			<u>20,927</u>

VILLAGE OF FOREST
 Forest, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Total assets	\$253,639	NONE	NONE	\$253,639
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>120,052</u>	<u>\$4,080</u>		<u>124,132</u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$133,587</u>	<u>(\$4,080)</u>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>\$129,507</u>

Depreciation expense of \$4,080 was charged to the health and welfare function.

A summary of proprietary fund type property, plant, and equipment at December 31, 2023, follows:

	<u>Basis</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Water system	\$2,573,553	(\$1,285,562)	\$1,287,991
Equipment	<u>43,667</u>	<u>(43,667)</u>	<u>NONE</u>
Total	<u>\$2,617,220</u>	<u>(\$1,329,229)</u>	<u>\$1,287,991</u>

Depreciation expense of \$89,411 was charged to the water and sewer business-type function.

4. PENSION PLAN

The employees of the village are members of the Social Security System. In addition to the employee contributions withheld at 7.65 per cent of gross salary, the village contributes an equal amount to the Social Security System. For the year ended December 31, 2023, total salaries paid for 2023 were \$72,115. The village does not guarantee the benefits granted by the Social Security System.

5. REVENUE BONDS PAYABLE

At December 31, 2023, the village has one outstanding issues of long-term revenue bonds. In 2008 the village had a preliminary bond issue for \$912,000. The village received \$755,000 of this issue at December 31, 2008 and the remaining \$157,000 at December, 31, 2009. The issue bears interest at 4.5 per cent per annum. Principal and interest are to be repaid in monthly payments of \$4,141 through July 10, 2048. All long-term debt is to be repaid solely from the income and revenues derived from the operation of the water system.

The following is a summary of revenue bonds payable transactions for the year ended December 31, 2023:

Revenue bonds payable at January 1, 2023	\$753,167
Additions	NONE
Reductions	<u>(16,130)</u>
Long-term debt at December 31, 2023	<u>\$737,037</u>

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

The annual requirements to amortize the revenue bonds outstanding at December 31, 2023 are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$16,878	\$32,814	\$49,692
2025	17,653	32,039	49,692
2026	18,464	31,228	49,692
2027	19,312	30,380	49,692
2028	20,200	29,492	49,692
2029-2033	115,800	132,660	248,460
2034-2038	144,958	103,502	248,460
2039-2043	181,457	67,003	248,460
2044-2048	<u>202,315</u>	<u>21,545</u>	<u>223,860</u>
Total	<u>\$737,037</u>	<u>\$480,663</u>	<u>\$1,217,700</u>

6. RESERVED RETAINED EARNINGS

The bond covenant with the Farmers Home Administration for the 1990 revenue bond discussed in note 4 above, requires the village to establish the following reserve accounts:

- A. A "Water Revenue Bond and Interest Sinking Fund". The village must transfer into this fund, each month, one-twelfth of the principal and interest due on the next principal and interest payment date. This fund is used to pay bond principal and interest as they become due.
- B. A "Water Reserve Fund". The village must transfer into this fund, each month, an amount equal to 5 per cent of the amount to be paid into the Water Revenue Bond and Interest Sinking Fund. Such amounts may be used only for the payment of matured bonds and interest when sufficient funds are not available in the Water Revenue Bond and Interest Sinking Fund.
- C. A "Water Depreciation and Contingency Fund". The village must transfer into this fund, each month, an amount equal to 5 per cent of the amount to be paid into the Water Revenue Bond and Interest Sinking Fund. The deposits in this fund may be used for unusual or extraordinary maintenance, repairs, replacements, and extensions and for the cost of improvements to the system. Money in this fund may also be used to pay principal and interest on bonds falling due at any time there is not sufficient funds in the other reserve funds.

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

At December 31, 2023 the village has \$23,847 in restricted accounts to meet reserve requirements. The following is a summary of transactions in the bond reserve accounts for the year ended December 31, 2023:

Reserve for revenue bonds payable at January 1, 2023	\$23,847
Deposits	9,288
Debt service	<u>(8,846)</u>
Reserve for bonds payable at December 31, 2023	<u>\$24,289</u>

The agency has designated CDs for this reserve with a balance of \$52,240.

7. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

The Village of Forest is not involved in any litigation at December 31, 2023, nor is it aware of any unasserted claims.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PART II

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL (BUDGETARY BASIS)	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES				
Tax, franchise	\$6,000	\$7,800	\$7,262	(\$538)
Occupational licenses	10,000	7,800	7,518	(282)
Fees, charges and commissions	15,000	17,900	11,556	(6,344)
Use of money and property - interest earnings	10	10	257	247
Other revenues	6,000	4,425	10,034	5,609
Total revenues	<u>37,010</u>	<u>37,935</u>	<u>36,627</u>	<u>(1,308)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
General government - current:				
Personal services	15,635	18,285	14,635	3,650
Operating services	13,750	26,785	26,518	267
Materials and supplies	4,200	3,260	1,478	1,782
Public safety			2,952	(2,952)
Total expenditures	<u>33,585</u>	<u>48,330</u>	<u>45,583</u>	<u>2,747</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	3,425	(10,395)	(8,956)	1,439
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	NONE	10,500	42,755	32,255
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$3,425</u>	<u>\$105</u>	<u>\$33,799</u>	<u>\$33,694</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

NOTE TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

A preliminary budget for the ensuing year is prepared for the General Fund by the mayor prior to December 31 of each year and is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget is established and controlled by the board of aldermen at the functional level of expenditure. Encumbrance accounting is not used by the village. Appropriations lapse at year end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended. All changes in the budget must be approved by the board of aldermen.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying budgetary comparison schedule include the original adopted budget amounts and all subsequent amendments.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Schedule of Water Rates
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Tariff</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Residential	Monthly minimum for first 2,000 gallons Per 1,000 gallons for all over 2,000 gallons	\$19.00 4.50
Commercial	Monthly minimum for first 2,000 gallons Per 1,000 gallons for all over 2,000 gallons	29.00 4.50
Institutional	Monthly minimum for first 5,000 gallons Per 1,000 gallons for all over 5,000 gallons	150.00 4.50

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana
Schedule of Insurance Coverage
As of December 31, 2023

Type of Coverage	Name of Insurer	Policy Number	Amount of Coverage	Expiration Date
Commercial General Liability	Allied World	5105-1598-06	Aggregate - \$3,000,000 Each Occurrence - \$1,000,000 Medical Payments -\$10,000	5/1/24
Commercial General Liability	Travelers	ZLP-81M31062-22-PC	Aggregate - \$2,000,000 Each Occurrence - \$1,000,000 Medical Payments -excluded	5/1/24
Worker's Compensation and Employers Liability	Louisiana Municipal Risk Management Agency	WC-70-0164-2023-16920	Statutory	1/1/24
Public Officials and Management Liability	Allied World	5105-1598-06	Each wrongful Act - \$1,000,000	5/1/24
Law Enforcement Liability	Travelers	ZLP-81M31062-22-PC	\$1,000,000	5/1/24
Commercial Crime (includes designated agents)	Travelers	660-6F07377A-TCT-22	\$100,000	5/1/24
Commercial Crime (includes designated agents)	Allied World	5105-1598-06	\$100,000	5/1/24
Real Property & Business Property Blanket	Allied World	5105-1598-06	\$960,000	5/1/24
Property Coverage Extension Blanket	Allied World	5105-1598-06	\$500,000	5/1/24
Standard Fire - Building	Travelers	660-6F07377A-TCT-22	\$621,106	5/19/24
Standard Fire - Business Personal Property	Travelers	660-6F07377A-TCT-22	INCLUDED	5/19/24
Contractors Equipment	Travelers	660-6F07377A-TCT-22	\$25,000	5/1/24
Commercial Automobile Coverage	Travelers	BA-4F267727-22-PUB	Auto Liability - \$1,000,000 Medical Payments - \$5,000 Physical damage - Actual Cash Value	5/1/24

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana
PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE - ENTERPRISE FUND

Proposed Operating Budget
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

REVENUES	
Water	\$300,000
Grant	200,000
Meter Deposit/Hook Up	4,000
Cut-off Fees	500
Other	5,000
Total revenues	<u>509,500</u>
EXPENSES	
Insurance	20,000
Sales tax	1,000
Interest expense	6,300
Permits	500
Payroll taxes	29,000
Office	5,000
Repairs and maintenance	10,000
Salaries	71,000
Supplies	10,000
Administrative expense	20,000
Testing expense	9,000
FmHA	49,000
Postage	3,000
Truck expense	6,000
Utilities and telephone	22,200
Grant	200,000
Total expenses	<u>462,000</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$47,500</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PART III

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULE
As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

COMPENSATION PAID ALDERMEN

The schedule of compensation paid aldermen is presented in compliance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 of the 1979 Session of the Louisiana Legislature. In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 33:405, aldermen receive up to \$30 for each regular meeting and \$15 for each special meeting they attend. Compensation of aldermen is included in personal services and related benefits expenditures of the General Fund.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, LouisianaSchedule of Compensation Paid Aldermen
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Larry Denmon, Mayor	\$1,250
Terri Jones	385
Christy Kelly	350
Jane Whorton	<u>385</u>
Total	<u>\$2,370</u>

See independent auditor's report.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

LARRY DENMON, MAYOR

PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Meeting reimbursements	<u>\$1,250</u>

See independent auditor's report.

**Independent Auditor's Report Required
by *Government Auditing Standards***

The following independent auditor's report on compliance and internal control over financial reporting is presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

Member:
American Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
Society of Louisiana Certified
Public Accountants

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Practice Limited to
Governmental Accounting,
Auditing and
Financial Reporting

**Independent Auditors Report on Internal Control Over Financial
Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed
in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

I have audited, in accordance with the 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 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, the financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities and the major fund of the Village of Forest as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Village of Forest's basic financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated April 23, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements, I considered the Village's internal control over financial reporting(internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village's internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exist 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 and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

My consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. Given these limitations, during my audit I did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2023-001, that I consider to be a material weakness.

VILLAGE OF FOREST

Forest, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance

And Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, etc.

December 31, 2023

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Village of Forest's financial statements are free from material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, 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 my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Village of Forest's Response to Findings

Village of Forest's response to the findings identified in my audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. Village of Forest's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village of Forest's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Village of Forest's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.



West Monroe, Louisiana

April 23, 2024

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana
Schedule of Audit Findings
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

A. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

1. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of the Village of Forest.
2. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of the Village of Forest was disclosed during the audit.
3. One material weakness relating to the audit of the financial statements was reported in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control.

B. FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT

2023-001 Inadequate Segregation of Duties

Condition: The segregation of duties is inadequate to provide effective internal control.

Criteria: Adequate segregation of duties is essential to a proper internal control .

Cause of Condition: The condition is due to economic limitations.

Effect of Condition: Not determined.

Recommendation: No action is recommended.

Response: Management concurred with the finding and provided a corrective action plan.

2023-002 Need to Comply With Budget Act

Condition: The Village did not comply with the Local Government Budget Act. LSA-R.S. 39:1310(B) requires that the budget be amended when there is an unfavorable variable in excess of 5%. The village did not amend the budget.

Criteria: Amending the budget is essential to a proper internal control .

Cause of Condition: The Village did not amend the budget.

Effect of Condition: Not determined.

Recommendation: Management must monitor budget and amend when necessary.

VILLAGE OF FOREST
Forest, Louisiana

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

2022-001 Inadequate Segregation of Duties

Finding: The segregation of duties is inadequate to provide effective internal control.

Recommendation: No action is recommended.

Conclusion: This finding has not been resolved and is reported as Finding 2023-001.

Village of Forest

POST OFFICE BOX 338, FOREST, LA 71242 (318)428-9058

villageofforest@att.net

April 23, 2024

Finding 2022-001

Re: Response to Findings of Segregation of Duties & Budget Deficiencies

The Village of Forest has submitted the audit for the year 2023. Segregation of Duties is limited to staff and lack of funds to hire more employees due to the size of our office.

Budget will be monitored more closely, and budget will be amended in a timely manner.

The village was receiving funds from two different funding sources to pay for construction and funds were coming in and going out making an amended budget at year end was where we failed to amend in a timely manner. We will continue to improve our steps to pass a budget and amend in a timely manner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Denmon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Larry Denmon, Mayor