

BARNES COUNTY  
VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

BARNES COUNTY

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BARNES COUNTY  
LIST OF OFFICIALS  
DECEMBER 31, 2020

Commissioners:

Cindy Schwehr  
John Froelich  
Shawn Olauson  
Vicky Lovell  
Bill Carlblom

Auditor:

Beth Didier

Treasurer:

Vicki Zinck Metcalf/  
Debbie Magnuson

Sheriff:

Randy McClafllin

County Recorder:

Jody Pfaff

States Attorney:

Tonya Duffy

**Harold J. Rotunda**  
**Certified Public Accountant**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Governing Board  
Barnes County  
Valley City, North Dakota

I have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Barnes County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County'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 the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible 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.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

My responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards 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 I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of 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 in the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the County'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 County's internal control. Accordingly, I 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.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinions.

## **Opinions**

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Barnes County as of December 31, 2020, and the changes in the modified cash basis financial position for the year then ended, in conformance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

## **Emphasis of Matters- Fund Classification**

As discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements, as of January 1, 2020, the County changed the reporting of the City- County Health District from a blended component unit to a discretely presented component unit. In addition management changed the reporting of certain funds from Agency to Special Revenue Fund. This has resulted in a restatement of the beginning of the year net position and fund balances as of January 1, 2020. My opinions are not modified with respect to these matters.

## **Emphasis of Matter- Correction of Errors**

As Discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements, the County has identified fixed assets omitted and certain agency funds omitted from the financial statements as of December 31, 2019. Accordingly, a restatement has been made to the net position of governmental activities and fund balance of the governmental funds as of January 1, 2020, to correct this error. My opinions are not modified with respect to these matters.

## **Basis of Accounting**

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

## **Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued reports dated January 5, 2023, on my considerations of the County's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of my 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 the County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Fargo, North Dakota  
January 5, 2023

BARNES COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2020

	PRIMARY GOVERNMENT	COMPONENT UNITS		
	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	WATER RESOURCE	AIRPORT AUTHORITY	HEALTH DISTRICT
ASSETS				
Cash and investments	22,463,590.20	1,068,187.31	338,961.94	386,570.71
Accounts receivable	231,752.37			-
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	7,187,606.91	2,537,177.12	1,537,293.43	939,885.63
Total Assets	29,882,949.48	3,605,364.43	1,876,255.37	1,326,456.34
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	4,964.22			
Long-term liabilities:				
Due within one year:				
Bonds payable	100,000.00	775,000.00		
Notes payable	120,000.00			-
Due after one year:				
Bonds payable	205,000.00			
Notes payable	15,315,000.00			289,598.82
Total liabilities	15,744,964.22	775,000.00	-	289,598.82
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Taxes paid in advance	2,286,926.56			93,857.44
NET POSITION				
Net investment in capital assets	3,423,549.65	1,762,177.12	1,537,293.43	650,286.81
Restricted for Emergency	554,646.71			
Restricted for Economic Development	134,713.11			
Restricted for Highway	2,893,879.61			
Restricted for Jail	-			
Restricted for FEMA Projects	191,809.70			
Unrestricted	4,652,459.92	1,068,187.31	338,961.94	292,713.27
Total net position	11,851,058.70	2,830,364.43	1,876,255.37	943,000.08

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



BARNES COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

		Program Revenues		Net (expense) Revenue & Changes in Net Assets	
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	
Governmental Activities:					
General government	4,283,496.45			(4,283,496.45)	
Public safety	2,176,839.32			(2,176,839.32)	
Highways	3,956,849.58	562,256.81	1,817,294.82	(1,577,297.95)	
Relief and charities	71,594.51			(71,594.51)	
Weed control	319,170.45	6,577.55	61,413.32	(251,179.58)	
Culture and recreation	82,820.09			(82,820.09)	
Interest expense	9,027.50			(9,027.50)	
Total Governmental Activities	10,899,797.90	568,834.36	1,878,708.14	(8,452,255.40)	
Component Units					
Water Resource District	421,888.00		-	(421,888.00)	
Airport Authority	426,157.66	73,478.10	-	(352,679.56)	
Health District	2,016,877.97			(2,016,877.97)	
		Component Units			
		Governmental	Water Resource	Airport	Health District
Net expense		(8,452,255.40)	(421,888.00)	(352,679.56)	(2,016,877.97)
Property taxes		7,251,472.79	329,362.08	144,087.15	
Intergovernmental		2,085,093.98	55,922.66	181,991.95	
Charges		283,727.28		-	
Interest income		55,611.16	1,907.86	548.29	(36,189.79)
Licenses and permits		57,667.37		-	2,196,982.00
Other revenue		135,981.30	198,877.79	21,036.86	
Total General revenues		9,869,553.88	586,070.39	347,664.25	2,160,792.21
Change in Net Assets		1,417,298.48	164,182.39	(5,015.31)	143,914.24
Net Position- January 1- Restated Note 10		10,433,760.22	2,666,182.05	1,881,270.68	799,085.84
Net Position- December 31		11,851,058.70	2,830,364.44	1,876,255.37	943,000.08

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

BARNES COUNTY  
BALANCE SHEET- GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2020

	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
ASSETS			
Cash and investments	5,246,060.52	17,217,492.72	22,463,553.24
Accounts receivable		231,752.37	231,752.37
Intergovernmental receivable	-		-
			-
			-
			-
Total Assets	5,246,060.52	17,449,245.09	22,695,305.61
			-
			-
LIABILITIES			-
Accounts Payable	4,964.22		4,964.22
Prepaid taxes	1,360,939.57	925,986.99	2,286,926.56
			-
Total Liabilities	1,365,903.79	925,986.99	2,291,890.78
			-
			-
FUND BALANCE			-
Restricted for Emergency		554,646.71	554,646.71
Restricted for Economic Development		134,713.11	134,713.11
Restricted for Highway		2,893,879.61	2,893,879.61
Restricted for Jail		11,975,942.74	11,975,942.74
Restricted for FEMA Projects		191,809.70	191,809.70
Assigned for General Government		549,119.64	549,119.64
Unassigned	3,880,156.73	223,146.59	4,103,303.32
			-
Total Fund Balance	3,880,156.73	16,523,258.10	20,403,414.83
			-
Total liabilities			-
and fund balances	5,246,060.52	18,003,891.80	23,249,952.32

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



BARNES COUNTY  
 RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE  
 SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
 DECEMBER 31, 2020

Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds	20,403,451.79
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Total net assets reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets is different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and are not reported in governmental funds

Cost of capital assets	14,409,719.55	
Less accumulated depreciation	7,222,112.64	
Net capital assets		7,187,606.91

Long-term liabilities applicable to the District's governmental activities are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. All liabilities- both current and long-term are reported in the statement of net assets. Balances at year end are:

Bonds payable	(305,000.00)
Leases payable	(15,435,000.00)

Total Net Assets of Governmental Activities	11,851,058.70
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BARNES COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES- GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
Property taxes	4,804,679.38	2,446,793.41	7,251,472.79
Intergovernmental	1,433,294.81	2,530,507.31	3,963,802.12
Charges for services	283,727.28	568,834.36	852,561.64
Interest and other	173,365.73	75,894.10	249,259.83
Total Revenues	6,695,067.20	5,622,029.18	12,317,096.38
Current:			
General government	3,522,922.57	1,079,744.33	4,602,666.90
Public safety	2,036,508.93	140,330.39	2,176,839.32
Health and welfare		-	-
Highways		4,591,995.63	4,591,995.63
Relief and charities		71,594.51	71,594.51
Culture and recreation	82,820.09	-	82,820.09
Capital outlay		4,142,946.91	4,142,946.91
Debt Service			
Principal		100,000.00	100,000.00
Interest expense		4,027.50	4,027.50
Total Expenditures	5,642,251.59	10,130,639.27	15,772,890.86
Excess revenues (expenditures)	1,052,815.61	(4,508,610.09)	(3,455,794.48)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Transfers in		1,520,000.00	1,520,000.00
Transfers out	(520,000.00)	(1,000,000.00)	(1,520,000.00)
Bond proceeds		15,615,866.20	15,615,866.20
Total other financing sources and uses	(520,000.00)	16,135,866.20	15,615,866.20
Net change in fund balances	532,815.61	11,627,256.11	12,160,071.72
Fund balance- beginning- Restated Note 10	3,347,341.12	4,896,038.95	8,243,380.07
Fund balance- ending	3,880,156.73	16,523,295.06	20,403,451.79

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

BARNES COUNTY  
 RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
 CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Net Change in Fund Balances- Total Governmental Funds	12,160,071.72
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The change in net assets reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current year.

Current year capital outlay	5,246,061.65
Current year depreciation expense	(421,834.89)
Gain on sale of assets	(227,000.00)

Issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. In the current period these amounts are:

Debt issued, net of related premiums and discounts	(15,435,000.00)
Principal retirement	95,000.00

Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities	1,417,298.48
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BARNES COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION- FIDUCIARY FUNDS- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2020

CUSTODIAL  
FUNDS

ASSETS

Cash and investments	4,817,790.70
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Total Assets	4,817,790.70
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NET POSITION

Restricted	4,817,790.70
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION- FIDUCIARY FUNDS- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Additions	
Property taxes and Intergovernmental Revenue	14,499,464.40
Deductions	
Payments to other governments	13,894,088.42
Change in Net Position	605,375.98
Net Position, beginning- Restated Note 10	4,212,414.72
Net Position, ending	4,817,790.70

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BARNES COUNTY  
VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2020

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Barnes County (County) have been prepared in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting. 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 County's accounting policies are described below.

A. Reporting Entity

The accompanying financial statements present the activities of the County. The County has considered all potential component units for which the County is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationships with the County such that exclusion would cause the County's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (1) the ability of the County to impose its will on that organization or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the County.

Based on the above criteria the city has the following discretely presented component units:

Barnes County Health District- The Health District was organized to provide management of the health services in Barnes County. The Commission appoints all Board members and approves its tax levy.

Barnes County Airport Authority- The Airport Authority was organized to provide management of the airport in Barnes County. The Commission appoints all Board members and approves its tax levy.

Barnes County Water Resource District- The Water Resource District was organized to provide water resource management in Barnes County. The Commission appoints all Board members and approves its tax levy.

The component units do not issue separate financial statements.

B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Government-wide statements: The statement of net assets and the statement of activities display information about the primary government, the County. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double-counting of internal activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions.



BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the County's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements: The fund financial statements provide information about the County's funds including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category - governmental and fiduciary - are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The County reports the following major governmental fund:

General Fund. The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the County and always classified as a major fund.

Special Revenue Fund- This fund accounts for financial resources that exist for special purposes. The major sources of revenues is property taxes, sales taxes and intergovernmental revenues.

The County reports the following fund types:

Custodial Funds. These funds account for assets by the County in a custodial capacity as an agent on behalf of others. The County's agency fund is used to account for various deposits of other governments funds.

#### C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

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

##### **Measurement Focus**

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus, within the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of the County are included in the statement of net position.

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

The current financial resources measurement focus differ from the manner which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Due to the difference, the County's financial statements include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for government funds.

BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

All governmental funds utilize a "current financial resources" measurement focus. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on their balance sheets. Their operating statements presents sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. These funds use fund balance as their measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.

**Basis of Accounting**

The basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements.

In the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities, activities are presented using the modified cash basis of accounting. This basis recognizes assets, liabilities, net position, revenues, and expenditures/expenses when they result from cash transactions with a provision for depreciation, township receivables, health grant receivables, accounts payable for tax refunds payable and property taxes paid in advance in the government-wide statements and township receivables, health grant receivables, accounts payable for tax refunds payable and property taxes paid in advance in the fund financial statements. This basis is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As a result of the use of this modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

If the County utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted, the fund financial statements for governmental funds would use the modified accrual basis of accounting. All government-wide financials would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

Under the terms of grant agreements, the County funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants and general revenues. Thus, when program expenses are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted net assets available to finance the program. It is the County's policy to first apply cost-reimbursement grant resources to such programs, and then by general revenues.

**D. Budgets**

Based upon available financial information and requests by the department heads, the commission and auditor prepare the County budget. The budget is prepared for the general and special revenue funds on the modified cash basis of accounting. The budget includes the proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end.

County taxes are levied by the county commission on or before the October meeting. The current budget, except for property taxes, may be amended during the year for any revenues and appropriations not anticipated at the time the budget was prepared.

BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

E. Cash and Investments

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits and money market accounts. The investments of the County during the year ended December 31, 2020 consist of certificates of deposit stated at fair value with maturities in excess of 3 months.

F. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed.

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

Permanent Buildings	50
Equipment	10

G. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements, long term debt and other long term obligations are reported as liabilities in the governmental activities statement of net assets. Bond premiums, discounts and issuance costs are recognized in the current period since the amounts are not material. In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums, discounts and issuance costs in the current period. The face amount of the debt is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs are reported as debt service expenditures.

H. Fund Balance/ Net Position

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report aggregate amounts for five classifications of fund balances based on the constraints imposed on the use of these resources. The non-spendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form - inventories; or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The spendable portion of the fund balance comprises the remaining four classifications: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

**Restricted** - This classification reflects the constraints imposed on resources either (a) externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.



BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

**Committed** - These amounts can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal resolutions or ordinances of the County commission-the County's highest level of decision making authority. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the commission removes the specified use by taking the same type of action imposing the commitment. This classification also includes contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

**Assigned** - This classification reflects the amounts constrained by the County's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The commission has the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes. Assigned fund balances include all remaining amounts (except negative balances) that are reported in governmental funds, other than the General Fund, that are not classified as non-spendable and are neither restricted nor committed.

**Unassigned** - This fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund. It is also used to report negative fund balances in other governmental funds.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, the County's preference is to first use restricted resources, then unrestricted resources committed, assigned, and unassigned in order as needed.

The Commission has not set a General Fund minimum fund balance.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

#### I. Net Position

Net Position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets consists of the remaining undepreciated cost of the asset less the outstanding debt associated with the purchase or construction of the related asset.

Net position is reported as restricted when external creditors, grantors, or other governmental organizations impose specific restrictions on the City. External restrictions may be imposed through state or local laws, and grant or contract provisions.

#### I. Interfund Transactions

In the governmental fund statements, transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund, are recorded as expenditures in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures in the fund that is reimbursed.

All other interfund transactions, except reimbursements, are reported as transfers. Nonrecurring or nonroutine permanent transfers of equity are reported as residual equity transfers. All other interfund transfers are reported as operating transfers. In the government-wide financial statements, interfund transactions have been eliminated.

BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

NOTE 2: LEGAL COMPLIANCE - BUDGETS

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The board did not amend the County budget for 2020.

EXPENDITURES OVER APPROPRIATIONS

The County did not overspend any budgets in 2020.

NOTE 3 DEPOSITS

In accordance with North Dakota Statutes, the County maintains deposits at the depository banks designated by the governing board. All depositories are members of the Federal Reserve System. Deposits must either be deposited with the Bank of North Dakota or in other financial institution situated and doing business within the state. Deposits, other than with the Bank of North Dakota, must be fully insured or bonded. In lieu of a bond, a financial institution may provide a pledge of securities equal to 110% of the deposit not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral includes bills, notes, or bonds issued by the United States government, its agencies or instrumentalities, all bonds and notes guaranteed by the United States government, Federal Land Bank bonds, notes, warrants, and certificates of indebtedness, insured certificates of deposit, shares of investment companies registered under the Investment Companies Act of 1940, and all other forms of securities issued by the State of North Dakota, its boards, agencies, instrumentalities, or by any City, County, township, school district, park district, or other political subdivision of the State of North Dakota whether payable from special revenues or supported by the full faith and credit of the issuing body and bonds issued by another state of the United States, or such other securities approved by the banking board.

At December 31, 2020, the County's carrying amount of deposits was \$27,281,380. Of the bank balances, \$500,000 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance. The remaining bank balances was collateralized by U.S. Government Obligations and \$12,137,425 was held in an escrow account at the Bank of North Dakota.

At December 31, 2020, the Airport Authority's carrying amount of deposits was \$338,962 and the Water Resource's carrying amount was \$1,068,187. Of the bank balances, \$500,000 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance. The remaining bank balances was collateralized by U.S. Government Obligations.

Credit Risk

State statutes authorize the County to invest in: (1) 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. (2) Securities sold under agreements to repurchase written by a financial institution in which the underlying securities for the agreement to repurchase are the type listed above. (3) Certificates of Deposit fully insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation or the state. (4) Obligations of the state.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The County does not have a limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer.



BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

NOTE 4: PROPERTY TAXES

The county treasurer acts as an agent to collect property taxes levied in the county for all taxing authorities. Any material tax collections are distributed after the end of each month. Property taxes are levied as of January 1. The property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property on January 1 and may be paid in two installments. The first installment includes one-half of the real estate taxes and all the special assessments and the second installment is the balance of the real estate taxes. The first installment is due by March 1 and the second installment is due by October 15. A 5% discount on property taxes is allowed if all taxes and special assessments are paid by February 15. After the due dates, the bill becomes delinquent and penalties are assessed. Most property owners choose to pay property taxes and special assessments in a single payment on or before February 15 and receive the discount on the property taxes.

NOTE 5: CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2020:

Primary Government

	Balance January 1	Increases	Decreases	Balance December 31
Construction in progress		4,142,947		4,142,947
Bldgs and Improvements	6,008,619			6,008,619
Vehicles	1,683,369	1,037,554	352,900	2,368,023
Equipment	1,824,570	65,561		1,890,131
Total Cap Assets	9,516,558	5,246,062	352,900	14,409,720
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings & Improve	5,051,670	47,635		5,099,304
Vehicles	977,278	178,550		1,155,828
Equipment	897,231	195,650	125,900	966,981
Total Accumulated Dep	6,926,178	421,835	125,900	7,222,113
Capital Assets, Net	2,590,380			7,187,607

Depreciation Expense was charged to functions/programs of the County as follows:

Governmental Activities:	
General government	120,016
Public safety	45,577
Highways	230,102
Park	15,523
Weed	<u>10,617</u>
Total	421,835



BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

Component Units

Water Resource District			
Construction in progress	148,456	305,378	453,835
Infrastructure	2,887,133		2,887,133
Equipment			
Total Cap Assets	3,035,589	305,378	3,340,968

Less accumulated depreciation for:			
Infrastructure	706,453	97,338	803,790
Equipment			
Total Accumulated Dep	706,453	97,338	803,790

Capital Assets, Net	2,329,137		2,537,177
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Airport Authority			
Construction in progress	118,965	50,073	125,336
Infrastructure	1,525,332	125,336	1,650,669
Equipment	67,935	44,693	112,628
Total Cap Assets	1,712,233	220,102	1,806,998

Less accumulated depreciation for:			
Infrastructure	160,492	55,022	215,515
Equipment	36,134	18,056	54,190
Total Accumulated Dep	196,626	73,079	269,705

Capital Assets, Net	1,515,606		1,537,293
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City County Health District

Building	1,121,867		1,121,867
Equipment		36,252	36,252
Total Cap Assets	1,121,864	36,252	1,158,119

Less accumulated depreciation for:			
Building	170,423	42,632	213,055
Equipment		5,178	5,178
Total Accumulated Dep	170,423	47,811	218,234

Capital Assets, Net	951,444		939,885
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NOTE 6: LONG-TERM DEBT

	Payable 2019	Increases	Decreases	Payable 2020	Due Within One Year
Capital leases		15,435,000		15,435,000	120,000
Bonds payable	400,000		95,000	305,000	100,000
TOTAL	400,000	15,435,000	95,000	15,740,000	220,000

Debt payable at December 31, 2020, is comprised of the following:

Bonds Payable:

Bridge Bond of 2019 due in annual installments of \$95,000 to 105,000 including interest at 2.0-3.0% through June 2023

305,000

BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

The County issued a Certificate of Participation Series 2020 note in conjunction with the construction of a correctional facility. As part of the project the County has a lease purchase agreement with the Bank of North Dakota.

The annual long-term debt service requirements for bonds payable, as of December 31, 2020:

Year Ending Long-Term Debt				
December 31	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2021	100,000	6,685	120,000	295,657
2022	100,000	4,135	305,000	535,488
2023	105,000	1,418	315,000	523,288
2024			325,000	510,688
2025			340,000	497,688
2026-2030			1,875,000	2,318,040
2031-2035			2,270,000	1,924,090
2036-2040			2,760,000	1,432,490
2041-2045			3,295,000	900,840
2046-2050			3,830,000	366,564
Total	305,000	12,238	15,435,000	9,304,833

Component Units

City County Health District					
	Payable			Payable	Due Within
	2019	Increases	Decreases	2020	One Year
Notes payable	343,674		54,075	289,599	57,125

NOTES PAYABLE

Note payable at local bank due in monthly installments of \$5,979, including interest at 5.50%, through June 2025 when balance of loan is due. Note used to purchase City-County Health building.

289,599

The County is obligated to the following note payable agreements at December 31, 2020 are shown below:

2021	71,627
2022	71,627
2023	71,627
2024	71,627
2025	<u>41,783</u>
	328,291
Less amount representing interest	<u>38,692</u>
Principal balance remaining	289,599

During the year ended December 31, 2020, the following changes occurred in Water Resource District in long-term debt:

	Payable			Payable	Due Within
	2019	Increases	Decreases	2020	One Year
Bonds payable	775,000			775,000	775,000

Tax Anticipation Bond of 2020 due April 2021 including interest at 2.15%. Callable at any time 775,000

BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

NOTE 7: TRANSFERS

The County transfers operating revenues between funds. The County transfers Highway distribution funds to the Road & Bridge fund- \$1,000,000; Economic Development Fund from General Fund- \$20,000; Jail Construction from General Fund- \$500,000; Jail Construction from Jail Escrow Fund- \$1,358,994.

NOTE 8: PENSION PLANS

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

The County participates in the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) administered by the State of North Dakota. Following is a brief description of the plan:

PERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of North Dakota. PERS provides for retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. If an active employee dies with less than three years of credited service, a death benefit equal to the value of the employee's accumulated contributions, plus interest, is paid to the employee's beneficiary. If the employee has earned more than three years of credited service, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a single payment refund, lifetime monthly payments in an amount equal to 50% of the employee's accrued normal retirement benefit, 60 monthly payments equal to the employee's accrued normal retirement benefit calculated as if the employee were age 65 the day before death occurred or monthly payments in an amount equal to the employee's accrued 100% joint and survivor retirement benefit if the member had reached normal retirement age prior to death. If the surviving spouse dies before the employee's accumulated pension benefits are paid, the balance will be paid to the surviving spouse's designated beneficiary.

Eligible employees, who become totally disabled after a minimum of 180 days of service, receive monthly disability benefits that are equal to 25% of their final average salary with a minimum benefit of \$100. To qualify under this section, the employee must meet the criteria established by the Retirement Board for being considered totally disabled.

Employees are entitled to unreduced monthly pension benefits equal to 2% of their final average salary for each year of service beginning when the sum of age and years of credited service equal or exceed 85, or at the normal retirement age (65). The plan permits early retirement at ages 55-64, with three or more years of service.

BARNES COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

Benefit and contribution provisions are administered in accordance with chapter 54-52 of the North Dakota Century Code. This state statute requires that 7% of the participants annual covered salary be contributed to the plan by either the employee or by the employer under a A salary reduction agreement. The County had agreed to pay 100% of the member assessments in lieu of a salary increase. The County is required to contribute 7.12% of each participant's salary as the employer's share. The County is required to contribute 1.14% of each participating covered wage to a prefunded retiree health insurance program. The required contributions are determined using an entry age normal actuarial funding method and are included in state statute. The North Dakota Retirement Board was created by the State Legislature and is the governing authority of PERS. The County's contributions to PERS for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2020, 2019, and 2018 were \$377,191, \$432,029, and \$416,607, respectively, equal to the required contributions for the year.

PERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for PERS. That report may be obtained on the NDPERS website.

NOTE 9: RISK MANAGEMENT

The County is exposed to various risks of loss relating to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

In 1986 state agencies and political subdivisions of the State of North Dakota joined together to form the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF), a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for the state and over 2,000 political subdivisions. The County pays an annual premium to NDIRF for its general liability and automobile insurance coverage. The coverage by NDIRF is limited to losses of one million dollars per occurrence.

The State Bonding Fund currently provides the County with blanket fidelity bond coverage for its employees. The State Bonding fund does not currently charge any premium for this coverage.

The County has workers compensation with the Workforce, Safety and Insurance and purchases commercial insurance for personal property, building, inland marine, and boiler and machinery.

BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

NOTE 10: RESTATEMENT

As of January 1, 2019, the County reclassified the City-County Health District from blended component unit to discretely presented component unit. This change was made based on the analysis of the component unit.

In addition, management changed the reporting of several funds from Agency Fund to Special Revenue Fund. These changes were made based on the analysis of these funds.

In addition fixed assets in component units were adjusted for correction of accumulated depreciation and the addition of Water Resource District assets.

In addition the beginning balance for Agency funds were adjusted for unrecorded funds.

As a result, the following restatements have been made to the fund balances in the governmental funds:

	General	Special Revenue	Agency	Component Unit
Balance- December 31, 2019, as previously reported	3,347,341	4,576,452	3,810,037	
Reclassify component unit		(191,315)		191,315
Reclassify funds		510,901	(510,901)	
Correction of error			913,279	
Balance January 1, restated	3,347,341	4,896,038	4,212,415	191,315

The following restatements have been made to the net position in the governmental funds:

	County	Airport	Water Resource	City-County Health	Agency
Balance- December 31, 2019, as previously reported	10,721,944	2,041,763	337,045		3,810,037
Reclassify component unit	(799,085)			799,085	
Reclassify funds	510,901				(510,901)
Fixed Asset corrections		(160,492)	2,329,137		
Correction of error					913,279
Balance January 1, restated	10,433,760	1,881,271	2,666,182	799,085	4,212,415

BARNES COUNTY

REPORTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

DECEMBER 31, 2020



Barnes County  
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# Harold J. Rotunda

## Certified Public Accountant

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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*

Independent Auditor's Report

Governing Board  
Barnes County  
Valley City, North Dakota

I have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Barnes County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise basic financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated January 5, 2023.

### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements, I considered Barnes County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of 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 County'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.

My consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during my audit I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that I consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. I did identify two deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings that I consider to be a significant deficiency (2020-1 and 2020-2).

## **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Barnes County's financial statements are free of material misstatement, I 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 my audit, and accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

## **County's Response to Findings**

Barnes County's response to the finding identified in my audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. Barnes County's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I express no opinion on it.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County'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 County's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Fargo, North Dakota  
January 5, 2023

BARNES COUNTY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

**2020-001 Segregation of Duties**

**Criteria**

To provide reasonable assurance that segregation of duties takes place while also taking into account the size of the County.

**Condition**

The County Auditor is responsible for all accounting functions involved. The employee handles all income of monies, prepares the receipts documents, prepares the deposits, issues all checks and distributes them, receives the bank statements and does the reconciliations. The employee also records the receipts and disbursements to the journals and maintains the general ledger. Considering the size of the County, it is not feasible to obtain proper segregation of duties and the degree of internal control is severely limited.

**Cause**

The County Auditor is the employee responsible for all functions and due to the County's size, they are unable to hire additional staff.

**Effect**

Lack of segregation of duties leads to a limited degree of internal control.

**Recommendation**

The County should separate the duties when it becomes feasible. As a compensating control, the County should ensure additional oversight by the Commission regarding financial transaction activity.

**Management's Response**

Some procedures to promote segregation of duties have been implemented. Funds are counted by other individuals prior to being given to the Auditor to receipt and deposit at the various financial institutions. The Council reviews and approves bills before payments are made. The Mayor reviews and signs all checks written. The County will formally segregate other duties when feasible.



BARNES COUNTY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

**2020-002 Financial Statement Preparation**

**Criteria**

An appropriate system of internal controls requires that a County make a determination that financial statements and the underlying general ledger accounts are properly stated in compliance with the modified cash basis of accounting. This requires the County's personnel to maintain a working knowledge of current modified cash basis of accounting required financial statement disclosures.

**Condition**

The County's auditor prepared the financial statements for the years ended. In addition, adjusting entries were proposed to bring the financial statements into compliance with the modified cash basis of accounting. An appropriate system of internal controls requires that a County must make a determination that financial statements and the underlying general ledger accounts are properly stated in compliance with the modified cash basis. This requires the County's personnel to maintain a working knowledge of current accounting principles in accordance with the modified cash basis.

**Cause**

The County does not have the resources to prepare full modified cash basis financial statements.

**Effect**

The County currently does not maintain the working knowledge of current accounting principles for the modified cash basis and required financial statement disclosures to make a determination that financial statements are properly stated in compliance with the modified cash basis.

**Recommendation**

Compensating controls could be provided through client preparation of the financial statement preparation and/or review function.

**Management's Response**

Management agrees that it is currently not cost-effective.