

Town of Bennington, Oklahoma

**Financial Statements and Report
of Independent Accountants**

**As of and For the Year Ending
June 30, 2023**

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Accountant	1
<u>Government Wide Financial Statements</u>	
Statement of Net Position – Modified Cash Basis	4
Statement of Activities – Modified Cash Basis	5
<u>Fund Financial Statements</u>	
Balance Sheet-Governmental Funds – Modified Cash Basis	6
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in in Fund Balances-Governmental Funds – Modified Cash Basis	7
Statement of Net Position-Proprietary Funds – Modified Cash Basis	8
Statement of Revenue over Expenditures and Changes in Net Position-Proprietary Funds – Modified Cash Basis	9
Statement of Cash Flows-Proprietary Funds – Modified Cash Basis	10
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements	11-19
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance and on Internal Control over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards	20-21
Summary of Current Findings and Responses	22-23

Russell & Williams CPA's, P.C.

Casey J. Russell, C.P.A., M.B.A.
Autumn L. Williams, C.P.A., Esq.
Member AICPA & OSCP

2812 NW 57th, Ste. 102
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

Phone: (405) 607-8743
Fax: (405) 607-8744
Email: caseycpa@hotmail.com

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Trustees
Town of Bennington, Oklahoma

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying modified cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Bennington, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town'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 modified cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bennington, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in modified cash-basis financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

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 Town of Bennington 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.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements that describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash-basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with the respect to this matter.

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 Town of Bennington'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 Town of Bennington'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 Town of Bennington'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

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information 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 February 1, 2024, on our consideration of the Town of Bennington'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 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 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 Town of Bennington's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Russell + Williams CPAs, P.C.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
February 1, 2024

Town of Bennington
Statement of Net Position
Modified Cash Basis
June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Totals
ASSETS			
Current Assets:			
Cash in Bank - Unrestricted	173,842.36	126,286.20	300,128.56
Cash in Bank - Restricted	8,405.44	19,764.26	28,169.70
Total Current Assets	<u>182,247.80</u>	<u>146,050.46</u>	<u>328,298.26</u>
Noncurrent Assets:			
Capital Assets, net	234,865.71	663,459.90	898,325.61
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>234,865.71</u>	<u>663,459.90</u>	<u>898,325.61</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 417,113.51</u>	<u>\$ 809,510.36</u>	<u>\$ 1,226,623.87</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities:			
Meter Deposits	-	1,350.00	1,350.00
Current Portion of Long Term Debt	-	6,915.00	6,915.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>8,265.00</u>	<u>8,265.00</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities:			
Notes Payable	-	68,103.63	68,103.63
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>68,103.63</u>	<u>68,103.63</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-</u>	<u>76,368.63</u>	<u>76,368.63</u>
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	234,865.71	588,441.27	823,306.98
Restricted	8,405.44	19,764.26	28,169.70
Unrestricted	173,842.36	124,936.20	298,778.56
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>417,113.51</u>	<u>733,141.73</u>	<u>1,150,255.24</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	<u>\$ 417,113.51</u>	<u>\$ 809,510.36</u>	<u>\$ 1,226,623.87</u>

The accompanying footnotes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Town of Bennington
Statement of Activities - Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ending June 30, 2023

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (expense) revenue and Changes in net position		Total
		Charges for Services	Capital Grants	Primary Government Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	
Primary Government						
Governmental Activities						
Cemetary	-	3,012.50	-	3,012.50	-	3,012.50
Police Department	5,561.84	2,835.36	-	(2,726.48)	-	(2,726.48)
General Government	126,535.92	68,170.14	36,092.13	(22,273.65)	-	(22,273.65)
Total Governmental Activities	132,097.76	74,018.00	36,092.13	(21,987.63)	-	(21,987.63)
Business-Type Activities						
Sewer Department	53,742.87	66,398.68	-	-	12,655.81	12,655.81
Trash Services	33,970.00	47,608.33	-	-	13,638.33	13,638.33
Economic Development	23,700.18	-	-	-	(23,700.18)	(23,700.18)
Total Business-Type Activities	111,413.05	114,007.01	-	-	2,593.96	2,593.96
Total Primary Government	<u>\$ 243,510.81</u>	<u>\$ 188,025.01</u>	<u>\$ 36,092.13</u>	<u>\$ (21,987.63)</u>	<u>\$ 2,593.96</u>	<u>\$ (19,393.67)</u>
		General Revenues				
				99,788.01	-	99,788.01
				17,840.65	-	17,840.65
				215.87	118.33	334.20
				117,844.53	118.33	117,962.86
			Transfer In/Out	(14,808.36)	14,808.36	-
			Change in Net Position	81,048.54	17,520.65	98,569.19
			Net Assets Beginning	336,064.97	715,621.08	1,051,686.05
			Net Assets Ending	<u>\$ 417,113.51</u>	<u>\$ 733,141.73</u>	<u>\$ 1,150,255.24</u>

The accompanying footnotes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Town of Bennington
Governmental Funds
Balance Sheet - Modified Cash Basis
June 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Cemetery Fund	Total Governmental Fund
ASSETS			
Cash in Bank - Unrestricted	173,842.36	-	173,842.36
Cash in Bank - Restricted	-	8,405.44	8,405.44
Total Assets	\$ 173,842.36	\$ 8,405.44	\$ 182,247.80
LIABILITIES			
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted	-	8,405.44	8,405.44
Unrestricted	173,842.36	-	173,842.36
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	173,842.36	8,405.44	182,247.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 173,842.36	\$ 8,405.44	\$ 182,247.80

***Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balance to
Net Position of Governmental Activities***

Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$ 182,247.80
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:	
Capital Assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	234,865.71
Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$ 417,113.51

**Town of Bennington
Governmental Funds
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Net Position
Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ending June 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Cemetary Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues			
Taxes	117,628.66	-	\$ 117,628.66
Fines	2,835.36	-	2,835.36
Grants	36,092.13	-	36,092.13
Interest	128.37	87.50	215.87
Rental Income	11,260.00	-	11,260.00
Other Revenues	56,910.14	3,012.50	59,922.64
Total Revenues	224,854.66	3,100.00	227,954.66
Expenditures			
General Government	43,504.64	-	43,504.64
Police Department	4,282.04	-	4,282.04
Maintenance and Operations	71,148.17	-	71,148.17
Total Expenditures	118,934.85	-	118,934.85
Excess revenues over (under) expenditures	105,919.81	3,100.00	109,019.81
Transfers In/Out	(14,808.36)	-	(14,808.36)
Excess revenue over (under) expenditures after transfer	91,111.45	3,100.00	94,211.45
Net Position at beginning of year	82,730.91	5,305.44	88,036.35
Net Position at end of year	\$ 173,842.36	\$ 8,405.44	\$ 182,247.80

***Reconciliation of Fund Financial Statements to
Governmental Wide Financial Statements***

Change in Net Position, Fund Financial Statements	94,211.45
Capital Outlay included in the expenditures of the fund financial statements	
Depreciation recorded in the government wide financial statements but not recorded in the fund financial statements	(13,162.91)
Change in Net Position per the Governmental Wide Financial Statements	\$ 81,048.54

Town of Bennington
Proprietary Fund
Statement of Net Position - Modified Cash Basis
June 30, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash in Bank - Unrestricted	\$ 126,286.20
Cash in Bank - Restricted	<u>19,764.26</u>
Total Current Assets	146,050.46

Noncurrent Assets

Capital Assets, net	<u>663,459.90</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	663,459.90
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 809,510.36</u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities:

Meter Deposits	1,350.00
Current Portion of Long Term Debt	<u>6,915.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	8,265.00

Noncurrent Liabilities:

Notes Payable	<u>68,103.63</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	68,103.63
TOTAL LIABILITIES	76,368.63

NET POSITION

Net Investment in Capital Assets	588,441.27
Restricted	19,764.26
Unrestricted	<u>124,936.20</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	733,141.73
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POS	<u>\$ 809,510.36</u>

The accompanying footnotes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Town of Bennington
Proprietary Fund
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Net Position
Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ending June 30, 2023**

Operating Revenues:	
Sewer Fees	\$ 66,398.68
Trash Fees	<u>47,608.33</u>
Total Operating Revenues	114,007.01
Operating Expenditures:	
Personnel Services	11,609.85
Maintenance and Operations	10,306.85
Trash Contract	33,970.00
Depreciation	51,894.99
Interest	<u>3,631.36</u>
Total Operating Expenditures	111,413.05
Excess Revenues over Expenditures	2,593.96
Non-operating Revenues (Expenditures)	
Transfer in (out)	14,808.36
Interest Income	<u>118.33</u>
Net Non-operating Revenues (Expenditures)	14,926.69
Excess Revenues over (under) Expenditures after transfers	17,520.65
Net Position at beginning of year	<u>715,621.08</u>
Net Position at end of year	<u><u>\$ 733,141.73</u></u>

The accompanying footnotes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Town of Bennington
Proprietary Fund
Statement of Cash Flows - Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ending June 30, 2023

Cash flows from operating activities	
Receipts from customers	\$ 114,125.34
Payments to suppliers	(33,099.85)
Payments to employees	(11,609.85)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>69,415.64</u>
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities	
Change in meter deposits	-
Principal paid on long term debt	(6,580.42)
Net cash flows from capital and related financing activities	<u>(6,580.42)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	62,835.22
Cash, Beginning of the Year	<u>83,215.24</u>
Cash, End of the Year	<u><u>\$ 146,050.46</u></u>
<i>Reconcilement of change in net assets to net cash provided by operations</i>	
Change in Net Assets	17,520.65
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities	
Depreciation	51,894.99
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>\$ 69,415.64</u></u>

Town of Bennington, Oklahoma
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in Note 1.C, these financial statements are presented on a modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). These modified cash-basis financial statements generally meet the presentation and disclosure requirements applicable to GAAP, in substance, but are limited to the elements presented in the financial statements and the constraints of the measurement and recognition criteria of the modified cash basis of accounting.

1.A. FINANCIAL REPORTING ENTITY

The Town of Bennington, Oklahoma is a statutory Town Government under Oklahoma Statutes. The Town provides the following services: public safety, streets and highways, sanitation, public improvements, utilities and general administrative services.

The criteria used to determine which accounting entities, agencies, commissions, boards and authorities are part of the Town's operations include how the budget is adopted, whether debt is secured by general obligation of the Town, the Town's duty to cover any deficits that may occur, and supervision over the accounting functions. Any separate accounting entities would be considered component units. There are no agencies, organizations or activities meeting any of the above criteria that are excluded from the Town's reporting entity. As of June 30, 2023, the Town has one component units, the Bennington Public Works Authority.

1.B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities display information about the reporting government as a whole within the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting. They include all funds of the reporting entity except for fiduciary funds. The statements distinguish between governmental and business-type activities.

Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange revenues. Business-type activities are financed, in whole or part, by fees charged to external parties for goods or services.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fund financial statements of the reporting entity are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitutes its assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, deferred inflows, net position or fund balance, revenues, and expenditures or expenses. The Town's funds are organized into two major categories: governmental and proprietary. The Town presently has no

fiduciary funds. An emphasis is placed on major funds within the governmental and proprietary categories. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the Town or meets the following criteria:

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

The funds of the financial reporting entity are described subsequently:

Governmental Funds

General Fund

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the Town and always classified as a major fund. It is used to account for all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of the specific revenue sources that are either restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The reporting entity includes the following special revenue funds, all of which are reported as nonmajor funds: Cemetery Fund.

Proprietary Funds

Enterprise Fund

Enterprise funds are used to account for business-like activities provided to the general public. These activities are financed primarily by user charges, and the measurement of financial activity focuses on net income measurement similar to the private sector. The reporting entity includes the following enterprise fund that is reported as a major fund: Bennington PWA.

1.C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS AND BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Measurement focus is a term used to describe what transactions or events are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to when and how transactions or events are recorded, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

MEASUREMENT FOCUS

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities, both governmental and business-like activities are presented using the economic resources

measurement focus, within the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting, as subsequently defined in item (b).

In the fund financial statements, the current financial resources measurement focus or the economic resources measurement focus, as applied to the modified cash basis of accounting, is used as appropriate:

- a. All governmental funds utilize a current financial resources measurement focus within the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on their balance sheets. Their operating statements present sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. These funds use fund balance as their measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.
- b. The proprietary fund utilizes an economic resources measurement focus within the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery), net financial position, and cash flows. All assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred inflows (whether current or noncurrent or financial or nonfinancial) associated with their activities are generally reported within the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements are presented on a modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than GAAP as established by GASB. This basis of accounting involves modifications to the cash basis of accounting to report in the statements of net position or balance sheets cash transactions or events that provide a benefit or result in an obligation that covers a period greater than the period in which the cash transaction or event occurred. Such reported balances include investments, interfund receivables and payables, capital assets and related depreciation, and short-term and long-term liabilities arising from cash transactions or events.

This modified cash basis of accounting differs from GAAP primarily because certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected and other accrued revenue and receivables) and certain liabilities and their related expenses or expenditures (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid and other accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements. In addition, other economic assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred inflows that do not arise from a cash transaction or event are not reported, and the measurement of reported assets and liabilities does not involve adjustment to fair value.

If the Town utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted in the United States, the fund financial statements for governmental funds would use the modified accrual basis of accounting, and the fund financial statements for proprietary fund types would use the accrual basis of accounting. All government-wide financial statements would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

1.D. FINANCIAL POSITION

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

For the purpose of financial reporting, cash and cash equivalents includes all demand and savings accounts and certificates of deposit or short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less. Trust account investments in open-ended mutual fund shares are also considered cash equivalents.

INVESTMENTS

Investments classified in the financial statements consist entirely of certificates of deposit acquired with cash whose original maturity term exceeds three months. Investments are carried at cost, which approximates fair value.

CAPITAL ASSETS

The Town's modified cash basis of accounting reports capital assets resulting from cash transactions or events and reports depreciation, when appropriate. The accounting treatment over property, plant, and equipment (capital assets) depends on whether the assets are used in governmental fund operations or proprietary fund and similar discretely presented component unit operations and whether they are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

Government-Wide Statements

In the government-wide financial statements, capital assets arising from cash transactions or events are accounted for as assets in the Statement of Net Position. All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual is unavailable.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets arising from cash transactions or events is recorded as an allocated 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. A capitalization threshold of \$500 is used to report capital assets. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Buildings	40-50 years
Improvements other than buildings	10-25 years
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	3-20 years
Utility property and improvements	10-50 years
Infrastructure	25-50 years

Fund Financial Statements

In the fund financial statements, capital assets arising from cash transactions or events acquired for use in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition. Capital assets acquired for use in proprietary fund operations are accounted for the same as in the government-wide statements.

LONG-TERM DEBT

All long-term bonds, notes, and other debt arising from cash transactions or events to be repaid from governmental and business-type resources are reported as liabilities in the government-wide statements.

Long-term debt arising from cash transactions or events of governmental funds is not reported as liabilities in the fund financial statements. The debt proceeds are reported as other financing sources, and payment of principal and interest is reported as expenditures. The accounting for proprietary funds is the same in the fund financial statements as the treatment in the government-wide statements.

NET POSITION/FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

Government-Wide Statements

Net Position is classified and displayed in three components:

1. *Net investment in capital assets.* Consists of capital assets, including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvements of those assets and adjusted for any deferred inflows and outflows of resources attributable to capital assets and related debt.
2. *Restricted.* Consists of restricted assets reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows or resources related to those assets, with restriction constraints placed on the use either by external groups, such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments, or law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
3. *Unrestricted.* Net amount of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of net investment in capital assets or the restricted component of net position.

It is the Town's policy to first use restricted net resources prior to the use of unrestricted net resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net resources are available.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental Funds

The difference among assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred inflows of governmental funds is reported as fund balance and classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned based on the respective level of constraint. These constraints are defined as follows:

Nonspendable. Amounts that cannot be spent because they either are not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted. Amounts constrained regarding use from restrictions externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or by restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed. Amounts constrained regarding use for specific purposes pursuant to requirements imposed by formal action of the Town's highest level of decision-making authority. (In the case of the Town of Example, commitments are evidenced by adoption of an ordinance by the Town Council.)

Assigned. Amounts constrained by the Town's intent to be used for specific purposes but that are neither restricted nor committed. (In the case of the Town of Example, assignments are evidenced either by resolution of the Town Council or by the Town Manager in written form as approved by vote of the Town Council pursuant to Town policy.)

Unassigned. The residual classification of the General Fund for spendable amounts that have not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes.

It is the Town's policy to first use restricted fund balances prior to the use of unrestricted fund balances when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balances are available. It is also Town policy to use committed fund balances before assigned fund balances and assigned fund balances before unassigned amounts when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which amounts in those classifications are available to be used.

The Town has no formal minimum fund balance policies or any formal stabilization arrangements in place.

Proprietary Funds

The difference among assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred inflows of proprietary funds is reported as net position and classified in the same manner as the government-wide financial statements, as previously described.

1.E. REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXPENSES

PROGRAM REVENUES

In the Statement of Activities, modified cash-basis revenues that are derived directly from each activity or from parties outside the Town's taxpayers are reported as program revenues. The Town has the following program revenues in each activity: General Government, Streets, and Public Works.

All other governmental revenues are reported as general revenues. All taxes are classified as general revenue even if restricted for a specific purpose.

OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Operating revenues and expenses for proprietary funds and the similar discretely presented component unit result from providing services and producing and delivering goods or services. They also include all

revenues and expenses not related to capital and related financing, noncapital financing, or investing activities.

GASB 34 IMPLEMENTATION

The Town has implemented the new financial reporting model, as required by the provisions of GASB Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements—and Management’s Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments, as of June 30, 2004.

1.G. USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting used by the Town requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures (such as estimated useful lives in determining depreciation expense); accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

By its nature as a local government unit, the Town and its component units are subject to various federal, state, and local laws and contractual regulations. The following instances of noncompliance are considered material to the financial statements.

NOTE 3. DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The accounts of the Town are required by state law to be secured by collateral pledged by the financial institution and/or FDIC insurance. The Town of Bennington is considered a separate entity from the Bennington Public Works Authority for FDIC deposit insurance.

In accordance with GASB No. 3, deposits are to be classified into the following three categories:

1. Insured or collateralized with securities held by the entity or by its agent or in the entity's name (Referred to as category 1)
2. Collateralized with securities held by pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the entity's name. (Referred to as category 2)
3. Uncollateralized, including any bank balance that is collateralized with securities held by the pledging institution, or by its trust department or agent but not in the entity's name. (Referred to as category 3)

All of the Town of Bennington's government and enterprise fund cash and investment accounts would be considered as category 1 up to its FDIC limits of \$250,000 for the governmental funds and \$250,000 for the Bennington Public Works Authority. The remaining funds would be category 3.

NOTE 4. CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Capital Asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023 was as follows:

<u>Governmental Funds</u>				
	Beginning			Ending
	Balance	Increases	Decreases	Balance
City Hall	\$ 212,961	-	-	\$ 212,961
House	54,000	-	(54,000)	-
Vehicles & Equipment	106,264	-	-	106,264
Revtch Incubator	260,421	-	-	260,421
Total	\$ 633,646			\$ 579,646
Accumulated Depreciation	(353,667)	(13,163)	22,050	(344,780)
Net Assets	\$ 279,979			\$ 234,866

As of June 30, 2023, the governmental funds had no capitalized assets that were not being depreciated or had not been depreciated. Depreciation is computed using the straight line method of depreciation over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Assets are recorded at cost or their estimated fair market value for those assets where recorded were not available. Depreciation of \$13,163 for the governmental funds was recorded as follows: equipment - \$5,652, police cars - \$1,280, revtech incubator - \$6,231, all charged to general government.

<u>Public Works Authority</u>				
	Beginning			Ending
	Balance	Increases	Decreases	Balance
Land	\$ 109,936	-	-	\$ 109,936
Buildings	948,007	-	-	948,007
Sewer System	1,120,615	-	-	1,120,615
Total	\$ 2,178,558			\$ 2,178,558
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,463,203)	(51,895)	-	(1,515,098)
Net Assets	\$ 715,355			\$ 663,460

As of June 30, 2023, the Public Works Authority had no capitalized assets that were not being depreciated or had not been depreciated. Depreciation is computed using the straight -line method of depreciation over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Assets are recorded at cost or their estimated fair market value for those assets where recorded were not available. Depreciation of \$51,895 for the Public Works Authority was recorded as follows: Sewer System Upgrade - \$28,195 and Industrial Incubator - \$23,700. All depreciation in the Public Works Authority was charged to the sewer department except for the Industrial Incubator. Depreciation for the Industrial Incubator is charged to economic development in the government wide financial statements and to general depreciation in the proprietary fund type statement of revenues over expenditures and changes in net assets.

NOTE 5. NOTES PAYABLE

Bennington Public Works Authority

As of June 30, 2002, the Bennington Public Works Authority had a note outstanding with the Farmers Home Administration. The balance of the note as of June 30, 2023 was \$15,209. Collateral for the loan are the revenues generated by the sewer system. The loan carries a 5% interest rate with monthly payments of \$487. The Bennington Public Works Authority paid \$4,949 in principal and \$895 in interest for the year ending June 30, 2023. Principal required for the next five years and in five-year increments until maturity is as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>		
2023/2024	5,202	642	Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 20,158
2024/2025	5,468	376	Principal Paid During Year	<u>(4,949)</u>
2025/2026	4,539	99	Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 15,209</u>
	<u>\$ 15,209</u>	<u>\$ 1,117</u>		

As of June 30, 2006, the Bennington Public Works Authority had a new note outstanding with the Farmers Home Administration. The balance of the note as of June 30, 2023 was \$59,809. Collateral for the loan are the revenues generated by the sewer system and real estate. The loan carries a 4.25% interest rate with monthly payments of \$351. The Bennington Public Works Authority paid \$1,632 in principal and \$2,580 in interest for the year ending June 30, 2023. Principal required for the next five years and in five-year increments until maturity is as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>		
2023/2024	1,713	2,499	Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 61,441
2024/2025	1,788	2,424	Principal Paid During Year	<u>(1,632)</u>
2025/2026	1,865	2,347	Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 59,809</u>
2026/2027	1,946	2,266		
2027/2028	2,030	2,182		
2028/2033	11,277	9,783		
2033/2038	14,279	6,781		
2038/2043	17,653	3,407		
2043/2045	7,258	1,166		
	<u>\$ 59,809</u>	<u>\$ 32,855</u>		

NOTE 6. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent events have been evaluated through February 1, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were issued. Payroll taxes have not been remitted for the Town nor the PWA since November of 2016 thru 2018. As of the audit report date, the estimated amount of taxes owed is \$39,036.25. This amount does not include potential penalties and interest.

Russell & Williams CPA's, P.C.

Casey J. Russell, C.P.A., M.B.A.
Autumn L. Williams, C.P.A., Esq.
Member AICPA & OSCP

2812 NW 57th, Ste. 102
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

Phone: (405) 607-8743
Fax: (405) 607-8744
Email: caseycpa@hotmail.com

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 Trustees
Town of Bennington

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 accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Bennington, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Town of Bennington's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 1, 2024.

The report was a special report on the Town's use of a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Town of Bennington's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Bennington's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Bennington'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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses that we consider to be significant deficiencies. 2023-1.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Town of Bennington'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

determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

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.

Russell + Williams CPAs, P.C.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
February 1, 2024

Schedule of Current Findings and Responses

2023-1 Lack of Segregation of Duties (Repeat Finding)

CONDITION: During our review of the internal control structure, we noted that several procedures lacks the control of having duties segregated. We understand that due to the size of the town and number of personnel, many aspects related to segregation of duties cannot be implemented. However, we noted that certain bank accounts required only one signature.

CRITERIA: We believe that internal control procedures would be strengthened by reviewing the individual tasks to determine whether internal control procedures could be improved.

CAUSE OF CONDITION: Limited personnel

EFFECT OF CONDITION: Unknown

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE: All checks now require two signatures whether there are two signature lines or not. In many cases due to our limited resources, controls will be limited.