

AVOYELLES PARISH SHERIFF
Marksville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statement (Continued)

(3) State Revenue Sharing Funds

The revenue sharing funds received during the year were allocated among the taxing bodies as follows:

Avoyelles Parish:	
Police Jury	\$210,640
School Board	249,558
Sheriff	119,226
Tax Assessor	105,705
Hospital Service District No. 1	11,544
Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Bouef Levee District	34,554
Red River Waterway District	55,413
Fire District No. 2	83,142
Louisiana Forestry Commission	972
Pensions funds	<u>15,699</u>
 Total	 \$886,453 <u>-----</u>

(4) Unsettled Balances

The unsettled balances at June 30, 1996 consist of the following:

Taxes, Costs and Interest Paid Under Protest -

\$167,545 of taxes, costs and interest paid under protest and interest earned to date of \$17,630 on the investment of these funds. These funds are held pending resolution of the protest. \$185,175

Taxes Paid in Advance -

\$20,370 of taxes for 1996 which were paid in advance and interest earned to date of \$152 on the investment of these funds. 20,522

Payment in Lieu of Taxes -

1996 payment in lieu of taxes collected but not yet remitted. 37,013

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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The Honorable Bill Belt
Avoyelles Parish Sheriff as
Ex-Officio Tax Collector
Marksville, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying statement of collections, distributions, and unsettled balances of the Tax Collector Fund (agency fund) of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff for the year ended June 30, 1996 as listed in the table of contents. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff as Ex-Officio Tax Collector. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. 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 discussed in Note 1, the accompanying statement of collections, distributions, and unsettled balances has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Further, the accompanying statement presents only the Tax Collector Fund (agency fund) and is not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the collections, distributions, and unsettled balances of the Tax Collector Fund of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff for the year ended June 30, 1996, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated July 9, 1996 on our consideration of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff's internal control structure as it relates to the Tax Collector Fund and a report dated July 9, 1996 on its compliance with laws and regulations.

Darnall, Sikes, Kolder, Frederick & Rainey
A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants

Lafayette, Louisiana
July 9, 1996

This report is intended for the information of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Darnall, Sikes, Kolder, Frederick & Rainey

A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants

Lafayette, Louisiana
July 9, 1996

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AVOUELLES PARISH SHERIFF
Marksville, Louisiana

Prior Year Audit Finding
June 30, 1996

During our audit of the June 30, 1995 statement of collections, distributions and unsettled balances, one (1) internal control finding was noted. The following indicates the June 30, 1995 finding and/or comment and the status of the finding as of June 30, 1996.

<u>Finding</u>	<u>Status at June 30, 1996</u>
Internal Control Finding - Due to the small number of employees, the Sheriff did not have adequate segregation of functions with the accounting system.	Based upon the size of the operation and the cost benefit of additional personnel, it may not be feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

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Stephen R. Dischler, MBA, CPA

The Honorable Bill Belt
Avoyelles Parish Sheriff as
Ex-Officio Tax Collector
Marksville, Louisiana

We have audited the statement of collections, distributions and unsettled balances of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff's Tax Collector Fund (agency fund) as of and for the year ended June 30, 1996, and have issued our report thereon dated July 9, 1996.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement.

Compliance with laws and regulations applicable to the Tax Collector Fund is the responsibility of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the Sheriff's compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations. However, the objective of our audit of the financial statement was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with such provisions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

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

This report is intended for the information of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Darnall, Sikes, Kolder, Frederick & Rainey

A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants

Lafayette, Louisiana
July 9, 1996

AVOYELLES PARISH SHERIFF
 Marksville, Louisiana
 Tax Collector Agency Fund

Statement of Collections, Distributions, and Unsettled Balances
 Year Ended June 30, 1996

Unsettled balances, July 1, 1995	<u>\$ 155,214</u>
Collections:	
Ad valorem taxes	3,365,786
Prior year taxes and redemptions	15,995
Advance taxes	41,169
Angling, hunting, and trapping licenses	171,145
Interest on -	
Interest-bearing deposits	10,857
Delinquent taxes	4,456
Taxes paid under protest held in escrow	5,914
Advance taxes	668
Parish licenses	117,345
State revenue sharing	886,453
Tax notices, etc.	<u>11,161</u>
Total collections	<u>4,630,949</u>
 Total	 <u>4,786,163</u>
Distributions:	
Avoyelles Parish -	
Police Jury	917,110
School Board	1,556,558
Assessor	390,725
Sheriff	499,284
Hospital Service District No. 1	58,964
Southwest Avoyelles Water District	9,234
Ward I Fire District	18,828
Fire Protection District No. 2	289,936
Gravity Drainage District	15,993
Red River Waterway District Treasurer	198,168
Levee District Treasurer	155,665
Louisiana Forestry Commission	12,187
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	134,547
Louisiana Tax Commission	3,380
Advance taxes	43,905
Pensions funds	104,101
Redemptions	13,806
Refunds	<u>22,673</u>
Total distributions	<u>4,445,064</u>
 Unsettled balances at June 30, 1996	 \$ 341,099 =====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

whether they have been placed in operation, and we assessed control risk in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

We noted a certain matter involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control structure that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statement.

Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

Finding:

Due to the small number of employees, the Sheriff did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

Recommendation:

Based upon the size of the operation and the cost-benefit of additional personnel, it may not be feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

Response:

No response is considered necessary.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses as defined above. We noted the matter described above involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider to be a material weakness as defined above. This condition was considered in determining the nature, timing, and extent of the procedures to be performed in our audit of the Tax Collector Fund financial statement of the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff for the year ended June 30, 1996.

AVOYELLES PARISH SHERIFF
Marksville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statement

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

As provided by Article V, Section 27 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Sheriff is the ex-officio tax collector of the parish and is responsible for the collection and distribution of ad valorem property taxes, parish occupational licenses, state revenue sharing funds, and angling, hunting, and trapping licenses.

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:517(D) requires that the accounts of each tax collector be audited annually. Accordingly, the accompanying statement reflects financial activity of the Sheriff relating only to his responsibility as ex-officio tax collector. Amounts included in this report are also included in the Sheriff's annual general purpose financial statements.

The accounts of the tax collector are established to reflect the collections imposed by law, distributions pursuant to such law, and unsettled balances due various taxing bodies and others. The accompanying financial statement has been prepared on the cash basis of accounting, with collections recognized when received and distributions reflected when paid.

(2) Interest-Bearing Deposits

State law authorizes the Sheriff to deposit tax collections in a bank domiciled in the parish where the funds are collected. At June 30, 1996, the Sheriff has interest-bearing deposits (book balances) totaling \$341,099, representing unsettled collections. Deposit balances (bank balances) at June 30, 1996 of \$344,690 are fully secured through federal deposit insurance and securities pledged by the bank.

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE

AVOYELLES PARISH SHERIFF
Marksville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statement (Continued)

Parish Licenses -

1996 parish license fees collected but
not yet remitted.

97,755

Taxes and Interest -

\$584 of taxes for 1996 and \$50 of
interest earned to date on the
investment of these funds.

634

Total unsettled balances, June 30, 1996

\$341,099

3134

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**AVOYELLES PARISH SHERIFF
(AS EX-OFFICIO PARISH TAX COLLECTOR)
Marksville, Louisiana**

Financial Report

Year Ended June 30, 1996

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date OCT 09 1996

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL STRUCTURE BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

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We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement.

The Avoyelles Parish Sheriff as Ex-Officio Tax Collector is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of the financial statement in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement of the Tax Collector Fund for the year ended June 30, 1996, we obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and