

BARNES COUNTY  
VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

BARNES COUNTY

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BARNES COUNTY  
LIST OF OFFICIALS  
DECEMBER 31, 2022

Commissioners:	Cindy Schwehr Pete Paulson Shawn Olauson Vicky Lovell Bill Carlblom
Auditor:	Beth Didier
Treasurer:	Debbie Magnuson
Sheriff:	Randy McClaflin
County Recorder:	Jody Pfaff
States Attorney:	Tonya Duffy

# Harold J. Rotunda

Certified Public Accountant

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Governing Board  
Barnes County  
Valley City, North Dakota

### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, the discretely presented component units, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Barnes County, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Barnes County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### Qualified Opinion on the Health District Component Unit

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter discussed in the Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions section of my report, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the discretely presented Health District component unit of Barnes County as of December 31, 2022, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position for the year then ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

Unmodified Opinions on Governmental Activities, Each Major Fund, Discretely Presented Component Units (Airport Authority and Water Resource District) and Aggregate Remaining Fund Information.

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, each major fund, the discretely presented component units (Airport Authority and Water Resource District), and the aggregate remaining fund information of Barnes County as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position for the year then ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

### Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am required to be independent of Barnes County and to meet my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to my audit. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinions.

obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinions.

#### **Matter Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion on the Health District Discretely Presented Component Unit**

The financial statements of the Health District have not been audited and I was not engaged to audit the Health District's financial statements as part of my audit of Barnes County's basic financial statements as part of the discretely presented component unit.

#### **Emphasis of Matter-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.

#### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.



In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, I:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Barnes County's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation in the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in my judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Barnes County's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

I am required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that I identified during the audit.

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

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued reports dated June 1, 2024, 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 solely 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 the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Fargo, North Dakota  
June 1, 2024

BARNES COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2022

	PRIMARY GOVERNMENT	COMPONENT UNITS		(Unaudited)
	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	WATER RESOURCE	AIRPORT AUTHORITY	HEALTH DISTRICT
ASSETS				
Cash and investments	14,265,842.91	245,185.00	168,426.49	574,741.71
Accounts receivable	249,543.36			-
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	19,025,478.90	3,253,628.44	2,585,960.78	861,609.60
Total Assets	33,540,865.17	3,498,813.44	2,754,387.27	1,436,351.31
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	9,435.88			
Long-term liabilities:				
Due within one year:				
Bonds payable	105,000.00			
Certificate of Participation	315,000.00			
Due after one year:				
Bonds payable	-			
Certificate of Participation	14,695,000.00			
Total liabilities	15,124,435.88	-	-	-
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Taxes paid in advance	1,984,292.16			-
NET POSITION				
Net investment in capital assets	3,910,478.90	3,253,628.44	2,585,960.78	861,609.60
Restricted for Emergency	598,189.82			
Restricted for Economic Development	217,821.72			
Restricted for Highway	4,136,991.79			
Restricted for Jail	-			
Restricted for FEMA Projects	302,350.95			
Unrestricted	7,266,303.95	245,185.00	168,426.49	574,741.71
Total net position	16,432,137.13	3,498,813.44	2,754,387.27	1,436,351.31

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

BARNES COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

		Program Revenues		Net (expense) Revenue & Changes in Net Position	
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	
Governmental Activities:					
General government	4,899,549.42	42,574.52		(4,856,974.90)	
Public safety	2,711,750.67	215,656.08		(2,496,094.59)	
Highways	4,231,237.10	671,625.86	3,049,520.58	(510,090.66)	
Weed control	353,515.53	26,601.29	30,046.32	(296,867.92)	
Culture and recreation	146,051.08			(146,051.08)	
Interest expense	432,249.00			(432,249.00)	
Total Governmental Activities	12,774,352.80	956,457.75	3,079,566.90	(8,738,328.15)	
Component Units					
Water Resource District	611,140.51		71,637.00	(539,503.51)	
Airport Authority	356,495.04	95,927.43	358,740.65	98,173.04	
Health District (Unaudited)	2,063,274.51	616,263.58	997,474.15	(449,536.78)	
Net expense		Governmental (8,738,328.15)	Component Units Water Resource (539,503.51)	Airport 98,173.04	(Unaudited) Health District (449,536.78)
Property taxes		8,599,437.68	288,844.63	230,091.07	388,262.57
Intergovernmental		2,736,879.35		-	
Interest income		85,807.78	1,298.07	183.46	-
Other revenue		421,242.75	101,130.61	213,418.93	366,201.79
Total General revenues		11,843,367.56	391,273.31	443,693.46	754,464.36
Change in Net Assets		3,105,039.41	(148,230.20)	541,866.50	304,927.58
Net Position- January 1		13,327,097.72	3,647,043.64	2,212,520.77	1,131,423.98
Net Position- December 31		16,432,137.13	3,498,813.44	2,754,387.27	1,436,351.56

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



BARNES COUNTY  
BALANCE SHEET- GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2022

	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
ASSETS			
Cash and investments	5,556,360.06	8,709,482.85	14,265,842.91
Accounts receivable		249,543.36	249,543.36
Total Assets	5,556,360.06	8,959,026.21	14,515,386.27
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	9,435.88		9,435.88
Prepaid taxes	1,092,481.28	891,810.88	1,984,292.16
			-
Total Liabilities	1,101,917.16	891,810.88	1,993,728.04
			-
			-
FUND BALANCE			
Restricted for Emergency		598,189.82	598,189.82
Restricted for Economic Development		217,821.72	217,821.72
Restricted for Highway		4,136,991.79	4,136,991.79
Restricted for Jail		-	-
Restricted for FEMA Projects		302,350.95	302,350.95
Assigned for SLFR		1,629,880.63	1,629,880.63
Assigned for General Government		1,181,980.42	1,181,980.42
Unassigned	4,454,442.90	0.00	4,454,442.90
			-
Total Fund Balance	4,454,442.90	8,067,215.33	12,521,658.23
			-
Total liabilities and fund balances	5,556,360.06	8,959,026.21	14,515,386.27

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, 2022

Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds	12,521,658.23
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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	27,539,069.72	
Less accumulated depreciation	8,513,590.82	
Net capital assets		19,025,478.90

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	(105,000.00)
Certificate of Participation	(15,010,000.00)

Total Net Assets of Governmental Activities	16,432,137.13
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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, 2022

	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
REVENUES:			
Property taxes	4,771,905.74	3,827,531.94	8,599,437.68
Intergovernmental	1,082,515.86	4,733,930.39	5,816,446.25
Charges for services	258,657.25	772,929.35	1,031,586.60
Interest and other	297,166.49	134,755.19	431,921.68
Total Revenues	6,410,245.34	9,469,146.87	15,879,392.21
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
General government	3,718,636.65	1,534,428.30	5,253,064.95
Public safety	2,575,649.77	136,100.90	2,711,750.67
Health and welfare		-	-
Highways		3,994,294.15	3,994,294.15
Relief and charities		-	-
Culture and recreation	146,051.08	-	146,051.08
Capital outlay		49,395.02	49,395.02
Debt Service			
Principal		405,000.00	405,000.00
Interest expense		432,249.00	432,249.00
Total Expenditures	6,440,337.50	6,551,467.37	12,991,804.87
Excess revenues (expenditures)	(30,092.16)	2,917,679.50	2,887,587.34
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Transfers in		575,585.73	575,585.73
Transfers out	-	(575,585.73)	(575,585.73)
Bond proceeds		-	-
Total other financing sources and uses	-	-	-
Net change in fund balances	(30,092.16)	2,917,679.50	2,887,587.34
Fund balance- beginning	4,484,535.06	5,149,535.83	9,634,070.89
Fund balance- ending	4,454,442.90	8,067,215.33	12,521,658.23

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, 2022

Net Change in Fund Balances- Total Governmental Funds	2,887,587.34
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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	649,497.10
Current year depreciation expense	(837,045.03)
Gain on sale of assets	-

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	-
Principal retirement	405,000.00

Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities	3,105,039.41
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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, 2022

	CUSTODIAL FUNDS
ASSETS	
Cash and investments	3,366,841.98
Total Assets	3,366,841.98
NET POSITION	
	-
Restricted	3,366,841.98



BARNES COUNTY  
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION- FIDUCIARY FUNDS- MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	CUSTODIAL FUNDS
Additions	
Property taxes and Intergovernmental Revenue	17,689,976.12
Deductions	
Payments to other governments	17,466,762.71
Change in Net Position	223,213.41
Net Position, beginning- Restated Note 10	3,143,628.57
Net Position, ending	3,366,841.98

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

BARNES COUNTY  
VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2022

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 (Unaudited)- 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

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.

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.



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, 2022 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:

Buildings and improvements	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

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 County. 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 2022.

EXPENDITURES OVER APPROPRIATIONS

The County did not overspend any budgets in 2022.

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, 2022, the County's carrying amount of deposits was \$17,589,053. Of the bank balances, \$500,000 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance. The remaining bank balances was collateralized by U.S. Government Obligations and \$43,632 was held in an escrow account at the Bank of North Dakota. At December 31, 2022, the Airport Authority's carrying amount of deposits was \$168,427, the Water Resource's carrying amount was \$245,185 and the City County Health District's carrying amount was \$574,742. The bank balances 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, 2022:

Primary Government

	Balance January 1	Increases	Decreases	Balance December 31
Construction in progress	15,919,537	60,570	15,980,107	
Bldgs and Improvements	6,074,874	15,980,107		22,054,981
Vehicles	2,802,115	588,927		3,391,042
Equipment	2,093,047			2,093,047
Total Cap Assets	26,889,573	16,629,604	15,980,107	27,539,070
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings & Improve	5,150,252	370,550		5,520,801
Vehicles	1,209,831	321,997		1,531,828
Equipment	1,316,463	144,498		1,460,961
Total Accumulated Dep	7,676,546	837,045		8,513,591
Capital Assets, Net	19,213,027			19,025,479

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

Governmental Activities:

General government	120,016
Public safety	45,577
Highways	645,312
Park	15,523
Weed	<u>10,617</u>
Total	837,045

BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

Component Units

Water Resource District			
Construction in progress	1,436,802		1,436,802
Infrastructure	2,887,133		2,887,133
Equipment			
Total Cap Assets	4,323,934		4,323,934

Less accumulated depreciation for:			
Infrastructure	901,128	169,178	1,070,306
Equipment			
Total Accumulated Dep	901,128	169,178	1,070,306

Capital Assets, Net	3,422,806		3,253,628
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Airport Authority			
Construction in progress	568,803	555,926	1,124,730
Infrastructure	1,650,669		1,650,669
Equipment	112,628	116,485	229,113
Total Cap Assets	2,332,100	672,411	3,004,511

Less accumulated depreciation for:			
Infrastructure	270,537	55,022	325,559
Equipment	67,767	25,225	92,991
Total Accumulated Dep	338,304	80,247	418,551

Capital Assets, Net	1,993,796		2,585,961
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City County Health District

Building	1,121,867		1,121,867
Equipment	60,537		60,537
Total Cap Assets	1,182,401		1,182,404

Less accumulated depreciation for:			
Building	255,687	42,633	298,320
Equipment	13,827	8,648	22,475
Total Accumulated Dep	269,514	51,281	320,795

Capital Assets, Net	912,890		861,609
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NOTE 6: LONG-TERM DEBT

	Payable 2021	Increases	Decreases	Payable 2022	Due Within One Year
Certificates	15,315,000		305,000	15,010,000	315,000
Bonds payable	205,000		100,000	105,000	105,000
TOTAL	15,520,000		405,000	15,115,000	420,000

Debt payable at December 31, 2022, is comprised of the following:

Bonds Payable:

Bridge Bond of 2021 due in annual installments of \$95,000 to 105,000 including interest at 2.0-3.0% through June 2023

105,000

## BARNES COUNTY

## Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

The County issued a Certificate of Participation Series 2022 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, 2022:

## Year Ending Long-Term Debt

December 31	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2023	105,000	1,418	315,000	523,288
2024			325,000	510,688
2025			340,000	497,688
2026			355,000	484,088
2027			360,000	480,538
2028-2032			2,015,000	2,176,090
2033-2037			2,455,000	1,738,890
2038-2042			2,980,000	1,213,490
2043-2047			3,495,000	699,240
2048-2050			2,370,000	149,688
Total	105,000	1,418	15,010,000	8,473,688

## Component Units

## City County Health District

	Payable			Payable	Due Within
	2021	Increases	Decreases	2022	One Year
Notes payable	232,474		232,474		

## NOTE 7: TRANSFERS

The County transfers operating revenues between funds.

Jail Construction from Jail Escrow Fund- \$575,586.



BARNES COUNTY  
Notes to Financial Statements- Continued

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.

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, 2022, 2021, and 2020 were \$338,596, \$388,669, and \$377,191, 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

REPORTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

Barnes County  
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# Harold J. Rotunda

## Certified Public Accountant

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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*

### 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, each major fund, the discretely presented component units, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Barnes County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise basic financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated June 1, 2024. My opinion was modified because the City County Health District Component Unit was not audited.

### 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) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing my opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County'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.



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 certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses that I consider to be significant deficiencies (2022-001 and 2022-002).

#### **Report on 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 Responses to Findings**

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the County's response to the findings identified in my audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. The County's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I express no opinion on them.

#### **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 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.

Fargo, North Dakota  
June 1, 2024

BARNES COUNTY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

**2022-001 Segregation of Duties**

**Criteria**

An appropriate system of internal controls maintains proper segregation of duties to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are handled properly.

**Condition**

The County has one employee who is responsible for most accounting functions. The County auditor collects monies, issues checks, sends checks to vendors, records receipts and disbursements in journals, maintains the general ledger, and prepares financial reports.

**Cause**

The County is subject to size and budget constraints limiting the number of personnel within the accounting department

**Effect**

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

**Recommendation**

I recommend the County review its internal controls over accounting functions to determine if additional procedures can be implemented that are cost effective. The Board should constantly be aware of the this condition. Compensating controls that mitigate the related risks could be (or are) provided through appropriate oversight of the performance of these functions and review of the financial reports by individuals with knowledge of current operations and accounting principles.

**View of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Actions**

The Council will review its current monitoring functions and determine if any additional monitoring procedures are warranted. However, due to the small size of the County, it is not cost effective for the County to hire additional accounting personnel to address this deficiency.

BARNES COUNTY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

**2022-002 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 personnel prepared periodic financial information for internal use that meets the needs of management and the Council. However, the County currently does not prepare the financial statements, including accompanying note disclosures as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The County elected to have the auditor assist in the preparation of the financial statements and notes.

**Cause**

The County elected to not allocate resources for the preparation of the financial statements.

**Effect**

There is an increased risk of material misstatement to the County's financial statements.

**Recommendation**

I recommend the County consider the additional risk of having the auditor assist in the in the preparation of financial statements and note disclosures and consider preparing them in the future. As a compensating control the County should establish an internal control policy to document the annual review of the financial statements and schedules and to review a financial statement disclosure checklist.

**View of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Actions**

The County will continue to have the auditor prepare the financial statements. It is currently not cost-effective for management to perform the preparation.