Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022 (With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Commissioners Town of Ninety Six Commission of Public Works Ninety Six, South Carolina

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Ninety Six Commission of Public Works (the "District"), South Carolina, which comprise the statement of net position as of September 30, 2022, and the related statement of revenues, expense, changes in net position and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District'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 Town of Ninety Six Commission of Public Works, South Carolina, as of September 30, 2022, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof 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 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 District 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 District'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 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, 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 District'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 District'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 management's discussion and analysis, schedule of the proportionate share of the net pension liability and the schedule of contributions as listed in the table of contents 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.

Highsmith & Highsmith, LLC

Highsmith & Highsmith, LLC Travelers Rest, South Carolina

May 18, 2023

This discussion and analysis is designed to provide a narrative overview of the financial condition and operating results of the Town of Ninety Six Commission of Public Works (he "Commission"), and also to inform the reader about the Commission's financial issues and activities. The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) should be read in conjunction with the Commission's basic financial statements (beginning on page 9).

Overview of the Basic Financial Statements

This annual financial report consists of two parts: Management's Discussion and Analysis and the Financial Statements. The required financial statements are the Statements of Net Position at September 30, 2022, the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the year ended September 30, 2022 and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended September 30, 2022. The financial statements, except for the cash flow statement, are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which means that revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred regardless of the timing of cash receipts or payments. The cash flow statements are an exception because those statements show the receipt and payment of cash for operating, non-capital and related financing, and investing activities.

Required Financial Statements

The Financial Statements of the Commission report information about the Commission using accounting methods similar to those used by companies in the private sector. These statements offer short and long-term financial information about its activities. The Statements of Net Position include all of the Commission's assets and liabilities and provides information about the nature and amounts of investments in assets and obligations to Commission creditors as liabilities, if any. It also provides the basis for computing rate of return, evaluating the capital structure of the Commission and assessing the liquidity and financial flexibility of the Commission.

All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. These statements measure the Commission's operations over the past year and can be used to determine whether the Commission has successfully recovered all its costs through it rates and other income. The Commission's profitability and credit worthiness can also be determined from these statements.

The final required financial statement is the Statements of Cash Flows. The primary purpose of these statements is to provide information about the Commission's cash receipts and cash payments during the reporting period. These statements report cash receipts, cash payments, and net changes in cash resulting from operations, investing and financing activities. They explain where cash came from and where cash was used, and the change in the cash balance during the reporting period.

Financial Highlights

As a result of this year's operations, the Commission's net position decreased by \$59,319. Total net position was \$3,240,745 of which \$(293,813) was unrestricted.

Operating revenues decreased by \$115,473, primarily due to water charges. Operating expenses decreased by \$13,858.

Using this Annual Report

The Commission is a special-purpose government engaged only in business-type activities. The Commission's only business-type activity is the operation of a water system. The Commission's financial statements consist of statements of net assets, statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets and statements of cash flows.

One of the most important questions asked about the Commission's finances is, "Is the Commission as a whole better off or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The statements of net position and the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position report information about its activities in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Commission's net position and changes in them. You can think of the Commission's net position – the difference between assets and liabilities – as one way to measure the Commission's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Commission's net position is one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The following tables and analysis discuss the financial position and changes to financial position for the Commission as of and for the years ended September 30, 2022 and 2021.

Net Position

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The combined net position exceeded liabilities by \$3,240,745 at the close of the most recent year.

The following is a summary of the Commission's net position as of September 30, 2022 and 2021:

Condensed Statement of Net Position

		2022	2021
Assets:			
Current and other assets	\$	355,062	\$ 320,797
Capital assets		4,860,429	4,989,784
Total assets		5,215,491	5,310,581
Deferred outflows of resources - pension	\$	132,566	\$ 151,395
Total assets and deferred outflows	\$	5,348,057	\$ 5,461,976
Liabilities:			
Current liabilities	\$	190,384	\$ 209,822
Long-term liabilities		1,792,064	1,779,423
Total liabilities		1,982,448	1,989,245
Deferred inflows of resources - pension	\$	124,864	\$ 172,656
Total liabilities and deferred inflows	\$	2,107,312	\$ 2,161,901
Net Position:			
Invested in capital assets, net of related de	ebt	3,431,277	3,565,061
Restricted for renewal and replacement		50,961	41,098
Restricted for debt service		52,320	52,320
Unrestricted		(293,813)	(358,404)
Total net position	\$	3,240,745	\$ 3,300,075

Net position of the Commission decreased by \$59,319. Net position invested in capital assets, net of related debt decreased from \$3.5 million compared to \$3.4 in 2022.

Unrestricted net position – the part of net position that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants, enabling legislation, or other legal requirements – increased by \$64,591.

Condensed Statement of Changes in Net Position

Changes in Net Position

	2022	-	2021
Program Revenues:			
Operating revenues	\$ 1,297,959	\$	1,413,432
Interest income	623	-	1,078
Total revenues	1,298,582		1,414,510
Program Expenses:			
Operating expenses	1,297,495		1,311,353
Increase (decrease) in income operating income	1,087		103,157
Interest expense	(56,267)		(92,792)
Grant income	-		11,350
Grant expenses	(4,139)		(85,121)
Increase in net position	(59,319)		(63,406)
Net position, beginning of the year	3,300,064	-	3,363,481
Net position, end of the year	\$ 3,240,745	\$	3,300,075

Operating expenses decreased \$13,858, primarily due to an decrease in the cost of delivered water, salaries and wages, and depreciation.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At September 30, 2022, the Commission had \$4,860,429, net of depreciation, invested in infrastructure, land and buildings, office furniture and equipment, and intangibles. This represents a net decrease (including additions and deductions) of \$129,355 over last year.

Debt Administration

At year-end the Commission had \$1,429,152 in revenue bonds payable and notes payable. This is an increase of \$4,429 from the previous year. More detailed information about the Commission's long-term liabilities is presented in Note 6 to the financial statements.

Economic Factors and Other Considerations

The Commission continues to be affected by economic factors such as changes in drought conditions and inflationary trends in the service area (which compare favorable to national indices). The Commission's Board and management consider such factors when developing plans and budgets for the upcoming year.

Also, from time to time, local growth and development, changes in regulatory and compliance requirements, and modification of existing facilities or operations will dictate the financing of additional capital improvements and increases in operating costs. It is the Commission's policy to conduct regular reviews of its rates and fees in order to accommodate such changing circumstances.

Contacting the Commission's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Commission's finances for all those with an interest in the Commission's finances. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact Heather Fields, Town of Ninety Six Commission of Public Works, 120 West Main Street, Ninety Six, South Carolina 29666.

Statement of Net Position September 30, 2022

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	181,811
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$58,955	Ψ	42,780
Materials and supplies		27,190
Total current assets		251,781
		231,701
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		103,281
Utility Plant and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation		4,860,429
Total assets	\$	5,215,491
Deferred outflows of resources	\$	132,566
Total assets and deferred outflows	\$	5,348,057
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$	42,355
Accrued payroll and related liabilities		18,181
Customer deposits		48,240
Current portion of note payable		81,608
Total current liabilities		190,384
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Long-term debt		1,347,544
Net pension liability		444,520
Total long-term liabilities		1,792,064
Total liabilities		1,982,448
Deferred inflows of resources	\$	124,864
Total liabilities and deferred inflows	\$	2,107,312
<u>Net Position</u>		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt		3,431,277
Restricted for renewal and replacement		50,961
Restricted for debt service		52,320
Unrestricted		(293,813)
Total net position	\$	3,240,745

Current Assets

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position Year Ended September 30, 2022

Operating Revenues	
Water sales	\$ 557,859
Sewer charges	633,203
Other revenues	106,897
Total operating revenues	 1,297,959
Operating Expenses	
Water distribution	205,285
Waste treatment - plant operations	370,072
Salaries and benefits	343,677
Office	63,373
Other operating	60,848
Depreciation	203,976
Water meters	50,264
Total operating expenses	1,297,495
Operating income (loss)	 464
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	
Interest expense	(56,267)
Grant expenses	(4,139)
Interest income	623
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	 (59,783)
Change in net position	(59,319)
Net position, beginning of year	 3,300,064
Net position, end of year	\$ 3,240,745

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended September 30, 2022

Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Cash received from customers	\$	1,279,229
Cash paid to suppliers of goods and services		(931,436)
Cash paid to employees		(205,566)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities		142,227
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Cash purchase of property, plant and equipment		(74,632)
Principle and interest payments against capital debt		(51,838)
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities	_	(126,470)
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Interest received		623
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities		623
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		16,380
Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of year		268,712
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	\$	285,092
Reconciliation to Statement of Net Position		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	181,811
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		103,281
Total cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$	285,092

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended September 30, 2022

Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net	
Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Operating income	\$ 464
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash	
provided (used) by operating activities	
Depreciation expense	203,976
Grant revenues & expenses	(4,139)
Change in assets and liabilities	
Decrease in accounts receivable	(17,885)
Increase in accounts payable	(37,206)
Increase in accrued payroll and related liabilities	2,561
Increase in renter deposits	(845)
Increase in net pension liability	24,264
Changes in deferred outflows and inflows:	
Increase in deferred outflows - pensions	18,829
Decrease in deferred inflows - pensions	 (47,792)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	\$ 142,227

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 1 – Description of Entity

Town of Ninety Six Commission of Public Works (the "Commission") is a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina to provide water and sewer to the Town of Ninety Six and parts of Greenwood County. The Town serves as a conduit for issuing revenue bonds as the Commission does not have Commission to borrow money. The Commission is not a component unit of the Town. The Town has no component units.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation and Accounting

The Commission's financial statements are presented on the full accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Commission applies all Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements as well as Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) statements and interpretations, and the Accounting Principles Board (APB) of the Committee on Accounting Procedure issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. The Commission has not adopted the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standard Codification (ASC) 980, Regulated Operations.

All activities of the Commission are accounted for within a single proprietary (enterprise) fund. Proprietary funds are used to account for operations that are (a) financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent of the governing body is that the cost (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges: or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.

Enterprise funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services in connection with the Commission's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the Commission are charges to customers for water. Operating expenses include the cost of services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Commission's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources as needed.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the Commission is determined by its measurement focus. The transactions of the Commission are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operations are included on the statement of net position. Net position (i.e., total assets, net of total liabilities) are segregated into "invested in capital assets, net of related debt"; "restricted for debt service"; and "unrestricted" components.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the statement of financial position date, and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Estimates are used to determine depreciation expense, the allowance for doubtful accounts and certain claims and judgment liabilities, among other accounts. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents, for purposes of the statements of cash flows, include restricted and unrestricted cash on hand or on deposit, certificates of deposit, and highly liquid debt instruments with original maturities of three months or less.

The State of South Carolina Statutes permits the Commission to invest in certain types of financial instruments. Cash is maintained in demand deposits or savings accounts, certificates of deposits, or money market funds.

Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents

Restricted cash and cash equivalents represent a) cash required by loan covenants and b) cash maintained in accordance with resolutions and formal actions of the Commission or by agreement for the purpose of funding certain debt service payments, depreciation and contingency activities, and improvements and extensions to the utility systems.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable represents volume fees earned, but not yet collected. Cycle billings at the end of the fiscal year are estimated to record revenues earned through yearend. The Commission's management has not provided an allowance for estimated uncollectible accounts based on its assessment of the current status of individual accounts. Balances that are still outstanding and deemed uncollectible after management has used reasonable collection efforts are written-off directly as an expense.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

Inventory

Inventory, valued at the lower of cost or market using the first-in, first-out method, consists of materials and supplies for water treatment and repair.

Utility Plant and Equipment

Utility, plant and equipment in service and construction in progress are recorded at cost, if purchased or constructed. Property, plant and equipment is defined by the Commission as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$5,000 or renewal and replacement cost of a component of existing assets with a cost of more than \$5,000. Assets acquired through contributions from developers or other customers are capitalized at their estimated fair market value, if available, or at engineers' estimated fair market value or cost to construct at the date of the contribution. Internal engineering costs are capitalized to the extent of direct support and contribution to construction and expansion projects. Costs of studies that directly result in specific construction projects are capitalized.

Maintenance and repairs, which do not significantly extend value or life of property, plant and equipment, are expensed as incurred.

Assets are depreciated on the straight-line method. Depreciation is calculated using the following estimated useful lives:

Water lines, tanks, etc.	50 years
Buildings	39 years
Equipment	10 years
Vehicles	5 years
Computers	5 years

Long-term Obligations and Costs

Long-term obligations are reported at face value. There are no applicable premiums or discounts.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as on outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Commission currently has one type of deferred outflows of resources: The Commission reports deferred pension charges in connection with its participation in the South Carolina Retirement System. The deferred pension charges are either (a) recognized in the subsequent period as a reduction of the net pension liability (which includes pension contributions made after the measurement date) or (b) amortized in a systematic and rational method as pension expense in

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, continued

future periods in accordance with GAAP.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as on inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Commission currently has one type of deferred inflows of resources: The Commission reports deferred pension credits in connection with its participation in the South Carolina Retirement System. These deferred pension credits are amortized in a systematic and rational method and recognized as a reduction of pension expense in future periods in accordance with GAAP.

Compensation for Future Absences

Accumulated vacation pay eligible to be paid to employees is recorded as an expense and liability as the benefits are earned.

Claims and Judgments

These obligations are recorded on the accrual basis when the event occurs and the obligation arises.

Revenues and Rate Structure

Revenues from water services are recognized on the accrual basis as earned. Services are supplied to customers under a rate structure designed to produce revenues sufficient to provide for operating and maintenance costs and capital outlay.

The Commission has a monthly billing cycle.

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the Commission.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources and disclosure of these balances as of the date of the financial statements. In addition, they affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates and assumptions.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

Capital Contributions

Contributions are recognized in the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position when earned. Contributions include developer-contributed water systems.

Special and Extraordinary Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or other events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are significant transactions or other events within the control of management that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. If such items exist during the reporting period, they are reported separately in the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position.

Pensions

The Commission recognizes a net pension liability for each qualified pension plan in which it participates, which represents the excess of the total pension liability over the fiduciary net position of the qualified pension plan, or the Commission's proportionate share thereof in the case of cost-sharing multipleemployer plan, measured as of the Commission's fiscal year-end. Changes in the net pension liability during the period are recorded as pension expense, or as deferred outflows or inflows of resources depending on the nature of the change, in the period incurred. Those changes in net pension liability that are recorded as deferred outflows or inflows of resources that arise from changes in actuarial assumptions or other inputs and differences between expected or actual experience are amortized over the weighted average remaining service life of all participants in the respective qualified pension plan and recorded as a component of pension expense beginning with the period in which they are incurred. Projected earnings on qualified pension plan investments are recognized as a component of pension expense. Differences between projected and actual investment earnings are reported as deferred outflows or inflows of resources and amortized as a component of pension expense on a closed basis over a five-year period beginning with the period in which the difference occurred.

Net Position

Net position comprises the various net earnings from operating and non-operating revenues, expenses and contributions of capital. Net position is classified in the following three components: invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted for debt service; and unrestricted net position. Invested in capital assets, net of related debt, consists of all capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by outstanding debt that is attributable to the acquisition, construction and improvement of those assets; debt related to unspent proceeds or other restricted cash and investments is excluded from the determination. Restricted for capital activity and debt service consists of net position for which a constraint is placed thereon by external parties, such as lenders, grantors, contributors, laws, regulations and enabling legislation, including self-imposed legal mandates, less any related liabilities. Unrestricted consists of all other net positions not included in the above categories.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

Net Position, continued

The Commission uses restricted resources, prior to using unrestricted resources, to pay expenditures meeting the criteria imposed on the use of restricted resources.

Budget and Budgeting

The Commission employs budget integration as a management control device. Annual budgets are formally adopted by the Board of Directors and are used as a management tool and are not a legal requirement.

Note 3 - Deposits

Custodial credit risk – deposits. Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Commission will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of September 30, 2022, none of the Commission's bank balances were exposed to custodial credit risk.

The Commission has not formally adopted a policy governing deposits and investments.

The Commission categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

The Commission has the following recurring fair value measurements as of September 30, 2022:

• Certificate of deposits of \$52,320 are valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs)

Note 4 – Restricted Assets

Revenue bonds payable require a certain level of cash in a separate account. The bonds that each account be funded one-tenth $(1/10^{th})$ of the required monthly payment until the cash on deposit in each account is equal to the amount to pay principal and interest of the bonds for one year. At September 30, 2022, the bond restricted cash balance was \$50,961 for renewal and replacement and \$52,320 for principal and interest payments.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 5 – Property, Plant and Equipment

Capital asset activity during the year ended September 30, 2022 was as follows:

	September 30, 2021	Additions	Transfers and Disposals	September 30, 2022
Water and sewer system	8,366,718	74,632	-	8,441,350
Wastewater plant	1,045,569	-	-	1,045,569
Equipment	263,028	-	-	263,028
Vehicles	442,365	-	-	442,365
Buildings and improvements	1,340,060			1,340,060
Utility Plant and Equipment in services	11,457,740	74,632	-	11,532,372
Accumulated depreciation	(6,467,967)	(203,976)		(6,671,943)
Net utility plant and equipment \$	4,989,773 \$	(129,344) 5	β <u> </u>	\$ 4,860,429

Depreciation expense for the year ended September 30, 2022 was \$203,976.

Note 6 – Long-Term Debt

Following is a summary of notes payable at September 30, 2022:

1997 Revenue Bond for \$741,000, due in monthly installments	
of \$3,580 through 2037, interest rate 5.0%	\$ 432,210
1997 Revenue Bond for \$74,400, due in monthly installments	
of 353 through; interest rate at 4.875%	43,476
2002 Revenue Bond for \$951,000, due in monthly installments	
of \$4,360 through 2024; interest rate at 4.65%	681,525
2017 Note Payable for \$131,355 due in monthly installments	
of \$1,343 through 2028; interest rate 2.39%	70,137
2018 Note Payable for \$162,500 due in monthly installments	
of \$1,289 through 2034; interest rate 5.0%	131,690
2022 Note Payable for \$74,619 due in monthly installments	
of \$1,381 through 2027; interest rate 4.212%	 70,114
	1,429,152
Less: current portion	 (81,608)
Total long-term portion of note payable	\$ 1,347,544

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 6 – Long-Term Debt, continued

A summary of long-term debt activity during the year ended September 30, 2022 is as follows:

	Balance at September 30, 2021	Additions	Reductions	Balance at September 30, 2022	Due Within One Year
1997 Revenue Bond	\$ 453,429	\$ -	\$ 21,219	\$ 432,210	\$ 21,247
1997 Revenue Bond	45,580	-	2,104	43,476	2,153
2002 Revenue Bond	703,506	-	21,981	681,525	21,566
2016 Note Payable	945	-	945	-	-
2017 Note Payable	81,016	-	10,879	70,137	13,653
2018 Note Payable	140,247	-	8,557	131,690	9,100
2022 Note Payable		74,619	4,505	70,114	13,889
	\$ 1,424,723	\$ 74,619	\$ 70,190	\$ 1,429,152	\$ 81,608

Remaining debt service payments at September 30, 2022 are as follows:

	Principal		Interest
2023	81,608		66,071
2024	85,462		62,217
2025	89,499		58,180
2026	93,727		53,951
2027	88,452		49,629
Thereafter	990,404	_	312,999
	\$ 1,429,152	\$	603,047

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation

The South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA), created July 1, 2012, is the state agency responsible for the administration and management of the retirement systems and benefit programs of the state of South Carolina, including the State Optional Retirement Program and the S.C. Deferred Compensation Program, as well as the state's employee insurance programs. As such, PEBA is responsible for administering the South Carolina Retirement Systems' five defined benefit pension plans. PEBA has an 11-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor and General Assembly leadership, which serves as custodian, co-trustee and co-fiduciary of the Systems and the assets of the retirement trust funds. The Retirement System Investment Commission (Commission as the governing body, RSIC as the agency), created by the General Assembly in 2005, has exclusive authority to invest and manage the retirement trust funds' assets. The Commission, an eight-member board, serves as co-trustee and co-fiduciary for the assets of the retirement trust funds. By law, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA), which consists of five elected officials, also reviews certain PEBA Board decisions regarding the actuary of the Systems.

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Systems and additions

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation, continued

to/deductions from the Systems fiduciary net position have been determined on the accrual basis of accounting as they are reported by the Systems in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). For this purpose, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred. Benefit and refund expenses are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan. Investments are reported at fair value.

PEBA issues an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) containing financial statements and required supplementary information for the Systems' Pension Trust Funds. The ACFR is publicly available through PEBA's website at www.peba.sc.gov, or a copy may be obtained by submitting a request to PEBA, 202 Arbor Lake Drive, Columbia, SC 29223. PEBA is a division of the primary government of the state of South Carolina and therefore, retirement trust fund financial information is also included in the ACFR for the state.

Plan Description

The South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, was established July 1, 1945, pursuant to the provisions of Section 9-1-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws for the purpose of providing retirement and other benefits for teachers and employees of the state and its political subdivisions. SCRS covers employees of state agencies, public school districts and participating charter schools, public higher education institutions, other participating local subdivisions of government and first-term individuals elected to the South Carolina General Assembly.

Membership

Membership requirements are prescribed in Title 9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. A brief summary of the requirements under each system is presented below:

• SCRS - Generally, all employees of covered employers are required to participate in and contribute to the system as a condition of employment. This plan covers general employees and teachers and individuals newly elected to the South Carolina General Assembly beginning with the November 2012 general election. An employee member of the system with an effective date of membership prior to July 1, 2012, is a Class Two member. An employee member of the system with an effective date of membership on or after July 1, 2012, is a Class Three member.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation, continued

Benefits

Benefit terms are prescribed in Title 9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. PEBA does not have the authority to establish or amend benefit terms without a legislative change in the code of laws. Key elements of the benefit calculation include the benefit multiplier, years of service, and average final compensation/current annual salary. A brief summary of the benefit terms for each system is presented below.

• SCRS - A Class Two member who has separated from service with at least five or more years of earned service is eligible for a monthly pension at age 65 or with 28 years credited service regardless of age. A member may elect early retirement with reduced pension benefits payable at age 55 with 25 years of service credit. A Class Three member who has separated from service with at least eight or more years of earned service is eligible for a monthly pension upon satisfying the Rule of 90 requirement that the total of the member's age and the member's creditable service equals at least 90 years. Both Class Two and Class Three members are eligible to receive a reduced deferred annuity at age 60 if they satisfy the five- or eight-year earned service requirement, respectively. An incidental death benefit is also available to beneficiaries of active and retired members of employers who participate in the death benefit program.

The annual retirement allowance of eligible retirees or their surviving annuitants is increased by the lesser of one percent or five hundred dollars every July 1. Only those annuitants in receipt of a benefit on July 1 of the preceding year are eligible to receive the increase. Members who retire under the early retirement provisions at age 55 with 25 years of service are not eligible for the benefit adjustment until the second July 1 after reaching age 60 or the second July 1 after the date they would have had 28 years of service credit had they not retired.

Contributions

Actuarial valuations are performed annually by an external consulting actuary to ensure applicable contribution rates satisfy the funding parameters specified in Title 9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. Under these provisions, SCRS contribution requirements must be sufficient to maintain an amortization period for the financing of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) over a period that does not exceed the number of years scheduled in state statute. The Retirement Funding and Administration Act of 2017 increased, but also established a ceiling for SCRS employee contribution rates. Effective July 1, 2017, employee rates were increased to a capped rate of 9.00 percent for SCRS. The legislation also increased employer contribution rates beginning July 1, 2017 for both SCRS by two percentage points and further scheduled employer contribution rates to increase by a minimum of one percentage point each year in accordance with state statute. The General Assembly postponed the one percent increase in the SCRS

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation, continued

Contributions, continued

employer contribution rates that was scheduled to go into effect beginning July 1, 2020. In accordance with the legislative funding schedule, employer contribution rates will continue to increase by 1 percentage point each year until reaching 18.56 percent for SCRS but may be increased further, if the scheduled contributions are not sufficient to meet the funding periods set for the applicable year. The board shall increase the employer contribution rates as necessary to meet the amortization period set in statute.

Pension reform legislation modified statute such that the employer contribution rates for SCRS to be further increased, not to exceed one-half of one percent in any one year if necessary, in order to improve the funding of the plans. The statute set rates intended to reduce the unfunded liability of SCRS to the maximum amortization S.C. PEBA | 4 period of 20 years from 30 years over a ten-year schedule, as determined by the annual actuarial valuations of the plan. Finally, under the revised statute, the contribution rates for SCRS may not be decreased until the plans are at least 85 percent funded.

Required employee contribution rates (1) are as follows:

	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2021
SCRS		
Employee Class Two	9.00%	9.00%
Employee Class Three	9.00%	9.00%

Required employer contributions rates (1) are as follows:

	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2021
SCRS		
Employer Class Two	17.41%	16.41%
Employer Class Three	17.41%	16.41%
Employer Incidental Death Benefit	0.15%	0.15%

(1) Calculated on earnable compensation as defined in Title 9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

(2) Of this employer contribution, 5% of earnable compensation must be remitted by the employer directly to the ORP vendor to be allocated to the member's account with the remainder of the employer contribution remitted to the SCRS.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation, continued

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

The NPL is calculated separately for each system and represents that particular system's TPL determined in accordance with GASB No. 67 less that System's fiduciary net position. NPL totals, as of June 30, 2022, for SCRS are presented below.

			Plan Fiduciary Net	En	nployers' Net Pension	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension
System	Tota	l Pension Liability	Position		Liability (Asset)	Liability
SCRS	\$	56,454,779,872	\$ 32,212,626,932	\$	24,242,152,940	57.1%

The TPL is calculated by the Systems' actuary, and each plan's fiduciary net position is reported in the Systems' financial statements. The NPL is disclosed in accordance with the requirements of GASB 67 in the Systems' notes to the financial statements and required supplementary information. Liability calculations performed by the Systems' actuary for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of GASB Nos. 67 and 68 are not applicable for other purposes, such as determining the plans' funding requirements.

Actuarial Assumptions

Actuarial valuations of the ongoing plan involve estimates of the reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and future salary increases. Amounts determined regarding the net pension liability are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. South Carolina state statute requires that an actuarial experience study be completed at least once in each five-year period. An experience report on the Systems was most recently issued for the period ending June 30, 2019.

The June 30, 2022, total pension liability (TPL), net pension liability (NPL), and sensitivity information shown in this report were determined by the state's consulting actuary, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith and Company (GRS) and are based on an actuarial valuation performed as of July 1, 2021. The total pension liability was rolled-forward from the valuation date to the plans' fiscal year end, June 30, 2022, using generally accepted actuarial principles. There was no legislation enacted during the 2022 legislative session that had a material change in the benefit provisions for any of the systems.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation, continued

Actuarial Assumptions, continued

The following table provides a summary of the actuarial assumptions and methods used in the June 30, 2022 valuations for SCRS.

	SCRS
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return (1)	7.0%
Projected salary increases (1)	3.0% to 11.0%
	(varies by service)
	Lesser of 1% or \$500
Benefit adjustments	annually

(1) Includes inflation at 2.25%

The post-retiree mortality assumption is dependent upon the member's job category and gender. The base mortality assumptions, the 2020 Public Retirees of South Carolina Mortality table (2020 PRSC), was developed using the Systems' mortality experience. These base rates are adjusted for future improvement in mortality using published Scale AA projected from the year 2020.

Assumptions used in the determination of the June 30, 2022, total pension liability are as follows:

Former Job Class	Males	Females
Educators	2020 PRSC males multiplied by 95%	2020 PRSC Females multiplied by 94%
General Employees and Members of the General Assembly	2020 PRSC Males multiplied by 97%	2020 PRSC Females multiplied by 107%
Public Safety and Firefighters	2020 PRSC Males multiplied by 127%	2020 PRSC Females multiplied by 107%

Long-Term Expected Rate of Return

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is based upon 20-year capital market assumptions. The long-term expected rates of return represent assumptions developed using an arithmetic building block approach primarily based on consensus expectations and market-based inputs. Expected returns are net of investment fees.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation, continued

Long-Term Expected Rate of Return, continued

The expected returns, along with the expected inflation rate, form the basis for the target asset allocation adopted at the beginning of the 2022 fiscal year. The long-term expected rate of return is produced by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target allocation percentage and adding expected inflation and is summarized in the table below. For actuarial purposes, the 7.00 percent assumed annual investment rate of return used in the calculation of the TPL includes a 4.75 percent real rate of return and a 2.25 percent inflation component.

			Long-term
		Expected	Expected
	Policy	Arithmetic Real	Portfolio Real
Allocation/Exposure	Target	Rate of Return	Rate of Return
Public Equity	46.0%	6.79%	3.12%
Bonds	26.0%	-0.35%	-0.09%
Private Equity	9.0%	8.75%	0.79%
Private Debt	7.0%	6.00%	0.42%
Real Assets	12.0%		
Real Estate	9.0%	4.12%	0.37%
Infrastructure	3.0%	5.88%	0.18%
Total Expected Real Return	100.0%		4.79%
Inflations for Actuarial Purposes			2.25%
			7.04%

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation, continued

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the TPL was 7.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from participating employers in SCRS will be made based on the actuarially determined rates based on provisions in the South Carolina Code of Laws. Based on those assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all the 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 TPL.

Sensitivity Analysis

The following table presents the collective NPL of the participating employers calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what the employers' NPL would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1.00 percent lower (6.00 percent) or 1.00 percent higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate							
	% Decrease	Curi	ent Discount	1.00% Increase			
System		(6%)	F	Rate (7%)		(8%)	
SCRS	\$	569,930	\$	444,520	\$	340,258	

Net Pension Liability

At September 30, 2022, the Commission reported a net pension liability of \$444,520 for its proportionate share of the SCRS net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Commission's proportionate share of the net pension liabilities was based on a projection of the Commission's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities, actuarially determined. At September 30, 2022, the Commission's proportionate share of the SCRS plan was .001834 percent.

Pension Expense

For the year ended September 30, 2022, the Commission recognized pension expense for the SCRS plan of \$32,873.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At September 30, 2022, the Commission reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 7 – Pension Plan Obligation, continued

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions, continued

For the SCRS plan, there were total deferred outflows of resources of \$132,566 consisting of differences between expected and actual experience of \$18,389, the net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments of \$65,395, changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions of \$39,065, and Commission contributions subsequent to the measurement date of \$9,717. There were deferred inflows of resources of \$124,864 for the SCRS plan consisting of differences between expected and actual experience.

The \$8,574 reported as deferred outflows of resources resulting from the Commission's contributions subsequent to the measurement date for the SCRS plan during the year ended September 30, 2022 will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liabilities in the year ending September 30, 2023.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows for the SCRS plan:

For the SCRS plan, \$(15,810) will be recognized for the fiscal year 2023; \$17,574 for fiscal year 2024; \$(15,642) for fiscal year 2025. For fiscal year 2026 \$11,593 will be recognized.

Covered Payroll and Contributions

The payroll for Commission employees covered by the SCRS totaled \$223,905 and \$218,415 for the years ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

The Commission's contributions to SCRS are summarized as follows:

	E	mploye	er	E	e		
Year Ended	Percent		SCRS	Percent		SCRS	
September 30, 2022	100%	\$	37,301	100%	\$	20,151	
September 30, 2021	100%	\$	34,180	100%	\$	19,657	
September 30, 2020	100%	\$	29,311	100%	\$	17,118	

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2022

Note 8 – Employee Insurance

The Commission offers medical and life insurance through the state of South Carolina. The Commission pays the entire portion of the employee portion of medical and dental coverage. Medical and life insurance coverage totaled \$36,898 for the year ended September 30, 2022.

Note 9 – Risk Management

The Commission is exposed to various risks of loss relating to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. To insure against casualty risks, the Commission obtains insurance from commercial insurance carriers for errors and omissions, and physical property loss and natural disasters to its buildings and pump stations. The Commission self-insures its water mains and tanks.

The Commission acquires insurance from commercial insurance carriers for job-related injury and illness (worker's compensation) to its employees, medical insurance encompassing health, dental, life and other medical benefits to employees and their dependents.

During September 30, 2022, the Commission did not experience any significant uninsured claims. Accordingly, there was no liability or expense recorded for actual claims, and management does not believe any provision for unasserted claims is necessary.

Note 10 – Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through May 18, 2023, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios Year Ended September 30, 2022

Year Ended	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability		Ν	Actual Covered Member Payroll	Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of Total Pension Liability			
September 30, 2022	0.001834%	\$	444,520	\$	223,905	198.53%	57.10%			
September 30, 2021	0.001942%	\$	420,256	\$	218,415	192.41%	60.70%			
September 30, 2020	0.001605%	\$	410,167	\$	190,207	215.64%	50.70%			
September 30, 2019	0.002325%	\$	444,520	\$	195,441	227.44%	54.40%			
September 30, 2018	0.001932%	\$	420,256	\$	210,093	200.03%	54.10%			
September 30, 2017	0.001511%	\$	340,150	\$	205,874	165.22%	53.30%			
September 30, 2016	0.001932%	\$	406,905	\$	183,094	222.24%	52.90%			
September 30, 2015	0.0019320%	\$	332,626	\$	188,832	176.15%	59.90%			

Schedule of Employer Contributions Year Ended September 30, 2022

		2022	2021	2020		2019		2018		2017		2016		2015
SCRS	_						_		. –		-		_	
Contractually required contribution	\$	37,301	\$ 34,180	\$ 29,311	\$	28,628	\$	28,689	\$	24,548	\$	20,228	\$	20,299
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	_	37,301	 34,180	29,311	_	28,628		28,689		24,548	_	20,228		20,299
Contributions deficiency (excess)	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Covered payroll	\$	223,905	\$ 218,415	\$ 190,207	\$	195,441	\$	210,093	\$	205,874	\$	183,094	\$	188,832
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll		16.66%	15.65%	15.41%		14.65%		13.66%		11.92%		11.05%		10.75%

Notes to Required Supplementary Information Year Ended September 30, 2022

The following table provides a summary for the actuarial methods and assumptions used in calculations of the actuarially determined contributions for the SCRS plan:

	SCRS
Valuation date	July 1, 2020
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Asset valuation method	5-year smoothed
Amortization method	Level % of pay
Remaining amortization period	27-year maximum, closed period
Inflation rate	2.25%
Projected salary increases	3.00% plus step-rate increases for members with less than 21 years of service
Investment rate of return	7.25%
Mortality	The 2016 Public Retirees of South Carolina Mortality Tables for Males and Females, both projected at Scale AA from the year 2016. Male rates multiplied by 100% for non-educators and 92% for educators. Female rates multiplied by 111% for non- educators and 98% for educators.
Comment on the development of the actuarially determined and actual contribution rate:	Contribution rate for fiscal year 2022 is determined in accordance with the Retirement System Funding and Administration Act of 2017.