

**CHEROKEE COUNTY  
RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 8  
TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

**AUDITED BY:**

Robert St. Pierre C.P.A., P.C.  
Certified Public Accountant  
1113 North Second St.  
Stilwell, Oklahoma 74960

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**INDEPENDENT**

**AUDITOR'S**

**REPORTS**

# ROBERT ST. PIERRE, C.P.A., P.C.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities, of the Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8 as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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 business-type activities, of the Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8, as of December 31, 2022 and 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

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 Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8 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 Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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 judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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 Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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***

The District has omitted management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires 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 (GASB), who considers it to be an essential part of the 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 **June 7, 2024**, on our consideration of the Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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 Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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 Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

***Robert St. Pierre***

Robert St. Pierre C.P.A., P.C.  
Stilwell, Oklahoma  
**June 7, 2024**

**FINANCIAL**

**SECTION**

**CHEROKEE COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 8**  
**STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION**  
**As of December 31, 2022 and 2023**

<b>ASSETS</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 76,603	\$ 167,727
Certificate of Deposit (Note 2)	250,000	250,000
Accounts Receivable ( <i>Net of Allowance</i> )(Note 3)	15,215	9,955
Prepaid Insurance	9,753	7,956
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>351,571</b>	<b>435,638</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS (Note 11)</b>		
Land	28,117	28,117
Water System	2,953,605	2,898,685
Vehicles	42,500	12,500
Equipment	115,257	115,257
Buildings	140,994	140,070
Construction in Progress	1,188,849	-
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,360,941)	(1,261,646)
<b>NET FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>3,108,381</b>	<b>1,932,983</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,459,952</b>	<b>\$ 2,368,621</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 19,344	\$ 19,299
Prepaid Water Bills CN	27,610	-
Accrued Payroll	1,314	847
Payroll Taxes Payable	2,250	1,880
Accrued Interest Payable	13,861	13,218
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt (Note 4)	45,000	44,000
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>109,379</b>	<b>79,244</b>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Long-Term Debt (Note 4)	557,000	602,000
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<b>557,000</b>	<b>602,000</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>666,379</b>	<b>681,244</b>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Invested in Capital Assets Net of Related Debt	2,506,381	1,286,983
Restricted for Debt Service	31,642	32,134
Unrestricted	255,550	368,260
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$ 2,793,573</b>	<b>\$ 1,687,377</b>

**CHEROKEE COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 8**  
**STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION**  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>REVENUE:</b>		
Water Revenue	\$ 383,409	\$ 307,852
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<u>383,409</u>	<u>307,852</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Water Purchased	172,769	106,496
Salary Wages & Taxes	67,846	59,681
Security	845	610
Professional Fees	6,200	4,800
Meals	569	416
Automobile Expense	6,660	7,592
Bank Service Charges	3,306	2,930
Office Expense	8,250	13,904
Postage & Delivery	-	5,966
Insurance	9,576	8,089
Licenses/Subscriptions/Dues	2,544	1,076
Repairs and Maintenance	6,879	4,734
Chemicals, Field Supplies & Testing	7,028	27,087
Utilities	12,338	5,484
Miscellaneous	1,396	816
Depreciation	99,295	101,380
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<u>405,501</u>	<u>351,061</u>
<b>NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<u>(22,092)</u>	<u>(43,209)</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES):</b>		
Interest Income	8,619	3,872
Other Income	11,668	7,093
Cherokee Nation Grant	106,744	60,000
ODOT Reimbursement	1,009,381	37,500
Membership Income	10,600	10,800
Bond Trustee Fee	(1,007)	(1,007)
Interest Expense	(17,717)	(18,902)
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>	<u>1,128,288</u>	<u>99,356</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	1,106,196	56,147
<b>NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	<u>1,687,377</u>	<u>1,631,230</u>
<b>NET POSITION, END OF THE YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,793,573</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,687,377</u></u>

**CHEROKEE COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 8**  
**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Cash Inflows:		
Payments Received from Customers	\$ 378,150	\$ 312,911
Other Receipts	49,334	16,886
Cash Outflows:		
Payments to Employees and Related Taxes	(62,003)	(55,135)
Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	(217,872)	(187,769)
<b>Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Expenses</b>	<b>147,609</b>	<b>86,893</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Additions to Capital Assets	(1,274,694)	(137,924)
Interest Income	8,619	3,872
<b>Net Cash Provided (Used) for Investing Activities</b>	<b>(1,266,075)</b>	<b>(134,052)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Grant Income	1,089,059	97,500
Principal Reduction of Long-Term Debt	(44,000)	(42,000)
Interest Payments on Notes	(17,717)	(18,902)
<b>Net Cash Provided(Used) for Capital &amp; Related Financing Activities</b>	<b>1,027,342</b>	<b>36,598</b>
<b>NET CASH INFLOW (OUTFLOW) FROM ALL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(91,124)</b>	<b>(10,561)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>167,727</b>	<b>178,288</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 76,603</b>	<b>\$ 167,727</b>
<b>Cash Paid for Interest</b>	<b>\$ 17,717</b>	<b>\$ 18,902</b>

**CHEROKEE COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 8**  
**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss to Net Cash)</b>		
<b>Provided by Operating Activities:</b>		
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (22,092)	\$ (43,209)
Other Receipts	48,327	16,886
Depreciation	99,295	101,380
<b>(Increase) Decrease in:</b>		
Accounts Receivable	(5,260)	5,058
Prepaid Insurance	(1,797)	59
<b>(Increase) Decrease in:</b>		
Accounts Payable	29,136	5,083
Payroll Taxes Payable	-	1,636
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities</b>	<u><u>\$ 147,609</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 86,893</u></u>

**FINANCIAL**

**STATEMENT**

**NOTES**

**CHEROKEE COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 8**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8, (the "District") was incorporated as a rural water district by the Board of County Commissioners under the provisions of Title 82, O.S. 1981 Sections 1324.1-1324.26 inclusive, for the purpose of providing water to the members it serves. Membership in the water District consists of water users who have paid the required membership and connection fees. The District is exempt from federal and state taxes.

The board consists of five (5) members serving a term of five (5) years. The terms are staggered one, two, and three years. The officers are elected at the annual meeting each year.

**A. Reporting Entity**

Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8 is an independent, self-contained reporting entity with no associated component units. It is operated in a manner similar to a private business enterprise where the cost (expenses, including depreciation) of providing water services is financed through user charges.

**B. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) promulgated in the United States of America. The accounting and financial reporting treatment is accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with the operation are included on the statement of net position. The operating statements present increases (e.g. revenues) and decreases (e.g. expenses) in net total assets. Depreciation expense is provided for capital assets based upon estimated useful lives. Financial activity is accounted for on the flow of economic resources measurement focus using the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

**C. Assets, Liabilities and Equity**

**1. Deposits and Investments**

Oklahoma Statutes authorize the District to invest in certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements, passbooks, bankers' acceptances, and other available bank investments provided that all deposits are fully covered by approved securities pledged to secure those funds. In addition, the District can invest in direct debt securities of the United States of America unless such an investment is expressly prohibited by law.

All the bank deposits are carried at cost plus accrued interest. For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the District considers all highly liquid investments with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

## Custodial Credit Risk

At December 31, 2022 and 2023, the District held deposits of approximately \$326,603 and \$417,727 in four different banks, respectively. All deposits were covered by FDIC insurance on December 31, 2022 and 2023. The District's cash deposits consisted of interest-bearing certificate of deposit, checking accounts, and a restricted account.

The District does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

## Investment Credit Risk

The District has no policy that limits its investment choices other than the limitation of state law as follows:

Direct obligations of the U.S. Government, its agencies, and instrumentalities to which the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government is pledged, or obligations to the payment of which the full faith and credit of the State is pledged.

Certificates of deposits or savings accounts that are either insured or secured with acceptable collateral with in-state financial institutions, and fully insured certificates of deposit or savings accounts in out-of-state financial institutions.

With certain limitations, negotiable certificates of deposit, prime bankers' acceptances, prime commercial paper and repurchase agreements with certain limitations.

County, municipal or school District tax supported debt obligations, bond or revenue anticipation notes, money judgments, or bond or revenue anticipation notes of public trusts whose beneficiary is a county, municipality, or school District.

Notes or bonds secured by mortgage or trust deed insured by the Federal Housing Administrator and debentures issued by the Federal Housing Administrator, and in obligations of the National Mortgage Association.

Money market funds regulated by the SEC and in which investments consist of the investments mentioned in the previous paragraphs (a.-d.).

The investments held at December 31, 2023 are as follows:

	Rate	Maturity Date	Face Value	Current Value
Bank of Cherokee County - Certificate of Deposit	0.86%	8/5/2024	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
			<u>\$ 250,000</u>	<u>\$ 250,000</u>

## 2. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The District's financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and notes payable. The District's estimate of the fair value of all financial instruments does not differ materially from the aggregate carrying values of its financial instruments

recorded in the accompanying statement of net position. The carrying amount of these financial instruments approximates fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments.

**3. Estimates**

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

**4. Inventories**

Inventories consist primarily of water line supplies for the addition of new water lines and repair of old water lines. Inventory is valued at cost, principally on a first-in, first-out basis, but not more than the market. Inventory is typically ordered when needed, at year end there was no inventory on hand.

**5. Capital Assets**

Additions to the water storage delivery system and other equipment are recorded at cost or, if contributed property, at their estimated acquisition value at time of contribution. Repairs and maintenance are recorded as expenses; renewals and betterments are capitalized. Non-cash contributions relate to both existing and new members of the District. If installation of water lines is required to a member's property, the District performs this service for the member at cost. The member's payment for such installation is recorded as a capital asset contribution. The District maintains a capitalization threshold of \$250 and an estimated useful life in excess of two (2) years.

Depreciation has been calculated on each class of depreciable property using the straight-line method. Estimated useful lives are as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Water System	10-50
Buildings	10-25
Equipment	7-10
Office Equipment	5-10

**6. Compensated Absences**

It is the District's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused sick time. Full-time employees are granted vacation and sick leave benefits in varying amounts to specified maximums depending on tenure. Management has chosen not to report these amounts in the financial statements as this does not result in a material difference on the financial statements.

**7. Net Position**

In the basic financial statements, net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

## 8. Resource Use Policy

It is in the District's policy for all funds that when an expenditure/expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources, including net positions, are available, the District considers restricted amounts to be spent first before any unrestricted amounts are used.

### D. Revenues, Expenses and Other Changes in Net Position

#### 1. Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues and expenses are principally from water sales and connection fees charged to new system subscribers. Customer water consumption is determined by monthly meter readings taken by District personnel. The water sales from subscriber water consumption billed but unpaid at the District's year-end are recognized as revenue in the current year and reported in the statement of net position as accounts receivable. Operating expense consist of those costs necessary to operate and maintain the water distribution system and for general administration of the District.

#### 2. Non-Operating Revenue and Expenses

Non-operating revenues and expenses consist of investment earnings, interest expense incurred on the District's notes payable and gains and losses on sales or the abandonment of long-lived assets.

#### 3. Bad Debts

The District uses the allowance method for recognizing bad debts. Under the allowance method, management has established an allowance account equal to the over 90 days old receivables. When an account is deemed uncollectible it is charged against an allowance account which is an offset to accounts receivable.

### NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash consists of the following:	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>		
Cash Checking	\$ 31,168	\$ 30,497
Capital Acquisition Fund	13,793	105,096
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED</b>	<u>44,961</u>	<u>135,593</u>
<b>RESTRICTED</b>		
Debt Service Fund - Principal	22,210	22,081
Debt Service Fund - Interest	8,624	9,045
Debt Service Fund - Fees	808	1,008
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED</b>	<u>31,642</u>	<u>32,134</u>
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<u>\$ 76,603</u>	<u>\$ 167,727</u>
<b>Certificates of Deposit</b>	<u>\$ 250,000</u>	<u>\$ 250,000</u>

**NOTE 3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

Accounts receivable consist of trade receivables. An aging of accounts receivable for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023 is presented below. An allowance for doubtful accounts has been established at this time for the accounts that are over ninety days overdue.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current	\$ 13,176	\$ 12,433
1-30 Days	3,729	-
30-60 Days	1,177	-
Over 60 Days	211	-
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	<u>(3,078)</u>	<u>(2,478)</u>
Total Accounts Receivables	<u>\$ 15,215</u>	<u>\$ 9,955</u>

**NOTE 4: LONG-TERM DEBT**

On December 30, 2019, the District signed a promissory note with RCB Bank for \$750,000. This note was to complete an advance refunding of a 2009 bond issue. The note bears interest at the rate of 2.79% and has a maturity date of January 1, 2035.

The District had the following long-term debt as of December 31, 2023:

<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Date Note Matures</b>	<b>Collateral Pledged</b>	<b>Rate of Interest</b>	<b>Original Balance</b>	<b>Balance At 12/31/2023</b>
RCB Bank	1/1/2035	Revenues/Assets	2.79%	\$ 750,000	\$ 602,000
				<u>750,000</u>	<u>602,000</u>

The total future scheduled maturities of long-term debt are as follows:

Years ending December 31 :

	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>
Current Portion	\$ 45,000	\$ 17,717
2025	46,000	16,489
2026	48,000	15,219
2027	49,000	13,922
2028	50,000	12,583
2029-2033	274,000	41,487
2034-2038	<u>90,000</u>	<u>6,236</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 602,000</u>	<u>\$ 123,653</u>

**NOTE 5: FINANCE-RELATED LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS**

The terms of the long-term debt agreements with RCB Bank require Reserve Accounts as shown in Note 4. All the requirements have been met.

**NOTE 6: RESTRICTED ASSETS**

The cash in trust fund account is an account that is an offset to the Revenue Bonds Payable as shown in Note 4. This fund is the Debt Service Fund held by UMB Bank.

**NOTE 7: COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8, currently participates in various grant programs. These grants are subject to audit by the grantor agency or their representatives. Such audits could lead to requests for reimbursement to the grantor agency for services disallowed under the terms of the contract. Presently Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8, is not aware of any pending requests, and in the opinion of management, any such amounts would not be considered material.

**NOTE 8: STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

As a local government unit, the District is subject to various federal, state, and local laws and contractual regulations. In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, the auditor has issued a report on his consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in compliance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of the audit.

**NOTE 9: DEFICIT NET POSITION**

As indicated in the financial statements, there are no deficit net position for the District for this fiscal year.

**NOTE 10: RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District continues to carry commercial insurance for these risks, including general and auto liability, property damage, and public officials' liability. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded the commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

**NOTE 11: CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset balances and activity for the year ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, were as follows:

Capital asset activity for business type activities for the year ended December 31, 2023 was as follows:

	Balance January 1, 2023	Additions	Reductions	Balance December 31, 2023
Land	\$ 28,117	-	-	\$ 28,117
Construction in Progress	-	1,188,849	-	1,188,849
Buildings and Building Improvements	140,070	924	-	140,994
Vehicles	12,500	30,000	-	42,500
Infrastructure	2,898,685	54,920	-	2,953,605
Equipment	115,257	-	-	115,257
Total Capital Assets	3,194,629	1,274,693	-	4,469,322
<i>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</i>	1,261,646	99,295	-	1,360,941
Governmental Activities, Capital Assets, Net	\$ 1,932,983	1,175,398	-	\$ 3,108,381

Capital asset activity for business type activities for the year ended December 31, 2022 was as follows:

	Balance January 1, 2022	Additions	Reductions	Balance December 31, 2022
Land	\$ 28,117	-	-	\$ 28,117
Buildings and Building Improvements	108,865	31,205	-	140,070
Vehicles	12,500	-	-	12,500
Infrastructure	2,829,465	69,220	-	2,898,685
Equipment	77,758	37,499	-	115,257
Total Capital Assets	3,056,705	137,924	-	3,194,629
<i>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</i>	1,160,265	101,381	-	1,261,646
Governmental Activities, Capital Assets, Net	\$ 1,896,440	36,543	-	\$ 1,932,983

## NOTE 12: EVALUATION OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The District has evaluated subsequent events through **June 7, 2024**, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

**SUPPLEMENTARY**

**INFORMATION**

**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**

To the Board of Directors  
Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

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 business-type activities of Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated **June 7, 2024**.

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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 Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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 certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-1 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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 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*.

**Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8's Response to Findings**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule

of findings and responses. The Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 8'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.

*Robert St. Pierre*

Robert St. Pierre C.P.A., P.C.  
Stilwell, Oklahoma

June 7, 2024

## **SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**

### **For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

#### **2023-1: Lack of Segregation of Duties**

**Criteria:** The segregation of duties and responsibilities between different individuals for custody of assets, recordkeeping for those assets, and reconciliation of those asset accounts is an important control activity needed to adequately protect the entity's assets and ensure accurate financial reporting.

**Condition:** Presently, the same individual that is responsible for billing and adjustments also posts payment to subsidiary accounts receivable ledgers. While oversight is provided by a local CPA, it is limited to the bank reconciliation and monthly overview of the financial statements. This condition was also reported in 2022.

**Cause:** The entity's limited size and staffing resources have made it difficult for management to provide sufficient staffing to fully segregate incompatible duties in a cost-effective manner.

**Effect or Potential Effect:** Without sufficient segregation of duties, the risk significantly increases that errors and fraud related to the membership and other billing and collection activities, including misappropriation of assets, could occur and not be detected within a timely basis.

**Recommendation:** Management and the board should consider a formal evaluation of their risks associated with this lack of duties segregation over assets. In response to the Identified risks, consideration should be given to identifying and implementing compensating duties to act as controls that could help mitigate the risks associated with lack of segregation of duties, such as management performing review procedures for the reconciliation of accounts.

**Responsible Official's Response:** The District concurs with the recommendation and will continue to use the services of a local CPA to review the financial statements and prepare the bank reconciliation. Board members are also active in their roles and aware of the limited internal controls and provide oversight and consult with the CPA on any matters that may give rise to any concerns.