



Financial Statements
December 31, 2018

Bismarck Rural Fire District

Independent Auditor’s Report	1
Basic Financial Statements	
Statement of Net Position	4
Statement of Activities.....	5
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	6
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position	7
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds	8
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	9
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – General Fund.....	10
Notes to Financial Statements	11
Required Supplementary Information	
Schedules Employer Pension Liability and Contributions.....	28
Schedules of Employer OPEB Liability and Contributions.....	29
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information.....	30
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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	31
Schedule of Findings and Responses	33



Independent Auditor's Report

The Board of Directors
Bismarck Rural Fire District
Bismarck, North Dakota

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Bismarck Rural Fire District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of Bismarck Rural Fire District, as of December 31, 2018, and the respective changes in financial position and budgetary comparison for the general fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Notes 1 and 10 to the financial statements, the Bismarck Rural Fire District has adopted the provisions of GASB Statement No. 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions, which has resulted in a restatement of the net position as of December 31, 2017. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the schedules of employer pension liability and contributions and schedules of employer OPEB liability and contributions as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied 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.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, 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 the missing information.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated October 25, 2019 on our consideration of Bismarck Rural Fire District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on 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 Bismarck Rural Fire District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Eide Bailly LLP

Bismarck, North Dakota
October 25, 2019

Bismarck Rural Fire District
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2018

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,760,691
Taxes receivable	12,379
Prepaid items	21,197
Capital assets not being depreciated	15,000
Capital assets being depreciated, net	1,635,161
Total assets	3,444,428
Deferred Outflows of Resources	
Pension plans	370,280
Other post-employment benefits	8,152
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ 3,822,860
Liabilities and Net Position	
Current Liabilities	
Accrued payroll	\$ 3,616
Compensated absences	50,506
Noncurrent liabilities	
Net pension liability	832,751
Other post-employment benefits	42,106
Total liabilities	928,979
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Pension plans	44,270
Other post-employment benefits	2,512
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	975,761
Net Position	
Net investment in capital assets	1,650,161
Unrestricted	1,196,938
Total net position	2,847,099
Total net position, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources	\$ 3,822,860

Bismarck Rural Fire District
Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2018

<u>Functions/Programs</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenues</u> <u>Operating</u> <u>Grants and</u> <u>Contributions</u>	<u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u>
Primary Government			
Governmental activities			
Public safety	\$ 1,495,251	\$ 9,220	\$ (1,486,031)
Total primary government	\$ 1,495,251	\$ 9,220	(1,486,031)
General Revenues			
Property taxes			1,428,952
Insurance premium reimbursement			172,469
Investment earnings			22,208
Donations			1,625
Miscellaneous			1,439
Total general revenues			1,626,693
Change in Net Position			140,662
Net Position, Beginning of Year, as restated Note 10			2,706,437
Net Position, End of Year			\$ 2,847,099

Bismarck Rural Fire District
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds
December 31, 2018

	General
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,760,691
Taxes receivable	12,379
Prepaid items	21,197
Total assets	\$ 1,794,267
Liabilities and Fund Balance	
Current Liabilities	
Accrued payroll	\$ 3,616
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	9,534
Fund Balance	
Nonspendable	
Prepays	21,197
Unassigned	1,759,920
Total fund balance	1,781,117
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balance	\$ 1,794,267

Bismarck Rural Fire District
 Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position
 December 31, 2018

Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds	\$	1,781,117
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		
Cost of capital assets		3,829,716
Accumulated depreciation		(2,179,555)
Assets, such as taxes receivable that are not available to pay for current period expenditures, are deferred in the governmental funds		
		9,534
Net pension liability and pension related deferred outflows and inflows of resources are not due in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds		
		(506,741)
Net other post-employment liability and pension related deferred outflows and inflows of resources are not due in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds		
		(36,466)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds		
Compensated absences		(50,506)
Net Position	\$	<u>2,847,099</u>

Bismarck Rural Fire District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds
Year Ended December 31, 2018

	General
Revenues	
Taxes	\$ 1,430,416
Interest	22,208
Grants	9,220
Insurance premium reimbursement	172,469
Donations	1,625
Miscellaneous	1,439
	1,637,377
Expenditures	
Public safety	
Labor	997,867
Insurance	25,947
Fire department	56,542
Repairs and maintenance	23,403
Utilities	23,774
Board expense	28,546
Professional fees	17,492
Miscellaneous	3,195
Capital outlay	87,730
	1,264,496
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	372,881
Net Change in Fund Balance	372,881
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	1,408,236
Fund Balance, End of Year	\$ 1,781,117

Bismarck Rural Fire District

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2018

Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds		\$	372,881
<p>Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. In the current period these amounts are</p>			
Capital outlay	\$	87,730	
Depreciation expense		<u>(209,385)</u>	(121,655)
Changes to net pension liability and pension related deferred outflows and inflows do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds			(114,344)
Changes to net OPEB liability and OPEB related deferred outflows and inflows do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds			4,724
Governmental funds report property taxes as revenue in the period for which the tax is levied, subject to availability, but the statement of activities includes the property taxes as revenue in the period for which the taxes are levied, regardless of when collections occur.			(1,464)
In the statement of activities, compensated absences are measured by the amounts earned during the year. In the governmental funds expenditures for the items is measured by the amount of financial resources used.			
Decrease in compensated absences			<u>520</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities		<u>\$</u>	<u>140,662</u>

Bismarck Rural Fire District

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – General Fund
Year Ended December 31, 2018

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues			
Taxes	\$ 1,365,000	\$ 1,430,416	\$ 65,416
Interest	1,500	22,208	20,708
Grants	5,000	9,220	4,220
Insurance premium reimbursement	114,000	172,469	58,469
Donations	500	1,625	1,125
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,439	439
	<u>1,487,000</u>	<u>1,637,377</u>	<u>150,377</u>
Expenditures			
Public safety			
Labor	985,000	997,867	(12,867)
Insurance	30,850	25,947	4,903
Fire department	134,500	56,542	77,958
Repairs and maintenance	30,000	23,403	6,597
Utilities	19,200	23,774	(4,574)
Board expense	11,200	28,546	(17,346)
Professional fees	20,000	17,492	2,508
Miscellaneous	19,700	3,195	16,505
Capital outlay	60,000	87,730	(27,730)
	<u>1,310,450</u>	<u>1,264,496</u>	<u>45,954</u>
Excess of Revenues over (Under) Expenditures	<u>176,550</u>	<u>372,881</u>	<u>196,331</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>176,550</u>	<u>372,881</u>	<u>196,331</u>
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	<u>1,408,236</u>	<u>1,408,236</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,584,786</u>	<u>\$ 1,781,117</u>	<u>\$ 196,331</u>

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Bismarck Rural Fire District have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the government's accounting policies are described below.

Reporting Entity

The Bismarck Rural Fire District is governed by an elected 13-member board. In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board, a reporting entity's financial statements should include all component-units. Based upon the criteria set forth, there are no component units to be included with the District as a reporting entity.

Basis of Presentation and Basis of Accounting

Basis of Presentation

Government-wide Statements: The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the District. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange transactions.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statement: The fund financial statements provide information about the District's funds. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column.

Following is a list of the major funds:

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

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported on the financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Non-exchange transactions, in which the District gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenues from grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

In the fund financial statements, the governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The District considers significant revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within sixty days after year-end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for the principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims, and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources. Under the terms of grant agreements, the District funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants, categorical block grants, and general revenues. Thus, when program expenses are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted net position available to finance the program. It is the District's policy to first apply cost-reimbursement grant resources to such programs, followed by general revenues.

All revenues are considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recorded as revenues of the current period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

Budgets

Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Annual appropriated budgets are adopted for the general fund. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consists of highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less.

Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond December 31, 2018, are recorded as prepaid items and are offset equally by a fund balance reserve account which indicates that they do not constitute expendable available financial resources, and therefore, are not available for appropriation.

Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial 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 an outflow of resources (expenses/expenditure) until then. The District has two items that qualify for reporting in this category. These are the contributions made to pension and other post-employment benefit plans after the measurement date and prior to the fiscal year-end.

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 an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District reports changes in the net pension and net other post-employment benefits liabilities not included in pension expense reported in the government-wide statement of net position.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Fund Balances

The governmental fund financial statements present fund balances based on classifications that comprise a hierarchy that is based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in the respective governmental funds can be spent. The classifications used in the governmental fund financial statements are as follows:

- Nonspendable: This classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Unassigned: This classification includes the residual fund balance for the General Fund. The Unassigned classification also includes negative residual fund balance of any other governmental fund that cannot be eliminated by offsetting of Assigned fund balance amounts.

Net Position Balances

The government-wide financial statements report information on all activities of the District. The statement of net assets presents the following net asset classifications:

- Net investment in capital assets: This classification consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation.
- Unrestricted net position: This classification consists of net position that does not meet the definition of the preceding category.

Capital Assets

Capital assets include land and plant and equipment. Assets are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets and are capitalized if total cost exceeds \$500. Capital assets are recorded at cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the assets or materially extended assets lives are not capitalized.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Land improvements	15-40 years
Buildings	39 years
Machinery and equipment	5-20 years

The District reviews the carrying values of property and equipment for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable from the estimated future cash flows expected to result from its use and eventual disposition. When considered impaired, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent carrying value exceeds the fair value of the asset. There were no indicators of asset impairment during the year ended December 31, 2018.

Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) and additions to/deductions from NDPERS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by NDPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Other Post-Employment Benefits

Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB). For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) and additions to/deductions from NDPERS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by NDPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Compensated Absences

Full time employees are granted vacation benefits from 48 to 144 hours per year depending on tenure with the District. Employees can accrue up to a maximum of 240 hours of vacation at year end. Upon termination of the employment, employees will be paid for vacation benefits that have accrued at the employee's rate of pay on their last day of employment. Sick leave benefits accrued at a rate of 8 hours per month. Unused sick leave benefits are allowed to accumulate indefinitely. Upon termination of employment or retirement, 10% of unused sick leave will be paid. Vested or accumulated leave is reported in the long-term debt account group and in the governmental fund.

Implementation of GASB Statement No. 75

As of December 31, 2018, the Bismarck Rural Fire District adopted GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. The implementation of this standard replaces the requirements of GASB Statement No. 45 Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions, and requires governments calculate and report the costs and obligations associated with postemployment benefits other than pensions (OPEB) in their basic financial statements. Employers are required to recognize OPEB amounts for all benefits provided through the plan which include the Net OPEB Liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB expense. The effect of the implementation of this standard on beginning net position is disclosed in Note 10 and the additional disclosures required by this standard is included in Note 9.

Note 2 - Deposits and Investments

The state statutes authorize political subdivisions to invest in bonds, treasury bills and notes, or other securities that are a direct obligation of, or an obligation insured or guaranteed by, the treasury of the United States, or its agencies, instrumentalities or organizations created by an act of Congress. The District is also authorized to invest in securities sold under agreements to repurchase written by a financial institution in which the underlying securities for the agreement to repurchase are of the type listed above, certificates of deposit fully insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation or the state, and the obligations of the state. The District currently has not invested in any certificates of deposit or investments.

Credit Risk – The District does not have a formal policy that limits the amount the District may invest in any one issuer. In addition, the District does not have any investments for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Interest Rate Risk – The District does not have a formal investment policy that limits investments as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from changing interest rates.

Custodial and Concentration of Credit Risk

In the case of deposits and investments, there is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession on an outside party. All of the District's deposits are held by Dakota Community Bank. At December 31, 2018, the bank balance of the District's deposits was \$1,783,281. Of the bank balance, \$250,000 was covered by federal depository insurance and the remaining bank balance was covered by collateral held by the pledging bank in the District's name.

Note 3 - Legal Compliance - Budgets

The District secretary-treasurer, Fire Chief, and Financial Committee prepare an annual budget for the general fund. The budget is prepared by function and activity, and includes information on the past year, current year estimates, and requested appropriations for the next year. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level. The District's governing board holds a public hearing where any District taxpayer may testify in favor of or against any proposed disbursements or tax levies. After the budget hearing, the board adopts the final budget. The final budget is sent to the county auditor.

The budget may be amended during the year for any receipts and appropriations not anticipated at the time the budget was prepared except no amendment changing the taxes levied can be made after October 10. At year-end, the balance of each appropriation becomes a part of the unappropriated fund balance.

Note 4 - Taxes Receivable

The taxes receivable consists of uncollected and collected but not remitted property taxes as of December 31. No allowance has been established for estimated uncollectible taxes since amounts are considered unavailable and therefore have not met revenue recognition requirements and an offsetting deferred revenue account has been established for uncollected taxes.

Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property on January 1 of the following year. A five percent reduction is allowed if paid by February 15. Penalty and interest are added March 1 unless the first half of the taxes has been paid. Additional penalties are added October 15 if not paid. Taxes are collected by the county and remitted monthly to the entity.

Note 5 - Capital Assets

A summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2018 is as follows:

Governmental Activities

	Balance 12/31/17	Additions	Deletions	Balance 12/31/18
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Land improvements	194,361	-	-	194,361
Buildings	835,854	-	-	835,854
Machinery and equipment	2,696,771	87,730	-	2,784,501
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>3,726,986</u>	<u>87,730</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,814,716</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for				
Land improvements	30,974	12,632	-	43,606
Buildings	316,450	18,883	-	335,333
Machinery and equipment	1,622,746	177,870	-	1,800,616
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>1,970,170</u>	<u>209,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,179,555</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>1,756,816</u>	<u>(121,655)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,635,161</u>
Governmental type activity capital assets, net	<u>\$ 1,771,816</u>	<u>\$ (121,655)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,650,161</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions as follows:

Governmental activities	
Public safety	<u>\$ 209,385</u>

Note 6 - Non-Current Liabilities

	Compensated Absences
Noncurrent liabilities payable, December 31, 2017	\$ 51,026
Increase in compensated absences	30,300
Decrease in compensated absences	(30,820)
Noncurrent liabilities payable, December 31, 2018	<u>50,506</u>
Noncurrent liabilities, due within one year	<u>\$ 50,506</u>

Note 7 - Risk Management

The Bismarck Rural Fire Department participates in the North Dakota Fire and Tornado Fund. The District pays an annual premium for the Fire and Tornado Fund to cover property damage to buildings and business personal property. Replacement cost coverage is provided by estimating replacement cost in consultation with the Fire and Tornado Fund. The Fire and Tornado Fund is reinsured by a third-party insurance carrier for losses in excess of one million dollars per occurrence during a twelve-month period.

The Bismarck Rural Fire Department participates in the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund. The District pays an annual premium for the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund to cover \$2,000,000 for losses arising out of an alleged error or omission on the part of the firemen or the Board of Directors. This policy also includes a \$2,000,000 personal injury and property damage liability and coverage of \$574,247 for inland marine insurance.

The Bismarck Rural Fire Department participates in the North Dakota Worker's Compensation Bureau, an Enterprise Fund of the State of North Dakota. The Bureau is a state insurance fund and a "no fault" insurance system covering the State's employers and employees financed by premiums assessed to employers. The premiums are available for the payment of claims to employees injured in the course of employment.

There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year and settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Note 8 - Pension Plan

Bismarck Rural Fire District participates in the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) administered by the State of North Dakota. The following brief description of NDPERS is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to NDCC Chapter 54-52 for more complete information.

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (Main System)

NDPERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers substantially all employees of the State of North Dakota, its agencies and various participating political subdivisions. NDPERS provides for pension, death and disability benefits. The cost to administer the plan is financed through the contributions and investment earnings of the plan.

Responsibility for administration of the NDPERS defined benefit pension plan is assigned to a Board comprised of nine members. The Board consists of a Chairman, who is appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the Attorney General; one member appointed by the State Health Officer; three members elected by the active membership of the NDPERS system, one member elected by the retired public employees and two members of the legislative assembly appointed by the chairman of the legislative management.

Pension Benefits

Benefits are set by statute. NDPERS has no provisions or policies with respect to automatic and ad hoc post-retirement benefit increases. Member of the Main System are entitled to unreduced monthly pension benefits beginning when the sum of age and years of credited service equal or exceed 85 (Rule of 85), or at normal retirement age (65). For members hired on or after January 1, 2016 the Rule of 85 will be replaced with the Rule of 90 with a minimum age of 60. The monthly pension benefit is equal to 2.00% of their average monthly salary, using the highest 36 months out of the last 180 months of service, for each year of service. The plan permits early retirement at ages 55-64 with three or more years of service.

Members may elect to receive the pension benefits in the form of a single life, joint and survivor, term-certain annuity, or partial lump sum with ongoing annuity. Members may elect to receive the value of their accumulated contributions, plus interest, as a lump sum distribution upon retirement or termination, or they may elect to receive their benefits in the form of an annuity. For each member electing an annuity, total payment will not be less than the members' accumulated contributions plus interest.

Death and Disability Benefits

Death and disability benefits are set by statute. If an active member dies with less than three years of service for the Main System, a death benefit equal to the value of the member's accumulated contributions, plus interest, is paid to the member's beneficiary. If the member has earned more than three years of credited service for the Main System, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a single payment refund, life-time monthly payments in an amount equal to 50% of the member's accrued normal retirement benefit, or monthly payments in an amount equal to the member's accrued 100% Joint and Survivor retirement benefit if the member had reached normal retirement age prior to date of death. If the surviving spouse dies before the member's accumulated pension benefits are paid, the balance will be payable to the surviving spouse's designated beneficiary.

Eligible members who become totally disabled after a minimum of 180 days of service, receive monthly disability benefits equal to 25% of their final average salary with a minimum benefit of \$100. To qualify under this section, the member has to become disabled during the period of eligible employment and apply for benefits within one year of termination. The definition for disabled is set by the NDPERS in the North Dakota Administrative Code.

Refunds of Member Account Balance

Upon termination, if a member of the Main System is not vested (is not 65 or does not have three years of service), they will receive the accumulated member contributions and vested employer contributions, plus interest, or may elect to receive this amount at a later date. If the member has vested, they have the option of applying for a refund or can remain as a terminated vested participant. If a member terminated and withdrew their accumulated member contribution and is subsequently reemployed, they have the option of repurchasing their previous service.

Member and Employer Contributions

Member and employer contributions paid to NDPERS are set by statute and are established as a percent of salaries and wages. Member contribution rates are 7% and employer contribution rates are 7.12% of covered compensation.

The member's account balance includes the vested employer contributions equal to the member's contributions to an eligible deferred compensation plan. The minimum member contribution is \$25 and the maximum may not exceed the following:

- 1 to 12 months of service – Greater of one percent of monthly salary or \$25
- 13 to 24 months of service – Greater of two percent of monthly salary or \$25
- 25 to 36 months of service – Greater of three percent of monthly salary or \$25
- Longer than 36 months of service – Greater of four percent of monthly salary or \$25

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

At December 31, 2018, the District reported a liability of \$832,751 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2018, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of covered payroll in the Main System pension plan relative to the covered payroll of all participating Main System employers. At June 30, 2018, the District's proportion was 0.049345 percent, which was an increase of 0.001521 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2017.

For the year ended December 31, 2018, the District recognized pension expense of 151,870. At December 31, 2018, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experiences	\$ 2,202	\$ 28,332
Change in assumptions	300,606	11,886
Net differences between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	4,051
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	46,019	1
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	21,453	-
Total	\$ 370,280	\$ 44,270

\$21,453 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2019.

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

	Year ended December 31	
2019		\$ 100,199
2020		89,085
2021		74,051
2022		38,047
2023		3,175
		\$ 304,557

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2018 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	
Service at beginning of year	
0	15.00%
1	10.00%
2	8.00%
Age*	
Under 30	10.00%
30-39	7.50%
40-49	6.75%
50-59	6.50%
60+	5.25%

*Age-based salary increase rates apply for employees with three or more years of service.

Investment rate of return	7.75%, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-living adjustment	None

For active members, inactive members and healthy retirees, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Mortality Table set back two years for males and three years for females, projected generationally using the SSA 2014 Intermediate Cost scale from 2014. For disabled retirees, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table set back one year for males (no setback for females) multiplied by 125%.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic equity	30%	6.05%
International equity	21%	6.71%
Private equity	7%	10.20%
Domestic fixed income	23%	1.45%
Global real assets	19%	5.11%
Cash equivalents	0%	0.00%

Discount Rate

For PERS, GASB Statement No. 67 includes a specific requirement for the discount rate that is used for the purpose of the measurement of the Total Pension Liability. This rate considers the ability of the System to meet benefit obligations in the future. To make this determination, employer contributions, employee contributions, benefit payments, expenses and investment returns are projected into the future. The current employer and employee fixed rate contributions are assumed to be made in each future year. The Plan Net Position (assets) in future years can then be determined and compared to its obligation to make benefit payments in those years. In years where assets are not projected to be sufficient to meet benefit payments, which is the case for the PERS plan, the use of a municipal bond rate is required.

The Single Discount Rate (SDR) is equivalent to applying these two rates to the benefits that are projected to be paid during the different time periods. The SDR reflects (1) the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments (during the period in which the fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits) and (2) a tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long-term expected rate of return are not met).

For the purpose of this valuation, the expected rate of return on pension plan investments is 7.75%; the municipal bond rate is 3.62%; and the resulting Single Discount Rate is 6.32%.

Sensitivity of the Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.32 percent, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.32 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.32 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (5.32%)	Current Discount Rate (6.32%)	1% Increase (7.32%)
Employers' net pension liability	\$ 1,131,553	\$ 832,751	\$ 583,409

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued NDPERS financial report.

Note 9 - Other Post-Employment Benefits

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

The following brief description of NDPERS is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to NDAC Chapter 71-06 for more complete information.

NDPERS OPEB plan is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plan that covers members receiving retirement benefits from the PERS, the HPRS, and Judges retired under Chapter 27-17 of the North Dakota Century Code a credit toward their monthly health insurance premium under the state health plan based upon the member's years of credited service. Effective July 1, 2015, the credit is also available to apply towards monthly premiums under the state dental, vision and long-term care plan and any other health insurance plan. The Retiree Health Insurance Credit Fund is advance-funded on an actuarially determined basis.

Responsibility for administration of the NDPERS defined benefit OPEB plan is assigned to a Board comprised of nine members. The Board consists of a Chairman, who is appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the Attorney General; one member appointed by the State Health Officer; three members elected by the active membership of the NDPERS system, one member elected by the retired public employees and two members of the legislative assembly appointed by the chairman of the legislative management.

OPEB Benefits

The employer contribution for the PERS, the HPRS and the Defined Contribution Plan is set by statute at 1.14% of covered compensation. The employer contribution for employees of the state board of career and technical education is 2.99% of covered compensation for a period of eight years ending October 1, 2015. Employees participating in the retirement plan as part-time/temporary members are required to contribute 1.14% of their covered compensation to the Retiree Health Insurance Credit Fund. Employees purchasing previous service credit are also required to make an employee contribution to the Fund. The benefit amount applied each year is shown as "*prefunded credit applied*" on the Statement of Changes in Plan Net Position for the OPEB trust funds.

Retiree health insurance credit benefits and death and disability benefits are set by statute. There are no provisions or policies with respect to automatic and ad hoc post-retirement benefit increases. Employees who are receiving monthly retirement benefits from the PERS, the HPRS, the Defined Contribution Plan, the Chapter 27-17 judges or an employee receiving disability benefits, or the spouse of a deceased annuitant receiving a surviving spouse benefit or if the member selected a joint and survivor option are eligible to receive a credit toward their monthly health insurance premium under the state health plan.

Effective July 1, 2015, the credit is also available to apply towards monthly premiums under the state dental, vision and long-term care plan and any other health insurance plan. The benefits are equal to \$5.00 for each of the employee's, or deceased employee's years of credited service not to exceed the premium in effect for selected coverage. The retiree health insurance credit is also available for early retirement with reduced benefits.

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

At December 31, 2018, the Employer reported a liability of \$42,106 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2018, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Employer's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the Employer's share of covered payroll in the OPEB plan relative to the covered payroll of all participating OPEB employers. At June 30, 2018, the District's proportion was 0.053463 percent.

For the year ended December 31, 2018, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$5,068. At December 31, 2018, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experiences	\$ 1,262	\$ 870
Change in assumptions	3,455	-
Net differences between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	-	906
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	736
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	3,435	-
Total	\$ 8,152	\$ 2,512

\$8,152 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ended December 31, 2019.

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

Year ended December 31		
2019	\$	218
2020		218
2021		218
2022		617
2023		544
Thereafter		390
	\$	2,205

Actuarial Assumptions

The total OPEB liability in the July 1, 2017 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	N/A
Investment rate of return	7.50%, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-living adjustment	None

For active members, inactive members and healthy retirees, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Mortality Table set back two years for males and three years for females, projected generationally using the SSA 2014 Intermediate Cost scale from 2014. For disabled retirees, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table set back one year for males (no setback for females) multiplied by 125%.

The long-term expected investment rate of return assumption for the RHIC fund was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of RHIC investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Estimates of arithmetic real rates of return, for each major asset class included in the RHIC’s target asset allocation as of July 1, 2017 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Large Cap Domestic Equities	30%	6.05%
Small Cap Domestic Equities	21%	6.71%
International Equities	7%	10.20%
Core-Plus Fixed Income	23%	1.45%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.5%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member and statutory/Board approved employer contributions will be made at rates equal to those based on the July 1, 2018, and July 1, 2017, HPRS actuarial valuation reports. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current RHIC members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries are not included. Based on those assumptions, the RHIC fiduciary net position was projected to be sufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on RHIC investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability.

Sensitivity of the Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the Plans as of June 30, 2018, calculated using the discount rate of 7.50%, as well as what the RHIC net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.5 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.5 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Increase (8.50%)
Employers' net pension liability	\$ 53,274	\$ 42,106	\$ 32,532

Note 10 - Adoption of New Standard

As of December 31, 2018, the District adopted GASB Statement No. 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions. The implementation of this standard replaces the requirements of GASB Statement No. 45 Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions, and requires governments calculate and report the cost and obligations associated with other postemployment benefits other than pensions in their financial statements, including additional note disclosures and required supplementary information. Beginning net position was restated to adopt the provisions of GASB Statement No. 75 to report the beginning net OPEB liability as follows:

	Governmental Activities	Total
Net Position at December 31, 2017, as previously reported	\$ 2,747,627	\$ 2,747,627
Add net OPEB liability under GASB Statement No. 75 at December 31, 2017	(41,190)	(41,190)
Net Position at December 31, 2017, as restated	\$ 2,706,437	\$ 2,706,437



Required Supplementary Information
December 31, 2016

Bismarck Rural Fire District

Bismarck Rural Fire District
Schedules Employer Pension Liability and Contributions
Year Ended December 31, 2018

Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability
ND Public Employees Retirement System
Last 10 Fiscal Years*

Pension Plan	Fiscal Year Ending	Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (a)	Employer's Covered Payroll (b)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll (a/b)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
NDPERS	6/30/2015	0.039827%	\$ 270,817	\$ 354,808	76.33%	77.70%
NDPERS	6/30/2016	0.046296%	451,200	466,557	96.71%	71.10%
NDPERS	6/30/2017	0.047824%	768,689	488,211	157.45%	62.65%
NDPERS	6/30/2018	<u>0.049345%</u>	<u>832,751</u>	<u>506,929</u>	<u>164.27%</u>	<u>63.53%</u>

Schedule of Employer's Contributions
ND Public Employees Retirement System
Last 10 Fiscal Years*

Pension Plan	Fiscal Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contribution (a)	Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contribution (b)	Contribution Deficiency (Excess) (a-b)	Employer's Covered Payroll (d)	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (a/d)
NDPERS	12/31/2015	\$ 26,951	\$ 26,951	\$ -	\$ 452,083	5.96%
NDPERS	12/31/2016	33,778	33,778	-	535,325	6.31%
NDPERS	12/31/2017	35,401	35,401	-	531,173	6.66%
NDPERS	12/31/2018	<u>37,338</u>	<u>37,338</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>575,992</u>	<u>6.48%</u>

* GASB Statement No. 68 requires ten years of information to be presented in this table. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the District will present the information for those years for which information is available.

Bismarck Rural Fire District
Schedules of Employer OPEB Liability and Contributions
Year Ended December 31, 2018

Schedule of Employer's Share of Net OPEB Liability
ND Public Employees Retirement System
Last 10 Fiscal Years*

OPEB Plan	Fiscal Year Ending	Employer's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Pension Liability (a)	Employer's Covered Payroll (b)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll (a/b)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability
NDPERS	6/30/2018	<u>0.053463%</u>	<u>\$ 42,106</u>	<u>\$ 585,004</u>	<u>7.20%</u>	<u>61.89%</u>

Schedule of Employer's Contributions
ND Public Employees Retirement System
Last 10 Fiscal Years*

OPEB Plan	Fiscal Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contribution (a)	Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contribution (b)	Contribution Deficiency (Excess) (a-b)	Employer's Covered Payroll (d)	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (a/d)
NDPERS	12/31/2018	<u>\$ 6,862</u>	<u>\$ 6,862</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 598,462</u>	<u>1.15%</u>

* GASB Statement No. 75 requires ten years of information to be presented in this table. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the District will present the information for those years for which information is available.

Note 1- Employer Pension Liability and Contributions

Amounts reported in 2018 reflect actuarial assumption changes effective July 1, 2018 based on the results of an actuarial experience study completed in 2015. This includes changes to the mortality tables, disability incidence rates, retirement rates, administrative expenses, salary scale, and percent married assumption.

Note 2- Employer OPEB Liability and Contributions

Amounts reported in 2018 reflect actuarial assumption changes effective July 1, 2018 based on the results of an actuarial experience study completed in 2015. This includes changes to the mortality tables, disability incidence rates, retirement rates, administrative expenses, salary scale, and percent married assumption.



Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

To the Board of Directors
Bismarck Rural Fire District
Bismarck, North Dakota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Bismarck Rural Fire District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Bismarck Rural Fire District’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 25, 2019.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Bismarck Rural Fire District'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 Bismarck Rural Fire District’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Bismarck Rural Fire District’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. We consider the deficiencies 2018-A, 2018-B, and 2018-C described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses to material weaknesses.

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.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Bismarck Rural Fire District'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*.

Bismarck Rural Fire District's Responses to Findings

Bismarck Rural Fire District's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. Bismarck Rural Fire District's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

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.

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eide Bailly LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bismarck, North Dakota
October 25, 2019

Current Audit Findings and Recommendations

**2018-A – Preparation of Financial Statements
Material Weakness**

Condition – The District does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the preparation of the financial statements being audited. As auditors, we were requested to draft the financial statements and accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Criteria – A good system of internal accounting control contemplates an adequate system for recording and processing entries material to the financial statements.

Cause – Due to cost and other considerations, the District has requested we draft the financial statements and related footnotes.

Effect – This control deficiency could result in a misstatement to the financial statements that would not be prevented or detected.

Recommendation – This circumstance is not unusual in a district of your size. It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations.

View of responsible officials – Due to cost constraints, the District will continue to have the auditors draft the financial statements and accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**2018-B – Segregation of Duties
Material Weakness**

Condition – The District has a lack of segregation of duties in the cash receipt process due to limited staff.

Criteria – A good system of internal accounting control contemplates an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual handles a cash receipt transaction from its inception to its completion.

Cause – Due to cost constraints and the limited size of staff, the District does not facilitate the segregation of duties in the cash receipt process or review and approval of journal entries necessary to achieve a low level of control risk.

Effect – Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the District’s ability to detect misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements in a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned function.

Recommendation – While we recognize that your office staff may not be large enough to permit complete segregation of duties in respects to the cash receipt process for an effective system of internal control, all accounting activity should continue to be reviewed by the Board of Directors.

View of responsible officials – Due to the size of our organization total segregation of duties is not possible but measures have been put into place such as the fire chief approving all invoices, the secretary then writes the checks and verifies invoices and then they are sent for the president or vice president to review and sign, they are returned to the secretary for second signature and finally the finance committee reviews all invoices as well as payroll, comparing them to the check stubs and reports. The finance committee also reviews bank statements and savings accounts before the approval of the treasurer’s report at the monthly board meetings.

2018-C – Recording of Transactions
Material Weakness

Condition – We identified misstatements in the District’s financial statements causing us to propose significant audit adjustments.

Criteria – A good system of internal accounting control contemplates proper reconcilements of all general ledger accounts and adjustments of those accounts to the reconciled balances.

Cause – Due to cost and other considerations, the District has not trained personnel to make all of the necessary financial statement adjustments.

Effect – Inadequate internal controls over recording of transactions affects the District’s ability to detect misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements.

Recommendation – We recommend that all general ledger accounts are reconciled in a timely manner and adjustments made for any differences noted.

View of responsible officials – Due to size of our organization we do not have the personnel available with training to make these entries due to the cost and time that would be involved.