

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Financial Report
Year Ended December 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

* A Professional Accounting Corporation

The Honorable Chris Guillory
Evangeline Parish Assessor
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Evangeline Parish Assessor (Assessor), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Assessor's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Assessor and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities 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 Assessor'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 Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our 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 our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that 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 judgement 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*, we:

- 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 Assessor'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 our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Assessor's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are 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 we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison schedule, schedule of changes in total OPEB liability and related ratios, schedule of employer's share of net pension liability, and schedule of employer contributions, on pages 33-38, 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. 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 23, 2024, on our consideration of the Assessor’s internal control over financial reporting and on 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

Ville Platte, Louisiana
May 23, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)**

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

| | <u>Governmental Activities</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Cash and interest-bearing deposits | \$ 1,756,790 |
| Taxes receivable, net | 906,164 |
| Due from other governmental units | 38,221 |
| Prepaid items | 14,342 |
| Capital assets: | |
| Depreciable, net | 3,211 |
| SBITA assets, net | <u>56,948</u> |
| Total assets | <u>2,775,676</u> |
| DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES | |
| Other postemployment benefit obligation | 868,399 |
| Pension plan | <u>391,115</u> |
| Total deferred outflows of resources | <u>1,259,514</u> |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Accounts and other payables | 3,174 |
| Long-term liabilities: | |
| Due within one year - SBITA liability | 28,474 |
| Due after one year - SBITA liability | 28,537 |
| Other postemployment benefit obligation payable | 2,213,359 |
| Net pension liability | <u>445,132</u> |
| Total liabilities | <u>2,718,676</u> |
| DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES | |
| Other postemployment benefit obligation | 1,390,483 |
| Pension plan | <u>53,361</u> |
| Total deferred inflows of resources | <u>1,443,844</u> |
| NET POSITION | |
| Net investment in capital assets | 3,148 |
| Unrestricted | <u>(130,478)</u> |
| Total net position | <u>\$ (127,330)</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

| Activities | Expenses | Program Revenues Charges for Services | Net (Expense) Revenues and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| Governmental activities: | | | |
| General government | \$ 1,327,871 | \$ 500 | \$ (1,327,371) |
| Interest on long-term debt | <u>189</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(189)</u> |
| Total governmental activities | <u>\$ 1,328,060</u> | <u>\$ 500</u> | <u>(1,327,560)</u> |
| General revenues: | | | |
| Ad valorem taxes, levied for general purposes | | | 901,803 |
| State revenue sharing | | | 38,221 |
| Non-employer pension contribution | | | 146,279 |
| Interest and investment earnings | | | <u>27,013</u> |
| Total general revenues | | | <u>1,113,316</u> |
| Change in net position | | | (214,244) |
| Net position, beginning | | | <u>86,914</u> |
| Net position, ending | | | <u>\$ (127,330)</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (FFS)

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Balance Sheet
Governmental Fund - General Fund
December 31, 2023

ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cash and interest-bearing deposits | \$ 1,756,790 |
| Taxes receivable, net | 906,164 |
| Due from other governmental units | 38,221 |
| Prepaid items | <u>14,342</u> |
| Total assets | <u>\$ 2,715,517</u> |

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCE

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Liabilities: | |
| Accounts and other payables | <u>\$ 3,174</u> |
| Deferred inflows of resources: | |
| Unavailable revenues - ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing | <u>80,000</u> |
| Fund balance: | |
| Nonspendable | 14,342 |
| Unassigned | <u>2,618,001</u> |
| Total fund balance | <u>2,632,343</u> |
| Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance | <u>\$ 2,715,517</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

| | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Total fund balance for the governmental fund at December 31, 2023 | | \$ 2,632,343 |
| Total net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because: | | |
| Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. Those assets consist of: | | |
| Equipment, furniture and vehicles, net of \$232,191 | | |
| accumulated depreciation | \$ 3,211 | |
| SBITA assets, net of \$28,474 accumulated amortization | <u>56,948</u> | 60,159 |
| Deferred outflows of expenditures are not a use of current resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. | | |
| Other postemployment benefit obligation | 868,399 | |
| Pension plan | <u>391,115</u> | 1,259,514 |
| Some of the Assessor's revenues will be collected after year-end but are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and, therefore, are reported as deferred inflows of resources at the fund level. | | |
| Unavailable revenue: | | |
| Ad valorem taxes | 54,519 | |
| State revenue sharing | <u>25,481</u> | 80,000 |
| Some liabilities are not due and payable from current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. | | |
| SBITA liability | (57,011) | |
| Other postemployment benefit obligation payable | (2,213,359) | |
| Net pension liability | <u>(445,132)</u> | (2,715,502) |
| Deferred inflows of contributions are not available resources, and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. | | |
| Other postemployment benefit obligation | (1,390,483) | |
| Pension plan | <u>(53,361)</u> | <u>(1,443,844)</u> |
| Total net position of governmental activities at December 31, 2023 | | <u>\$ (127,330)</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance -
Governmental Fund - General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Revenues: | |
| Ad valorem taxes | \$ 937,756 |
| Intergovernmental revenues - | |
| State revenue sharing | 38,174 |
| Charges for services | 500 |
| Interest | <u>27,013</u> |
| Total revenues | <u>1,003,443</u> |
| Expenditures: | |
| Current - | |
| General government: | |
| Personnel services and related benefits | 746,489 |
| Operating services | 56,930 |
| Materials and supplies | 132,061 |
| Capital outlay | 85,422 |
| Debt service - | |
| Principal retirement | 28,411 |
| Interest charges | <u>189</u> |
| Total expenditures | <u>1,049,502</u> |
| Deficiency of revenues over expenditures | (46,059) |
| Other financing sources: | |
| Proceeds from SBITA | <u>85,422</u> |
| Net change in fund balance | 39,363 |
| Fund balance, beginning | <u>2,592,980</u> |
| Fund balance, ending | <u>\$2,632,343</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund
to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Total net change in fund balance for the year ended December 31, 2023 per the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance | \$ 39,363 |
|--|-----------|

The change in net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.

| | | |
|--|-----------------|--------|
| Capital outlay which is considered expenditures on statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance | \$ 85,422 | |
| Depreciation expense | (4,877) | |
| Amortization expense | <u>(28,474)</u> | 52,071 |

Some of the Assessor's revenues will be collected after year-end but are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and, therefore, are reported as deferred inflows of resources at the fund level.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Net change in unavailable revenues: | | |
| Ad valorem taxes | (35,953) | |
| State revenue sharing | <u>47</u> | (35,906) |

The issuance of long-term debt provides financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal on long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Proceeds of SBITA financing | (85,422) | |
| Payment of SBITA principal | <u>28,411</u> | (57,011) |

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.

| | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Other postemployment benefit obligation payable | (68,507) | |
| Net pension liability | <u>(144,254)</u> | <u>(212,761)</u> |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Change in net position for the year ended December 31, 2023 per the statement of activities | <u>\$ (214,244)</u> |
|---|---------------------|

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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. The Assessor assesses property, prepares tax rolls, and submits the rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission as prescribed by law.

The accompanying financial statements of the Evangeline Parish Assessor (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 accounting policies are discussed in subsequent subsections of this note.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

This report includes all funds which are controlled by the Assessor as an independently elected parish official. There are no component units that are 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 government-wide financial statements provide operational accountability information for the Assessor as an economic unit. The government-wide financial statements report the Assessor's ability to maintain service levels and continue to meet its obligations as they come due. The statements include all governmental activities of the Assessor. Fiduciary funds are omitted from the government-wide financial statements. The Assessor has no fiduciary funds.

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, fines and charges 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.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounts of the Assessor are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered to be an independent fiscal and accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for within separate sets of self-balancing accounts, which comprise its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund balance/net position, revenues expenditures/expenses, and transfers. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements. Fund financial statements report detailed information about the Assessor. The emphasis of the fund financial statements is on major funds, each displayed in a separate column.

The General Fund is always a major governmental fund. Other individual governmental and enterprise major funds are determined as funds whose revenues, expenditures/expenses, assets and deferred outflows of resources, or liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are at least ten percent of the corresponding totals for all funds of that category or type (total governmental or total enterprise funds) and at least five percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined or funds designated as major at the discretion of the Assessor. Funds not classified as a major fund are aggregated and presented in a single column in the fund financial statements. The Assessor maintains one fund, which is categorized as a governmental fund. The fund used by the Assessor is described below.

Governmental Fund -

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions are financed. The acquisition, use, and balances of the Assessor's expendable financial resources and the related liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds.

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 and Basis of Accounting

Measurement Focus

The measurement focus determines the accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund.

The governmental activities within the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The economic resources measurement focus meets the accounting objectives of determining net income, net position, and cash flows.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The governmental funds use the current financial resources measurement focus. This measurement focus is based upon the receipt and disbursement of current available financial resources rather than upon net income.

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 measurements made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements are presented on 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, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

The governmental funds financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual i.e., both measurable and available. "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after year end. An exception to this is grants collected on a reimbursement basis. Those reimbursable grants are recognized as revenue when reimbursable expenditures are made. Expenditures are recognized when the related liability is incurred. Exceptions to this general rule include principal and interest on long-term debt and employee vacation and sick leave, which are recognized when due and payable.

Program Revenues

Program revenues included in the statement of activities are derived directly from the program itself or from parties outside the Assessor's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole; program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the Assessor's general revenues.

Allocation of indirect expenses

The Assessor reports all direct expenses by function in the statement of activities. 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 is specifically identified by function and is included in the direct expense of each function. Interest on long-term debt is considered an indirect expense and is reported separately on the statement of activities.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

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 deposits of the Assessor.

Receivables

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. Major receivable balances for the governmental activities include ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing. Uncollectible ad valorem taxes are recognized as bad debts through the establishment of an allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible taxes was \$20,488 at December 31, 2023.

Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the government-wide and fund financial statements. Prepaid items are recorded as expenditures when consumed rather than when purchased.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include equipment and vehicles, 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 acquisition value at the date of donation. The Assessor maintains a threshold level of \$5,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets 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 asset is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Furniture, fixtures and equipment | 5-10 years |
|-----------------------------------|------------|

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Compensated Absences

Employees of the Assessor's office earn from 10 to 20 days of vacation leave each year (depending on length of service) and 12 days of sick or personal leave each year. Vacation leave does not accumulate and is not payable upon termination or retirement. Sick leave may accumulate with a limit of 260 days and is paid out upon retirement or termination at the employees' current rate of pay. There are no material compensated absence liabilities at December 31, 2023.

Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA)

The Assessor has a contract providing the right-to-use a vendor's software for a specified period of time. For long-term SBITAs with a term exceeding 12 months at commencement, the Assessor recognizes a subscription liability and an intangible right-to-use subscription asset. Subscription assets are reported with capital assets and subscription liabilities are reported with long-term liabilities in the government-wide statement of net position. Subscriptions assets are amortized, and subscription liabilities are reduced by the principal portion of the subscription payments made.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position or fund balance that applies to a future period(s) and thus, will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expenditure/expense) until then. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position or fund balance that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources in the government-wide statements are related to the Assessor's pension plan and other post-employment benefit plan. Ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing for the governmental fund which have not been remitted within 60 days subsequent to year end are considered deferred inflows of resources.

Pensions

The net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense (See Note 8), has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and full accrual basis of accounting. Member's earnable compensation, for which the employer allocations are based, is recognized in the period in which the employee is compensated for services performed. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the plan, and additions to/deductions from the plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenue in the government-wide financial statements. In the governmental fund financial statements contributions are recognized as expenditures when made.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Other Postemployment benefits (OPEB)

The total OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB and OPEB expense (See Note 10), have 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.

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, 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 external groups, such as grantors, creditors, contributions, or laws and regulations of other governments, or law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. It is the Assessor's policy to use restricted net position prior to the use of unrestricted net position when both restricted and unrestricted net position are available for an expense which has been incurred.
- c. Unrestricted net position consists of all other assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

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

- a. Nonspendable includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because of legal or contractual constraints requiring they remain intact. The Assessor's nonspendable fund balance includes prepaid items.
- b. Restricted includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by providers, such as grantors, donors, creditors, or amounts constrained due to constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Committed includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government through formal legislative action of the Assessor, which is the highest level of decision-making authority for the Assessor.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

- d. Assigned includes fund balance amounts that are constrained by the Assessor's intent to be used for specific purposes, which are neither restricted nor committed. Under the Assessor's adopted policy, only the Assessor may assign amounts for specified purposes.
- e. Unassigned includes fund balance amounts which have not been classified within the above-mentioned categories.

It is the Assessor's policy to use restricted amounts first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available unless prohibited by legal or contractual provisions. Additionally, the Assessor uses committed, assigned, and lastly unassigned amounts of fund balance in that order when expenditures are made.

E. Revenues, Expenditures, and Expenses

Revenues

Ad valorem taxes and the related state revenue sharing revenue are recorded in the year the taxes are assessed. Fees for preparing tax rolls and other information services provided are recorded in the year prepared. Interest income on time deposits is recorded when the time deposits have matured. Interest income on demand deposits is recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

Expenditures/Expenses

In the government-wide financial statements, expenses are classified by character and function. In the fund financial statements, expenditures are classified by character.

F. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP 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, and expenditures/expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(2) Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits

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 state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 2023, the Assessor has cash and interest-bearing deposits (book balances) as follows:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Demand deposits | \$ 258,087 |
| Time and savings | <u>1,498,703</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,756,790</u> |

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 not be recovered, or the collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party will not be recovered. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or similar federal security, 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 the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank by a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. At December 31, 2023, bank balances were secured as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Bank balances | <u>\$ 1,780,495</u> |
| Federal deposit insurance | \$ 1,100,233 |
| Pledged securities | <u>680,262</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,780,495</u> |

Deposits in the amount of \$680,262 were exposed to custodial credit risk. These deposits are uninsured and collateralized with securities held by the pledging institutions' trust department or agent, but not in the Assessor's name. The Assessor does not have a policy for custodial credit risk.

(3) Due from Other Governmental Units

Due from other governmental units of \$38,221 consists of amounts due for state revenue sharing at December 31, 2023.

(4) Ad Valorem Taxes

Pursuant to Act 174 of 1990, Louisiana Revised State Statute 47:1925.2 created a special assessment district to provide ad valorem tax revenue to fund the Assessor's office.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Ad valorem taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1st of each year. Taxes are levied in September or October and billed to the taxpayers by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff in December. Billed taxes are due by December 31st and become delinquent on January 1st of the following year. The taxes are based on assessed values determined by the Evangeline Parish Assessor and are collected and remitted by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff. The Taxes are remitted to the Assessor net of deductions for pension fund contributions.

Ad valorem taxes are budgeted and recorded in the year levied and billed. For the year ended December 31, 2023, special assessment district taxes were levied at the rate of 3.20 mills on property with assessed valuations totaling \$289,578,785. Total taxes levied during 2023 were \$926,652. Taxes receivable at December 31, 2023, was \$906,164, net of an allowance for uncollectible taxes of \$20,488.

The following are the principal taxpayers for the parish:

| | 2023 Assessed Valuation | Percent of total Assessed Valuation |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Cleco Power, LLC | \$ 45,906,100 | 15.85% |
| Cameron International | 18,658,270 | 6.44% |
| Cabot Corporation | 15,760,350 | 5.44% |
| Columbia Gulf Transmission | 14,091,740 | 4.87% |
| Union Tank Car Co. | 11,414,540 | 3.94% |

(5) Tax Abatements

The Evangeline Parish Assessor is subject to property tax abatements as follows:

A lease agreement between the Industrial Development Board and Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC, allowed for the exemption of ad valorem taxes. This agreement, which was approved by the Evangeline Parish Police Jury, is for the inducement of economic development in Evangeline Parish. The tax exemption will continue for the term of the lease. For the year ended December 31, 2023 the Assessor abated ad valorem tax in the amount of \$91,383.

The Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) provided through the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, (authorized pursuant to Article VII, Part II, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974) authorizes the abatement of ad valorem taxes for a period of up to ten years on capital improvements and equipment related to manufacturing. The Assessor abated property taxes to entities in the parish through the ITEP in the amount of \$14,436 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(6) Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2023 follows:

| | <u>Beginning Balance</u> | <u>Additions</u> | <u>Deletions</u> | <u>Ending Balance</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Equipment, furniture and vehicles | \$ 235,402 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 235,402 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation | <u>227,314</u> | <u>4,877</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>232,191</u> |
| Net capital assets | <u>\$ 8,088</u> | <u>\$ (4,877)</u> | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ 3,211</u> |
| | | | | |
| SBITA assets | \$ - | \$ 85,422 | \$ - | \$ 85,422 |
| Less: accumulated amortization | <u>-</u> | <u>28,474</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>28,474</u> |
| SBITA assets, net | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ 56,948</u> | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ 56,948</u> |

(7) Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA)

The Assessor has a long-term contract, referred to as a SBITA, providing the right-to-use a vendor's software. The term of the agreement is for three years. The intangible right-to-use SBITA asset and related accumulated amortization are disclosed in Note 6.

The following is a summary of the SBITA liability for the year ended December 31, 2023:

| | <u>Beginning Balance</u> | <u>Additions</u> | <u>Reductions</u> | <u>Ending Balance</u> | <u>Due Within One Year</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SBITA liability | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ 85,422</u> | <u>\$ 28,411</u> | <u>\$ 57,011</u> | <u>\$ 28,474</u> |

The future principal and interest payments as of December 31, 2023, are as follows:

| <u>Year Ended December 31</u> | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2024 | \$ 28,474 | \$ 126 |
| 2025 | <u>28,537</u> | <u>63</u> |
| | <u>\$ 57,011</u> | <u>\$ 189</u> |

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(8) Pension Plan

Plan Description

Substantially all employees of the Assessor, except part-time and temporary employees, are members of the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Plan (Plan), a cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund (LARF). The fund was created by Act 91 Section 1 of the 1950 regular Legislative Session. The Plan provides pension, death, and disability benefits.

The following brief description of the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund and Subsidiary (collectively referred to as the "Fund") is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan Agreement for more complete information.

Pension Benefits

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 of 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.

Members whose first employment making them eligible for membership began prior to October 1, 2006, are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three and one-third percent of their highest monthly average final compensation received during any 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/survivor annuity.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Contributions

Contributions for all members are established by statute at 8.0% of earned compensation. Employer contributions were 3.5% through September 30, 2023, increasing to 5% beginning October 1, 2023. 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. Contributions from non-employer contributing entities were \$146,279. Contributions to the pension plan from the Assessor were \$15,605 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At December 31, 2023, the Assessor reported a liability of \$445,132 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of September 30, 2023 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Assessor's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Assessor's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employer's, actuarially determined. At September 30, 2023, the Assessor's proportion was 0.908509%, which was an increase of .003431% from its proportion measured as of September 30, 2022.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Assessor recognized pension expense of \$306,138.

At December 31, 2023, the Assessor reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

| | <u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u> | <u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u> |
|---|---|--|
| Difference between expected and actual experience | \$ 14,334 | \$ 48,942 |
| Change of assumptions | 117,114 | - |
| Change in proportion and differences between the employer's contributions and the employer's proportionate share of contributions | 23,345 | 4,419 |
| Net differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments | 232,562 | - |
| Contributions subsequent to the measurement date | <u>3,760</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 391,115</u> | <u>\$ 53,361</u> |

Deferred outflows of resources of \$3,760 related to pensions resulting from the Assessor's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

| Year Ended December 31 | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 2024 | \$ 83,525 |
| 2025 | 105,957 |
| 2026 | 184,191 |
| 2027 | (36,933) |
| 2028 | (2,746) |
| | \$ 333,994 |

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The current year actuarial assumptions utilized for this report are based on the assumptions used in the September 30, 2023 actuarial funding valuation, which (with the exception of mortality) were based on results of an actuarial experience study for the period October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2019. All assumptions selected were determined to be reasonable and represent expectations of future experience for the Fund.

Additional information on the actuarial methods and assumptions used as of the September 30, 2023 actuarial valuation follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| Actuarial Cost Method | Entry age normal |
| Investment rate of return (discount rate) | 5.50%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation |
| Inflation Rate | 2.10% |
| Salary Increases | 5.25% |
| Annuitant and beneficiary mortality | Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Healthy Retirees multiplied by 120% with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale. |
| Active members mortality | Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Employees multiplied by 120% with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale. |
| Disabled Annuitant Mortality | Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Disabled Retirees multiplied by 120% with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale. |
| Expected remaining services lives | 6 years |

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

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 expense 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 7.85% as of September 30, 2023.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of September 30, 2023, are summarized in the following table.

| <u>Asset Class</u> | <u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u> |
|----------------------|---|
| Domestic equity | 7.50% |
| International equity | 8.50% |
| Domestic bonds | 2.50% |
| International bonds | 3.50% |
| Real estate | 4.50% |

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 participating employers will be made at actuarially determined contribution rates, which are calculated in accordance with relevant statutes 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 Discount Rate

The following presents the net pension liability of the Fund calculated using the discount rate of 5.50%, as well as what the Fund's net pension liability 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:

| | 1% Decrease | Current Discount Rate | 1% Increase |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | 4.50% | 5.50% | 6.50% |
| Net Pension Liability | <u>\$ 999,926</u> | <u>\$ 445,132</u> | <u>\$ 26,609</u> |

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Changes in Net Pension Liability

The effects of certain other changes in the net pension liability are required to be included in pension expense over the current and future periods. The effects on the total pension liability of (1) changes of economic and demographic assumptions or of other inputs and (2) differences between expected and actual experience are required to be included in pension expense in a systematic and rational manner over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with benefits through the pension plan (active employees and inactive employees), determined as of the beginning of the measurement period. The effect on net pension liability of differences between the projected earnings on pension plan investments and actual experience with regard to those earnings is required to be included in pension expense in a systematic and rational manner over a closed period of five years, beginning with the current period.

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's assets, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, 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>.

(9) Deferred Compensation Plan

The Assessor offers its employees participation in the Louisiana Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan administered by the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Commission. The plan, regulated under the provision of Title 32, Part VII of the Louisiana Administrative Code, is a defined contribution plan established in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan is a retirement savings plan allowing eligible employees to supplement any existing retirement and pension benefits by saving and investing pre-tax and/or after-tax dollars through a voluntary salary contribution.

Contributions to Section 457 plans are determined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Internal Revenue Service. In 2023, participants in the plan may contribute up to 100% of earnable compensation or \$22,500, whichever is less. Participants in the plan have two different options to catch-up and contribute more when nearing retirement. In the three calendar years prior to normal retirement age, the special catch-up allows participants to contribute up to \$45,000 in 2023. Also, participants who were age 50 or older by the end of the calendar year are eligible to make additional catch-up contributions of up to \$7,500.

The Assessor has opted to match 100% of participating employees' elective deferrals. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Assessor contributed \$23,050 to the plan. No amounts were payable to the plan at December 31, 2023.

Participant and on-behalf Assessor contributions to the plan may be invested in a variety of investment options broadly diversified with distinct risk and return characteristics. Self-directed brokerage and managed account options are available. Contributions and investment earnings are always 100% vested.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The plan has issued a standalone audit of their financial statements. Access to the report can be located on the website of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, www.la.gov, or the Louisiana public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan, www.LouisianaDCP.com.

(10) Post-Retirement Health Care and Life Insurance Benefits

General Information about the OPEB Plan

Plan Description: The Assessor provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. The plan is a single-employer defined benefit health care plan administered by the Insurance Committee of the Assessor’s Insurance Fund dba Louisiana Assessor’s Association. The Insurance Committee of the Assessor’s Insurance Fund has the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions of the plan. The plan issued a publicly available financial report. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria of paragraph 4 of Statement No. 75.

Benefits Provided: The Assessor provides medical, dental, and life insurance coverage for eligible employees, retirees, and their dependents through the Louisiana Assessor’s Association. The Assessor pays for the cost of the employee’s and retiree’s medical, dental, and life coverage. The retiree can also elect to cover his or her spouse and dependents but must pay the entire premium for their coverage. The Assessor recognizes the cost of providing these benefits (the Assessor’s portion of premiums) as an expenditure when the monthly premiums are due. The benefits are financed on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms: At December 31, 2023 the following employees were covered by the benefit terms –

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Inactive employees currently receiving benefits payments | 4 |
| Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments | - |
| Active employees | 5 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 9 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> |

Total OPEB Liability

The Assessor’s total OPEB liability of \$2,213,359 was measured as of December 31, 2023 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022. The total OPEB liability was updated from the actuarial valuation date to the measurement date using standard actuarial roll-forward techniques.

Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs: The total OPEB liability in the December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Actuarial cost method | Entry-Age Normal |
| Inflation | 2.50% |
| Salary increases, including inflation | 2.50% |
| Discount rate | 3.77% |
| Health care cost trend rates | |
| Medical | 0.00% for year 1, varying gradually until an ultimate rate of 5.0% for 5+ and beyond. |

The discount rate was based on the December 31, 2023 Fidelity General Obligation AA 20-year yield.

Mortality rates for active employees were based on the PubG.H-2010 Employee Mortality Table, Generational with Projection Scale MP-2021. Mortality rates for retirees were based on the PubG.H-2010 Retiree Mortality Table, Generational with Projection Scale MP-2021. Mortality rates for disabled retirees were based on the PubG.H-2010 Disabled Mortality Table, Generational with Projection Scale MP-2021.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

The following presents changes in the total OPEB liability.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Balance at December 31, 2022 | <u>\$2,373,286</u> |
| Changes for the year: | |
| Service cost | 63,717 |
| Interest | 96,991 |
| Difference between expected and actual experience | (232,320) |
| Changes in assumptions/inputs | (7,886) |
| Benefit payments | <u>(80,429)</u> |
| Net changes | <u>(159,927)</u> |
| Balance at December 31, 2023 | <u>\$2,213,359</u> |

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Assessor recognized an OPEB expense of \$148,936. At December 31, 2023, the Assessor reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

| | Deferred Outflows of Resources | Deferred Inflows of Resources |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Differences between expected and actual experience | \$ 679,247 | \$ 324,277 |
| Change of assumptions or other inputs | <u>189,152</u> | <u>1,066,206</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 868,399</u> | <u>\$ 1,390,483</u> |

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

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

| Year Ended December 31, | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2024 | \$ (11,772) |
| 2025 | (11,762) |
| 2026 | (61,420) |
| 2027 | (87,207) |
| 2028 | (87,207) |
| Thereafter | <u>(262,716)</u> |
| | <u>\$ (522,084)</u> |

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 one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

| | 1% Decrease | Discount Rate | 1% Increase |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tota OPEB liability | <u>\$2,749,603</u> | <u>\$2,213,359</u> | <u>\$1,936,407</u> |

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Change 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 one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rate:

| | 1% Decrease | Current Trend Rate | 1% Increase |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tota OPEB liability | <u>\$1,897,289</u> | <u>\$2,213,359</u> | <u>\$2,826,682</u> |

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(11) Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Assessor

A detail of compensation, benefits, and other payments paid to the Assessor, Chris Guillory, for the year ended December 31, 2023 follows:

| <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Salary | \$ 138,386 |
| Expense allowance | 13,839 |
| Benefits - insurance | 25,473 |
| Benefits - retirement | 18,613 |
| Benefitis - deferred compensation | 4,200 |
| Auto allowance | 22,834 |
| Conference | 2,795 |
| Cell phone | 2,498 |
| Meals | 968 |
| | <u>\$ 229,606</u> |

(12) Expenditures of the Assessor Paid by the Evangeline Parish Police Jury

The Evangeline Parish Police Jury provided the office space and utilities for the Assessor's office for the year ended December 31, 2023. These expenditures are not reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

(13) Risk Management

The Assessor is exposed to risks of loss in the areas of auto and property liability and surety bonds. All of these risks are handled by purchasing commercial insurance coverage. There have been no significant reductions in the insurance coverage during the year, nor have settlements exceeded coverage for the past three years.

(14) Litigation

There is no litigation pending against the Assessor at December 31, 2023.

**REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

General Fund
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

| | Budget | | Actual | Variance - Positive (Negative) |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Original | Final | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Taxes - ad valorem | \$ 853,550 | \$ 829,843 | \$ 937,756 | \$ 107,913 |
| Intergovernmental revenues - | | | | |
| State revenue sharing | 37,500 | 38,151 | 38,174 | 23 |
| Charges for services | 1,500 | 500 | 500 | - |
| Interest | 7,500 | 29,004 | 27,013 | (1,991) |
| Total revenues | 900,050 | 897,498 | 1,003,443 | 105,945 |
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| Current - | | | | |
| General government: | | | | |
| Personnel services and related benefits | 727,278 | 748,176 | 746,489 | 1,687 |
| Operating services | 43,000 | 48,709 | 56,930 | (8,221) |
| Materials and supplies | 90,000 | 141,241 | 132,061 | 9,180 |
| Capital outlay | - | 114,022 | 85,422 | 28,600 |
| Debt Service - | | | | |
| Principal | - | - | 28,411 | (28,411) |
| Interest | - | - | 189 | (189) |
| Total expenditures | 860,278 | 1,052,148 | 1,049,502 | 2,646 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures | 39,772 | (154,650) | (46,059) | 108,591 |
| Other financing sources: | | | | |
| Proceeds from SBITA | - | 85,422 | 85,422 | - |
| Net change in fund balance | 39,772 | (69,228) | 39,363 | 108,591 |
| Fund balance, beginning | 2,592,980 | 2,592,980 | 2,592,980 | - |
| Fund balance, ending | \$2,632,752 | \$2,523,752 | \$2,632,343 | \$ 108,591 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

| | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total OPEB Liability | | | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ 63,717 | \$ 106,641 | \$ 100,990 | \$ 82,959 | \$ 55,967 | \$ 62,457 |
| Interest | 96,991 | 50,708 | 57,508 | 70,464 | 72,891 | 66,873 |
| Difference between expected and actual experience | (232,320) | 785,725 | (125,782) | (63,333) | 176,667 | 754 |
| Changes of assumptions or other inputs | (7,886) | (1,188,309) | (103,500) | 243,824 | 296,291 | (144,060) |
| Benefit payments | <u>(80,429)</u> | <u>(73,759)</u> | <u>(34,483)</u> | <u>(34,265)</u> | <u>(25,327)</u> | <u>(45,000)</u> |
| Net change in OPEB liability | (159,927) | (318,994) | (105,267) | 299,649 | 576,489 | (58,976) |
| Total OPEB liability, beginning | <u>2,373,286</u> | <u>2,692,280</u> | <u>2,797,547</u> | <u>2,497,898</u> | <u>1,921,408</u> | <u>1,980,384</u> |
| Total OPEB liability, ending | <u>\$2,213,359</u> | <u>\$2,373,286</u> | <u>\$2,692,280</u> | <u>\$2,797,547</u> | <u>\$2,497,897</u> | <u>\$1,921,408</u> |
| Covered-employee payroll | <u>\$ 499,706</u> | <u>\$ 487,518</u> | <u>\$ 468,557</u> | <u>\$ 457,129</u> | <u>\$ 372,968</u> | <u>\$ 363,871</u> |
| Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered payroll | <u>442.93%</u> | <u>486.81%</u> | <u>574.59%</u> | <u>611.98%</u> | <u>669.73%</u> | <u>528.05%</u> |

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

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

| Year Ended September 30, | Employer Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) | Employer Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) | Employer's Covered Payroll | Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll | Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability |
|-----------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 2023 | 0.908509% | \$ 445,132 | \$ 432,143 | 103.0% | 90.91% |
| 2022 | 0.905078% | 599,553 | 480,650 | 124.7% | 87.25% |
| 2021 | 1.038300% | (341,352) | 538,044 | -63.4% | 106.48% |
| 2020 | 1.195009% | 182,569 | 373,645 | 48.9% | 96.79% |
| 2019 | 0.839874% | 221,544 | 362,632 | 61.1% | 94.12% |
| 2018 | 0.822710% | 159,938 | 372,609 | 42.9% | 95.46% |
| 2017 | 0.848731% | 148,928 | 376,091 | 39.6% | 95.61% |
| 2016 | 0.860154% | 303,522 | 341,795 | 88.8% | 90.68% |
| 2015 | 0.813420% | 425,681 | 327,307 | 130.1% | 85.57% |

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

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer Contributions
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

| <u>Year ended December 31,</u> | <u>Contractually Required Contribution</u> | <u>Contributions in Relation to Contractual Required Contribution</u> | <u>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</u> | <u>Employer's Covered Payroll</u> | <u>Contributions as a % of Covered Payroll</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| 2023 | \$15,605 | \$15,605 | \$ - | \$ 413,630 | 3.77% |
| 2022 | 20,058 | 20,058 | - | 433,693 | 4.62% |
| 2021 | 34,199 | 34,199 | - | 427,493 | 8.00% |
| 2020 | 47,773 | 47,773 | - | 597,163 | 8.00% |
| 2019 | 30,687 | 30,687 | - | 383,589 | 8.00% |
| 2018 | 29,110 | 29,110 | - | 363,872 | 8.00% |
| 2017 | 34,097 | 34,097 | - | 358,915 | 9.50% |
| 2016 | 49,416 | 49,416 | - | 392,858 | 12.58% |
| 2015 | 46,794 | 46,794 | - | 346,625 | 13.50% |

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

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

(1) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

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

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. A public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for a hearing. 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. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year. 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) OPEB Plan

Changes in Benefit Terms – There were no changes in benefit terms.

Changes of Assumptions –

| <u>Year Ended</u> <u>December 31,</u> | <u>Discount</u> <u>Rate</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 2023 | 3.77% |
| 2022 | 4.05% |
| 2021 | 1.84% |
| 2020 | 2.00% |
| 2019 | 2.75% |
| 2018 | 3.71% |
| 2017 | 3.31% |

No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria of GASB No. 75, paragraph 4, to pay related benefits.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Required Supplementary Information (Continued)

(3) Pension Plan

Changes of Benefit Terms – There were no changes in benefit terms.

Changes of Assumptions –

| <u>Year Ended December 31,</u> | <u>Discount Rate</u> | <u>Investment Rate of Return</u> | <u>Inflation Rate</u> | <u>Expected Remaining Service Lives</u> | <u>Projected Salary Increase</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|--|
| 2023 | 5.50% | 5.50% | 2.10% | 6 | 5.25% |
| 2022 | 5.50% | 5.50% | 2.10% | 6 | 5.25% |
| 2021 | 5.50% | 5.50% | 2.10% | 6 | 5.25% |
| 2020 | 5.75% | 5.75% | 2.10% | 6 | 5.25% |
| 2019 | 6.00% | 6.00% | 2.20% | 6 | 5.75% |
| 2018 | 6.25% | 6.25% | 2.20% | 6 | 5.75% |
| 2017 | 6.75% | 6.75% | 2.50% | 6 | 5.75% |
| 2016 | 7.00% | 7.00% | 2.50% | 6 | 5.75% |
| 2015 | 7.00% | 7.00% | 2.50% | 6 | 5.75% |

The amounts presented have a measurement date of September 30th of the fiscal year.

**INTERNAL CONTROL, COMPLIANCE,
AND OTHER MATTERS**

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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 Chris Guillory
Evangeline Parish Assessor
Ville Platte, Louisiana

We 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Evangeline Parish Assessor (Assessor), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Assessor's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 23, 2024.

Report on 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 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 a 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. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan as item 2023-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Assessor's financial statements are free from 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 of financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Evangeline Parish Assessor's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Assessor's response to the findings identified in our audit and 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 other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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 entity'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 entity'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

Ville Platte, Louisiana
May 23, 2024

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Part I. Current Year Findings relating to an audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*:

A. Internal Control

2023-001 Segregation of Duties

Fiscal Year Finding Initially Occurred: Unknown

CONDITION: The Assessor does not have an adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

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, effected 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 the 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: Due to the size of the operation and cost-benefit of additional personnel, it may not be feasible to achieve complete segregation of accounting duties.

B. Compliance

There were no compliance findings for the year ended December 31, 2023.

(continued)

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Continued)

Part II. Prior Year Findings relating to an audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*:

A. Internal Control

2022-001 Segregation of Duties

Fiscal Year Finding Initially Occurred: Unknown

CONDITION: The Assessor does not have an adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

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.

CURRENT STATUS: Unresolved. See finding 2023-001.

B. Compliance

There were no compliance findings for the year ended December 31, 2022.

EVANGELINE PARISH ASSESSOR
Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures Report
Year Ended December 31, 2023

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Evangeline Parish Assessor
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The Evangeline Parish Assessor's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Evangeline Parish Assessor has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
 - i. ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - ii. ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - iii. ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

- iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- vii. **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- xii. **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i – xii.

2) Board or Finance Committee – N/A The Assessor does not have a Board or Finance Committee.

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
 - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparison, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds.
 - iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:

Obtained the listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.

- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged); and

Exception noted.

- iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

Obtained the listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete.

- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

- i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;

Exception noted.

- iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and

Exception noted.

- iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or custodial fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

Exception noted.

- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
- ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
- iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
- iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
- v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i, ii, iii, and v. We were unable to determine the date of receipt.

5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

Obtained the listing of locations that process payments and management's representation that the listing is complete.

- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;

This process can be performed by one employee.

- ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;

Exception noted.

- iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and

Exception noted.

- v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and:

- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity; and
- ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i - ii.

- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

Obtained the listing of active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) and management's representation that the listing is complete.

- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and

- i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported; and

- ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

One card did not have approval indicated on invoices; no finance or late charges were assessed.

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Two (2) receipts did not indicate precisely what was purchased; eight (8) receipts did not have documentation of business/public purpose; and one (1) receipt did not contain documentation of individuals participating in the meal.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:

Obtained the listing of travel and travel-related reimbursements and management’s representation that the listing is complete.

- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov);

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and

One exception was noted.

- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

8) Contracts

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management’s representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner’s contract, and:

- i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
- ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
- iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
- iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i – iv.

9) Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

Obtained a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
 - i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
 - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
 - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
 - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i - iv.

- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
- i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and
 - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i - ii.

- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

11) Debt Service – N/A the Assessor does not have any debt.

- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.
- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

12) Fraud Notice

- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures:
- i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in Payroll and Personnel procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:

- Hired before June 9, 2020 – completed the training; and
- Hired on or after June 9, 2020 – completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

One of the employees selected did not complete the training in the required time frame.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

- i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
- ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;

- iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
- iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i – v.

Management’s Response

The Evangeline Parish Assessor concurs with the exceptions and is working to address the deficiencies identified.

We were engaged by the Evangeline Parish Assessor to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Evangeline Parish Assessor and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana
May 23, 2024