VERMILION PARISH ASSESSOR

Abbeville, Louisiana

Financial Report Year Ended December 31, 2020

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Gabe Marceaux Vermilion Parish Assessor Abbeville, Louisiana

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Vermilion Parish Assessor (the Assessor), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Assessor's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *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 statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Assessor as of December 31,2020, and the respective change in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United Statements of America require that the required supplementary information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, 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. We 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 management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

The Assessor has omitted management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated May 28, 2021, on our consideration of the Assessor's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our 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 Assessor'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 Assessor's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Abbeville, Louisiana May 28, 2021 BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)

Statement of Net Position December 31, 2020

ASSETS

HODETO	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 674,939
Ad valorem taxes receivable, net	808,585
Due from other governments	32,152
Capital assets, net	74,990
Total assets	1,590,666
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension related	349,183
OPEB related	1,103,683
Total deferred outflows of resources	1,452,866
LIABILITIES	
Long-term liabilities -	
Net Pension Liability	150,618
Net OPEB obligation payable	2,180,238
Total liabilities	2,330,856
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension related	252,836
OPEB related	2,591,443
	2,844,279
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	74,990
Unrestricted	(2,206,593)
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Total net position	\$(2,131,603)

VERMILION PARISH ASSESSOR

Abbeville, Louisiana

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

		Program	n Revenues	Net (Expense) Revenues and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for	Operating Grants	Govermental
Activities	Expenses	Services	and Contributions	Activities
Governmental activities:				
General government	\$ 1,136,097	\$ 2,198	\$ 15,000	\$ (1,118,899)
	General revenues:			
	Ad valorem tax			862,752
	State revenue sh	aring		48,228
	Non-employer p	ension contribution		143,911
	Miscellaneous			4,177
	Interest and inve	estment earnings		11,130
	Total gener	ral revenues		1,070,198
	Change in	net position		(48,701)
	Net position, begin	nning		_(2,082,902)
	Net position, endi	ng		\$ (2,131,603)

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet Governmental Fund - General Fund December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Cash and interest-bearing deposits Ad valorem taxes receivable, net Due from other governments Total assets	\$ <u>\$</u>	674,939 808,585 32,152 1,515,676
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Unavailable revenue - ad valorem taxes	\$	863,275
FUND BALANCE		
Fund balance: Unassigned	a	652,401
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance	\$	1,515,676

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position December 31, 2020

Total fund balance for the governmental fund		\$	652,401
Capital assets, net			74,990
Difference between ad valorem revenues on modified accrual			
versus full accrual			863,275
Pension:			
Net pension liability	\$ (150,618)		
Deferred outlows of resources	349,183		
Deferred inflows of resources	(252,836)		(54,271)
Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB):			
Net OPEB obligation payable	(2,180,238)		
Deferred outlows of resources	1,103,683		
Deferred inflows of resources	(2,591,443)	_(3	3,667 <u>,998</u>)
Net position of governmental activities		<u>\$(2</u>	2,131,603)

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance -Governmental Fund - General Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Revenues:	
Ad valorem tax	\$ 793,602
Intergovernmental revenues	63,228
Charges for services	2,198
Miscellaneous income	4,177
Interest on deposits	11,130
Total revenues	874,335
Expenditures:	
Current -	
General Government	861,020
Net change in fund balance	13,315
Fund balance, beginning	639,086
Fund balance, ending	\$ 652,401

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance of Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Net change in fund balance per Statement of Revenues,			
Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance		\$	13,315
Capital assets:			
Depreciation expense			(9,366)
Difference between ad valorem taxes on modified accrual			69,150
versus full accrual			
The effect of recording net pension and OPEB liability/asset, and the related			
deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources:			
Change in net OPEB expense	\$ (206,577)		
Change in pension expense	(59,134)		
Nonemployer pension contribution revenue recognized	143,911		(121,800)
		ø	/40 701\
Change in net position per Statement of Activities		<u>></u>	(48,701)

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Vermilion Parish Assessor (the "Assessor") have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. The accounting and reporting framework and the more significant policies are discussed in subsequent sections of these notes.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a term of four years beginning January 1 following the year in which elected. A vacancy occurring in the office in which the unexpired term is one year, or more is filled by a special election to be held within 60 days of the occurrence of the vacancy; a vacancy in which the unexpired term is less than one year is filled by an appointment of the governor.

The Assessor assesses property, prepares tax rolls, and submits the rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission and other governmental bodies as prescribed by law. The Assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as may be necessary for the efficient operation of the office and provides assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office; however, the Assessor is officially responsible for the actions of the deputies.

The Assessor's office is located in the Vermilion Parish Courthouse in Abbeville, Louisiana. In accordance with Louisiana law, the Assessor bases real and movable property assessments on conditions existing on January 1 of the tax year. The Assessor completes an assessment listing by May 1 of the tax year and submits the list to the parish governing authority and the Louisiana Tax Commission as prescribed by law. Once the assessment listing is approved, the Assessor submits the assessment roll to the parish tax collector who is responsible for collecting and distributing taxes to the various taxing bodies.

These financial statements only include funds and activities that are controlled by the Assessor as an independently elected parish official. There are no component units required to be reported in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. As an independently elected official, the Assessor is solely responsible for the operations of his office, which includes the hiring or retention of employees, authority over budgeting, responsibility for deficits, and the receipt and disbursement of funds.

B. Basis of presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The statement of net position and statement of activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity, which are considered to be governmental activities. Governmental activities are generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange revenues.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Assessor's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and changes paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounts of the Assessor are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A find is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity or meets the following criteria:

- a. Total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of that individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type; and
- b. Total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

The Assessor maintains one fund, which is categorized as a governmental fund. The major fund of the Assessor is described below:

Governmental Fund -

General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Assessor. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

C. Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting:

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

Measurement Focus

On the government-wide statement of net position and the statement of activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery) and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net position. In the fund financial statements, the "current financial resources" measurement focus is used. Their operating statement presents sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. This fund uses fund balance as its measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.

Basis of Accounting

In the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities, the governmental activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The Assessor considers property taxes as "available" in the year following the assessment, when the majority of the taxes are collected. For this purpose, the Assessor considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Revenues are classified by source and expenditures are classified by function and character. Expenditures (including capital outlay) generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows, and Equity

Cash and Interest-bearing Deposits

For purposes of the statement of net position, cash and interest-bearing deposits include all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit of the Assessor.

Taxes receivable:

Taxes receivable consists of amounts due from taxpayers. Taxes receivable are reported net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts based on prior experience. The allowance amount at December 31, 2020 is \$17,618.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

Capital assets:

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. 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 acquisition cost at the date of donation. The Assessor maintains a threshold level of \$2,500 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the statement of net position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type of assets is as follows:

Equipment 5-10 years Furniture and fixtures 5 years

In the fund financial statements, capital assets used in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition.

Impairments:

A capital asset is considered impaired when its service utility has declined significantly and unexpectedly. The Assessor is required to evaluate prominent events or changes in circumstances affecting capital assets to determine whether impairment of a capital asset has occurred. A capital asset generally should be considered impaired if both (a) the decline in service utility of the capital asset is large in magnitude and (b) the event or change in circumstance is outside the normal life cycle of the capital asset. The Assessor recorded no impairment losses during the year ended December 31, 2020.

Compensated Absences:

Vacations are mandatory and vary in length based on years of service. Leave can be taken between January 1 and November 1 of each year. In addition to vacation, annual leave consists of 12 working days absence due to illness or business matters. Any unused portion of annual leave does not accumulate and carry forward. If any employee exceeds the 12 days, their salary is reduced accordingly. Should maternity, surgery, or prolonged illness require extended absence, paid leave not to exceed six weeks (including the 12-day annual leave) will be allowed.

Deferred Outflows of resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources:

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

period(s) and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

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 borrowings and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position Consists of restricted assets reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets. Constraints may be 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 Net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in either of the other two categories of net position.

The Assessor has no restricted net position as of December 31, 2020.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as follow:

- a. Nonspendable amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in a spendable form (such as inventories and prepaid amounts) or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- b. Restricted amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Committed amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Assessor. The Assessor is the highest level of decision-making authority for the Assessor's office.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

- d. Assigned amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under the Assessor's adopted policy, on the Assessor may assign amounts for specified purposes.
- e. Unassigned all other spendable amounts.

When an expenditure is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the Assessor considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, the Assessor considered amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the Assessor has provided otherwise in his commitment or assignment actions.

E. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources 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 year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

F. Pensions

The net pension liability/asset, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and full accrual basis of accounting. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenues in the government-wide financial statements. In the governmental fund financial statements, contributions are recognized as expenditures when due.

G. Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB)

The net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and full accrual basis of accounting. In the governmental fund financial statements, contributions are recognized as expenditures when due.

(2) <u>Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits.</u>

Under state law, the Assessor may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. The Assessor may invest in certificates and time deposits of the state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Assessor's deposits may

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

not be recovered or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Assessor does not have a policy for custodial credit risk, however, under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the pledging financial institution. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the financial institution. These securities are held in the name of the pledging financial institution in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Deposit balances (bank balances) are as follow:

Bank balances	\$ 677,199
Insurance Uninsured and collateral held by the pledging bank not in the Assessor's Name	377,199 300,000
Total	\$ 677,199

(3) <u>Capital Assets</u>

Capital Asset Balances and activity were as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Capital assets not being depreciated:		NI A		
Software	\$ 64,630	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,630
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Equipment	312,090		72,468	239,622
Furniture and fixtures	14,108	<u> </u>	8,105	6,003
Totals	390,828	7 =	80,573	310,255
Less: accumulated depreciation:				
Equipment	293,839	9,027	72,468	230,398
Furniture and fixtures	12,633	339	8,105	4,867
Totals	306,472	9,366	80,573	235,265
Net capital assets	\$ 84,356	\$ (9,366)	<u>\$ - </u>	\$ 74,990

Depreciation expense of \$9,366 was charged to the general government function.

(4) Pension Plan

The employer pension schedules for the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement Fund ("Fund") are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Employer contributions, on which the employer allocations are based, are recognized in the period in which the employee is compensated for services performed.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

Substantially all of the Assessor's employees are covered under the Fund. Details concerning the plan are:

Plan Description: The Fund was created by Act 91 Section 1 of the 1950 regular session of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana. The Fund is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, qualified governmental defined benefit pension plan covering assessors and their deputies employed by any parish of the State of Louisiana, under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 11:1401 through 1494. The plan is a qualified plan as defined by the Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a), effective January 1, 1998. Membership in the Fund is a condition of employment for assessors and their full-time employees.

The following is a description of the plan and is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the appropriate statutes for more complete information.

Eligibility Requirements: Members who were hired before October 1, 2013, will be eligible for pension benefits once they have either reached the age of fifty-five and have at least twelve years or service or have at least thirty years of service, regardless of age. Members who were hired on or after October 1, 2013, will be eligible for pension benefits once they have either reached the age of sixty and have at least twelve years of service or have reached the age of fifty-five and have at least thirty years of service.

Retirement Benefits: Members who were hired before October 1, 2006 are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three and one third percent of their highest monthly average final compensation based on the 36 consecutive months, multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100% of monthly average final compensation.

Members whose first employment making them eligible for membership began on or after October 1, 2006 but before October 1, 2013, are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three and one-third percent of their highest monthly average final compensation received during any 60 consecutive months, multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100% of monthly average final compensation. Members whose first employment making them eligible for membership began on or after October 1, 2013 but who have less than thirty years of service, are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three percent of their highest monthly average final compensation received during any 60 consecutive months, multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100% of monthly average final compensation. Members whose first employment making them eligible for membership began on or after October 1, 2013 and have thirty or more years of service, are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three and one-third percent of their highest monthly average final compensation received during any 60 consecutive months, multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100% of monthly average final compensation. Members may elect to receive their pension benefits in the form of a joint and survivor annuity.

If members terminate before rendering 12 years of service, they forfeit the right to receive the portion of their accumulated plan benefits attributable to the employer's contributions. Benefits are payable over the employees' lives in the form of a monthly annuity. Members may elect to receive the actuarial equivalent of their retirement allowance in a reduced retirement payable throughout life with the following options:

• If the member dies before he has received in retirement payments purchased by his contributions the amount he had contributed to the fund before his retirement, the balance

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

shall be paid to his legal representatives or to such person as he shall nominate by written designation.

- Upon the member's death, his reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to his surviving spouse.
- Upon the member's death, one-half of his reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to his surviving spouse.
- The member may elect to receive some other board-approved benefit or benefits that together with the reduced retirement allowance shall be equivalent actuarial value to his retirement allowance.

Survivor Benefits: The Fund provides benefits for surviving spouses and minor children under certain conditions which are outlined in the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Disability Benefits: The Board of Trustees shall award disability benefits to eligible members who have been officially certified as disabled by the State Medical Disability Board. The disability benefit shall be the lesser of (1) or (2) as set forth below:

- A sum equal to the greater of forty-five percent (45%) of final average compensation, or the member's accrued retirement benefit at the time of termination of employment due to disability; or
- The retirement benefit which would be payable assuming accrued creditable service plus additional accrued service, if any, to the earliest normal retirement age based on final average compensation at the time of termination of employment due to disability.

Upon approval for disability benefits, the member shall exercise an optional retirement allowance as provided in R.S. 11:1423 and no change in the option selected shall be permitted after it has been filed with the board. The retirement option factors shall be the same as those utilized for regular retirement based on the age of the retiree and that of the spouse, had the retiree continued in active service until the earliest normal retirement date.

Back-deferred retirement option plan (Back-DROP): In lieu of receiving a normal retirement benefit pursuant to R.S. 11:1421 through 1423, an eligible member of the Fund may elect to retire and have their benefits structured, calculated, and paid as provided in R.S. 11:1456.1.

An active, contributing member of the Fund shall be eligible for Back-DROP only if all of the following apply:

- The member has accrued more service credit than the minimum required for eligibility for a normal retirement benefit.
- The member has attained an age that is greater than the minimum required for eligibility for a normal retirement benefit, if applicable.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

• The member has revoked their participation, if any, in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan pursuant to R.S. 11:1456.2.

At the time of retirement, a member who elects to receive a Back-DROP benefit shall select a Back-DROP period to be specified in whole months. The duration of the Back-DROP period shall not exceed the lesser of thirty-six months or the number of months of creditable service accrued after the member first attained eligibility for normal retirement. The Back-DROP period shall be comprised of the most recent calendar days corresponding to the member's employment for which service credit in the Fund accrued.

The Back-DROP benefit shall have two portions: a lump-sum portion and a monthly benefit portion. The member's Back-DROP monthly benefit shall be calculated pursuant to the provisions applicable for service retirement set forth in R.S. 11:1421 through 1423, subject to the following conditions:

- Creditable service shall not include service credit reciprocally recognized pursuant to R.S. 11:142.
- Accrued service at retirement shall be reduced by the Back-DROP.
- Final average compensation shall be calculated by excluding all earnings during the Back-DROP period.
- Contributions received by the Fund during the Back-DROP period and any interest that has accrued on employer and employee contributions received during the period shall remain with the Fund and shall not be refunded to the employee or to the employer.
- The member's Back-DROP monthly benefit shall be calculated based upon the member's age and service and the Fund provisions in effect on the last day of creditable service before the Back-DROP period.
- At retirement, the member's maximum monthly retirement benefit payable as a life annuity shall be equal to the Back-DROP monthly benefit.
- The member may elect to receive a reduced monthly benefit in accordance with the
 options provided in R.S. 11:1423 based upon the member's age and the age of the
 member's beneficiary as of the actual effective date of retirement. No change in the option
 selected or beneficiary shall be permitted after the option is filed with the Board of
 Trustees.

In addition to the monthly benefit received, the member shall be paid a lump-sum benefit equal to the Back-DROP maximum monthly retirement benefit multiplied by the number of months selected as the Back-DROP period. Cost-of-living adjustments shall not be payable on the member's Back-DROP lump sum.

Upon the death of a member who selected the maximum option pursuant to R.S. 11:1423, the member's named beneficiary or, if none, the member's estate shall receive the deceased member's

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

remaining contributions, less the Back-DROP benefit amount. Upon the death of a member who selected Option I pursuant to R.S. 11:1423, the member's named beneficiary or, if none, the member's estate, shall receive the member's annuity savings fund balance as of the member's date of retirement reduced by the portion of the Back-DROP account balance and previously paid retirement benefits that are attributable to the member's annuity payments as provided by the annuity savings fund.

Excess Benefit Plan: Under the provisions of this excess benefit plan, a member may receive a benefit equal to the amount by which the member's monthly benefit from the Fund has been reduced because of the limitations of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contributions for all members are established by statute at 8.0% of earned compensation. The contributions are deducted from the member's salary and remitted by the participating agency.

Administrative costs of the Fund are financed through employer contributions. According to state statute, contributions for all employers are actuarially determined each year. The actuarially-determined employer rate was 3.01% for the year ended September 30, 2020. The actual employer contribution rate was 8.00% of members' earnings for the year ended September 30, 2020.

The Fund also receives one-fourth of one percent of the property taxes assessed in each parish of the state, except for Orleans Parish, which is one percent, as well as a state revenue sharing appropriation. According to state statute, in the event that contributions for ad valorem taxes and revenue sharing funds are insufficient to provide for the gross employer actuarially required contribution, the employer is required to make direct contributions as determined by the Public Retirement System's Actuarial Committee. These additional sources of income are used as employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities. The Assessor recognized \$143,911 of non-employer contributions.

Pension liabilities, pension expense, and deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions: At December 31, 2020, the Employer reported a liability of \$150,618 for its proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability. The Net Pension Liability was measured as of September 30, 2020 and the total pension liability used to calculate the Net Pension Obligation was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Agency's proportion of the Net Pension Liability was based on a projection of the Agency 's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At September 30, 2020, the Assessor's Office proportion was .986%, which was a decrease of .033% from its proportion measured as of September 30, 2019. The Assessor recognized pension expense of \$95,389.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

At December 31, 2020, the Agency reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 4,820	\$ 120,336
Net differences between projected and actual		
earnings on plan investments		118,440
Change in prortionate share from prior year	916	14,060
Change of assumptions	334,383	≅
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	9,064	
Total	\$ 349,183	\$ 252,836

The \$9,064 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Agency contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2020.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized as an increase of pension expense as follows:

Year Ended	
December 31	
2021	\$ 5,829
2022	34,172
2023	33,524
2024	(5,524)
2025	19,282
	\$ 87,283

Detailed information about the pension plan's assets, deferred outflows, deferred inflows, and fiduciary net position that were used in the measurement of the Assessor's net pension liability is available in the separately issued plan financial reports at http://www.louisianaassessors.org

Actuarial methods and assumptions: The current year actuarial assumptions utilized for this report are based on the assumptions used in the September 30, 2020 actuarial funding valuation, which (with the exception of mortality) were based on results of an actuarial experience study for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2019. All assumptions selected were determined to be reasonable and represent our expectations of future experience for the Fund.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

Additional information on the actuarial methods and assumptions used as of the September 30, 2020 actuarial valuation follows:

Actuarial Cost Method Entry age normal

Investment rate of return 5.75%, net of pension plan investment expense, including

(discount rate) inflation

Inflation Rate 2.10%

Salary Increases 5.25%

Annuitant and beneficiary mortality Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for

General Healthy Retirees multipled by 120% with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019

improvement scale

Active member mortality Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for

General Employees multipled by 120% with full

generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019

improvement scale

Disabled Lives Mortality Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for

General Disabled Retirees multipled by 120% with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019

improvement scale

Discount Rate

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation, of 2.5%, and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. The resulting long-term expected arithmetic nominal return was 8.37% as of September 30, 2020.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation as of September 30, 2020, are summarized in the following table:

	Long-Term Expected
Asset Class	Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity	7.50%
International equity	8.50%
Domestic bonds	2.50%
International bonds	3.50%
Real estate	4.50%
Alternative assets	5.87%

The discount rate used to measure the pension liability was 5.75%, which was a .25% decrease from the discount rate used as of the previous measurement date. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from the participating employers will be made at actuarially determined contribution rates which are calculated in accordance with relevant statues and approved by the Board of Trustees and the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee. Based on these assumptions, the Fund's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity to changes in the discount rate: The following presents the net pension liability of the participating employers calculated using the discount rate of 5.75%, as well as what the net pension liability of the participating employers would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current rate:

		Current	
	1%	Discount	1%
	Decrease	Rate	Increase
	4.75%	5.75%	6.75%
Net Pension Liability\(Asset)	\$ 683,712	\$ 150,618	\$ (302,594)

(5) Post-Retirement Benefits Other Than Pensions

Plan Description

The Assessor provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. The Assessor's OPEB Plan (the OPEB Plan) is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the Assessor. The authority to establish and/or amend the obligation of the employer, employees and retirees rests with the Assessor. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

Benefits Provided

Medical, dental, and life benefits are provided through comprehensive plans and are made available to employees upon actual retirement. Employees are covered by the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund, whose retirement eligibility (D.R.O.P. entry) provisions are as follows: Attainment of age 55 and 12 years of service; or any age and 30 years of service; employees hired on and after October 1, 2013 are not able to retire or enter DROP until age 60 with 12 years of service; or, age 55 with 30 years of service. The retiree must also have 20 years of service for the retiree to receive employer contributions.

Life insurance coverage is provided to retirees and 100% of the blended rate (active and retired) is paid by the employer. The amount of insurance coverage while active is continued after retirement, but insurance coverage amounts are reduced to 50% of the previous amount at age 70, and additionally by 50% upon retirement if before age 70.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms

Inactive employees currently receiving benefit payments	6
Inactive employees entitiled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	:=
Active employees	8
Total	14

The Assessor's total OPEB liability of \$2,180,238 was measured as of December 31, 2020 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs

The total OPEB liability in the December 31, 2020 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified

Inflation: 2.30%

Salary Increases, including inflation: 3% including inflation

Discount Rate: 2.74% annually (Beginning of Year to Determine ADC)

2.12% annually (As of End of Year Measurement Date)

Health Care Cost Trend Rates: 5.5% annually until 2030, then 4.5%

Mortality: SOA RP-2014 Table

The discount rate was based on the Bond Buyers' 20 Year General Obligation municipal bond index as of December 31, 2020, the end of the applicable measurement period.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2020 valuation were based on the results of ongoing evaluations of the assumptions from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2020.

Balance as of December 31, 2019	\$ 4,587,676
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	116,038
Interest	127,292
Differences between expected and actual experience	(2,858,463)
Changes in assumptions	340,042
Benfit payments and net transfers	(132,347)
Net changes	(2,407,438)
Balance as of December 31, 2020	\$ 2,180,238

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Assessor, as well as what the Assessor's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (1.12%) or 1-percentage-point higher (3.12%) than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
	1.12%	2.12%	3.12%
Total OPEB liability	\$ 2,587,405	\$2,180,238	\$ 1,858,182

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rate:

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Assessor, as well as what the Assessor's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower (4.5%) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.5%) than the current healthcare trend rates:

	1% Decrease	Current Trend	1% Increase
	4.5%	5.5%	6.5%
Total OPEB liability	\$ 1,891,402	\$2,180,238	2,551,863

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2020, the Assessor recognized OPEB expense of \$338,923. At December 31, 2020, the Assessor reported deferred inflows of resources and deferred outflows of resources related to the post-retirement health care and life insurance benefits:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Differences between expected and actual experiences	\$ -	\$ 2,591,443	
Changes of assumptions	1,103,683		
Total	\$ 1,103,683	\$ 2,591,443	

Amounts currently reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to other postemployment benefits will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year Ended December 31,	
2021	\$ 95,593
2022	1,740
2023	(185,969)
2024	(279,825)
2025	(279,825)
Thereafter	(839,474)
	\$(1,487,760)

(6) <u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u>

The Assessor offers its employees participation in the State of Louisiana Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan adopted by the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Commission and established in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan is reported as an agency fund in the State of Louisiana's financial statements. The plan, available to all Assessors' employees, permits the employees to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or proof of hardship.

All amounts of compensation deferred under the plan, all property and rights purchased with those amounts, and all income attributable to those amounts, property or rights are (until paid or made available to the employee or other beneficiary) solely the property and rights of the State of Louisiana (without being restricted to the provisions of benefits under the plan) subject only to the claims of the general creditors of the State of Louisiana. Participants' rights under the plan are equal to those of general creditors of the State of Louisiana in an amount equal to the fair market value of the deferred account for each participant.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

It is the opinion of management, after consulting with legal counsel, that the Assessor has no liability for losses under the plan.

The Assessor makes matching contributions equal to the amount deferred by each employee, but not in excess of 5% of an employee's salary to the plan. For the year ended December 31, 2020, the Assessor contributed \$21,649 on behalf of its employees to the plan.

(7) Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$ 144,314
Benefits - insurance	18,966
Benefits - retirement	12,700
Benefits - other	7,216
Reimbursements	14,431
Certifications	1,375
Travel	319
Registration fees	100
	\$ 199,421

(8) Risk Management

The Assessor is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Assessor purchases commercial insurance to cover any claims related to these risks. There have been no significant reductions in the insurance coverage during the year, nor have settlements exceeded coverage for the past three years.

(9) Expenses of the Assessor Paid by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury

The Vermilion Parish Police Jury provided the office space and utilities for the Assessor's office for the year ended December 31, 2020. These expenditures are not reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

(10) Litigation

There was no litigation pending against the Vermilion Parish Assessor at December 31, 2020.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Budgetary Comparison Schedule General Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	5.1 W						riance -	
	Budget					vorable		
		Original		Final		Actual	(Uni	avorable)
Revenues:								
Ad valorem tax	\$	810,331	\$	793,602	\$	793,602	\$	-
Intergovernmental -								
State revenue sharing		50,000		51,394		48,228		(3,166)
Vermilion Parish Police Jury		15,000		15,000		15,000		
Charges for services		2,500		2,100		2,198		98
Miscellaneous income		7,500		4,177		4,177		-
Interest on deposits		5,700	·	11,260		11,130	8	(130)
Total revenues		891,031	-	877,533		874,335	_	(3,198)
Expenditures:								
Current -								
General government:								
Salaries		513,196		491,659		484,428		7,231
Payroll taxes		11,161		9,514		8,960		554
Retirement contributions		36,256		36,256		36,256		-
Deferred compensation		22,660		21,649		21,649		=
Group insurance		181,000		195,791		180,274		15,517
Insurance		500		3,800		3,358		442
Materials and supplies		6,500		6,500		1,699		4,801
Professional fees		17,214		15,150		15,000		150
Repairs and maintenance		63,280		61,696		61,200		496
Utilities and communication				7,500		8,603		(1,103)
Miscellaneous	4	39,050	S <u> </u>	33,679		39,593	12	(5,914)
Total expenditures	·	890,817	a -	883,194	_	861,020	-	44,348
Change in fund balance		214		(5,661)		13,315		41,150
Fund balance, beginning) .	639,086	<u>:</u>	639,086	_	639,086	-	<u></u> ,
Fund balance, ending	\$	639,300	<u>\$</u>	633,425	\$	652,401	\$	41,150

VERMILION PARISH ASSESSOR

Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

		18	2019		2020
Changes for the year:					
Service cost	\$	111,068 \$	93,282	\$	116,038
Interest on total OPEB liability		91,704	148,604		127,292
Changes of benefit terms		-	-		-
Effect of economic/demographic gains or (losses)	(151,761)	-		(2,858,463)
Effect of assumptions, changes, or inputs	9	996,440	844,699		340,042
Benefit payments		(82,306)	(59,618)		(132,347)
Net change in total OPEB liability	9	965,145	1,026,967		(2,407,438)
Total OPEB liability, beginning	2,:	595,564	3,560,709		4,587,676
Total OPEB liability, ending *	\$ 3,5	560,709 \$	4,587,676	\$	2,180,238
Covered payroll	\$	453,196 \$	453,196	\$	454,944
Total OPEB liability as a % of covered payroll	,	<u>785.69</u> %	1012.29%		479.23%

^{*} Equal to net OPEB liability

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability/Asset -Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund and Subsidiary For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Employer	Employer		Employer's	Plan Fiduciary
	Proportion	Proportionate		Proportionate Share	Net Position
	of the	Share of the		of the Net Pension	as a Percentage
*	Net Pension	Net Pension	Employer's	Liability (Asset) as a	of the Total
Year Ended	Liability	Liability	Covered	Percentage of its	Pension Liability
December 31,	(Asset)	(Asset)	Payroll	Covered Payroll	(Asset)
2014	0.993%	\$ 349,966	\$ 462,570	75.66%	89.98%
2015	1.134%	\$ 593,382	\$ 481,069	123.35%	85.57%
2016	1.152%	\$ 406,329	\$ 508,086	79.97%	90.68%
2017	1.100%	\$ 192,933	\$ 467,492	41.27%	95.61%
2018	1.025%	\$ 199,218	\$ 453,196	43.96%	95.46%
2019	1.019%	\$ 268,710	\$ 453,196	59.29%	94.12%
2020	0.986%	\$ 150,618	\$ 453,196	33.23%	96.79%

^{*} The amounts presented have a measurement date of the fiscal year ending September 30.

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Schedule of Employer Contributions -Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund and Subsidiary For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

		Contributions in Relation to				Contributions
Year ended December 31,	Contractually Required Contribution	Contractual Required Contribution	Def	ribution iciency xcess)	Employer's Covered Payroll	as a % of Covered Payroll
2014	\$ 62,447	\$62,447	\$	-	\$ 462,570	13.50%
2015	\$ 64,944	\$64,944	\$	_	\$ 481,069	13.50%
2016	\$ 64,146	\$64,146	\$	-	\$ 508,086	12.63%
2017	\$44,513	\$44,513	\$	-	\$ 467,492	9.52%
2018	\$36,256	\$36,256	\$	-	\$ 453,196	8.00%
2019	\$36,256	\$36,256	\$	-	\$ 453,196	8.00%
2020	\$36,256	\$36,256	\$	-	\$ 453,196	8.00%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

(1) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Assessor follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- 1. A proposed budget is prepared and submitted to the Assessor for the fiscal year no later than fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
- A summary of the proposed budget is published, and the public is notified that the proposed budget is available for public inspection. At the same time, a public hearing is called.
- 3. A public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for a hearing.
- 4. After the holding of the public hearing and completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is legally adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which the budget is being adopted.
- 5. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- 6. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements are as originally adopted or as finally amended by the Assessor.

(2) Excess of Expenditures over Appropriations

The General Fund incurred expenditures in excess of appropriations.

(3) <u>OPEB</u>

Benefit changes -

There were no changes of benefit terms.

Changes of assumptions –

Year ended December 31,	Inflation Rate	Discount Rate	Projected Salary Increase	
2018	2.30%	4.10%	3.00%	
2019	2.30%	2.74%	3.00%	
2020	2.30%	2.12%	3.00%	

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

(4) Pension Plan

Changes of Benefit Terms:

There were no changes of benefit terms.

Changes of assumptions:

* Year ended December 31,	Discount Rate	Investment Rate of Return	Inflation Rate	Expected Remaining Service Lives	Projected Salary Increase
2015	7.00%	7.00%	2.50%	6	5.75%
2015	7.00%	7.00%	2.50%	6	5.75%
2017	6.75%	6.75%	2.50%	6	5.75%
2018	6.25%	6.25%	2.20%	6	5.75%
2019	6.00%	6.00%	2.20%	6	5.75%
2020	5.75%	5.75%	2.10%	6	5.25%

^{*} The amounts presented have a measurement date of the fiscal year ending September 30.

INTERNAL CONTROL

AND

COMPLIANCE

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

C. Burton Kolder, CPA*
Brad E. Kolder, CPA, JD*
Gerald A. Thibodeaux, Jr., CPA*
Robert S. Carter, CPA*
Arthur R. Mixon, CPA*
Stephen J. Anderson, CPA*
Christine C. Doucet, CPA
Wanda F. Arcement, CPA
Bryan K. Joubert, CPA
Matthew E. Margaglio, CPA
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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

The Honorable Gabe Marceaux Vermilion Parish Assessor Abbeville, Louisiana

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Vermilion Parish Assessor (the Assessor) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to financial statements, which collectively comprise the Assessor's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 28, 2021.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Assessor's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Assessor's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Assessor's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control 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 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.

Our 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 were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify a deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan as item 2020-001, which we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Assessor's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we 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 our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests did not disclose any instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Vermilion Parish Assessor's Responses to the Findings

The Assessor's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan. The Assessor's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of This Report

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

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Abbeville, Louisiana May 28, 2021

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings And Management's Corrective Action Plan Year Ended December 31, 2020

Part I: Current year Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan

A. <u>Internal Control Over Financial Reporting</u>

2020-001 Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: Unknown

CONDITION: The Assessor did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting function.

CRITERIA: AU-C §315.04, Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement, defines internal control as follows:

"Internal control is a process, affected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations."

CAUSE: The cause of the condition is the fact that Assessor does not have a sufficient number of staff performing administrative and financial duties so as to provide adequate segregation of accounting and financial duties.

EFFECT: Failure to adequately segregate accounting and financial functions increases the risk that errors and/or irregularities including fraud and/or defalcations may occur and not be prevented and/or detected.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recordkeeping; and (4) reconciliation.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE: Management has provided as much segregation as possible with the resources available.

B. Compliance

No items to report.

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings And Management's Corrective Action Plan Year Ended December 31, 2020

Part II: Prior Year Findings:

A. <u>Internal Control Over Financial Reporting</u>

2019-001 Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

CONDITION: The Vermilion Parish Assessor did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

RECOMMENDATION: Keeping in mind the limited number of personnel to which duties can be assigned, the Assessor should monitor assignment of duties to assure as much segregation of duties and responsibility as possible.

CURRENT STATUS: Unresolved. See item 2020-001.

B. Compliance

No items reported.