

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**

**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
TOGETHER WITH REPORTS OF  
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

**YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
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PHONE: 941.639.6600 | FAX: 941.639.6115  
366 E OLYMPIA AVE, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950  
AshleyBrownCPAS.com

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Commissioners  
Estero Fire Rescue District  
Estero, Florida

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Estero Fire Rescue District, Estero, Florida (the "District") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

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

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

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

## **Auditor's Responsibility, continued**

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

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

## **Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District, as of September 30, 2020 and the respective changes in financial position, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, pension and post-employment benefits other than pension schedules be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 24, 2021, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters.

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*, continued**

The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs*

Punta Gorda, Florida

May 24, 2021

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

(unaudited)

This discussion and analysis of the Estero Fire Rescue District's (the "District") financial statements is designed to introduce the basic financial statements and provide an analytical overview of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020. The basic financial statements are comprised of the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements, and notes. We hope this will assist readers in identifying significant financial issues and changes in the District's financial position.

### **Estero Fire Rescue Highlights**

- At close of fiscal year 2020 the District's assets and deferred outflow of resources exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflow of resources, resulting in a net position of \$31,119,359 on a government wide basis.
- Total net position increased \$1,953,128, or 6.7 percent, in comparison to the prior year.
- The increase to net position is due primarily to an increase in current assets.
- The unrestricted balance of \$21,624,589 can be used to meet ongoing obligations of the District and fund amounts assigned by the Board.
- General and program revenues increased \$301,120, or 1.8 percent, in comparison to the prior year primarily due to an increase in property values which led to an increase in ad valorem revenue.
- Total program expenses reported an increase of \$728,108, or 5.1 percent, in comparison to the prior year. This increase is due to an increase in personnel expenses, operating costs, and total depreciation.

### **Government-wide Financial Statements**

Government-wide financial statements (Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities found on pages 11 and 12) are intended to allow a reader to assess a government's operational accountability. Operational accountability is defined as the extent to which the government has met its operation objectives efficiently and effectively, using all resources available for that purpose, and whether it can continue to meet its objectives for the foreseeable future. Government-wide financial statements concentrate on the District as a whole and do not emphasize fund types.

The Statement of Net Position (page 11) presents information on all of the District's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. The District's capital assets (land, property, and equipment) are included in this statement and reported net of their accumulated depreciation, when applicable.

The Statement of Activities (page 12) presents revenue and expense information showing how the District's net position changed during the fiscal year. Both statements are measured and reported using the economic resource measurement focus (revenues and expenses) and the accrual basis of accounting (revenue recognized when earned and expenses recognized when a liability is incurred).

**Fund Financial Statements**

The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of governmental funds; a fund is considered a separate accounting entity. The operation of funds are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. Government resources may be allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The District is reporting all financial activity in the General Fund for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020. The activity for restricted amounts is administered separately; however, for reporting purposes there is no need or requirement to report the restricted activity in separate funds.

Governmental fund financial statements (found on pages 13 and 15) are prepared on the modified accrual basis using the current financial resources measurement focus. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Grant revenue, however, is recognized when the grant related expense is incurred.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

The notes to the financial statements explain in detail some of the data contained in the preceding statements and begin on page 21. These notes are essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

**Government-Wide Financial Analysis**

The government-wide financial statements were designed so the user could determine if the District is in a better or worse financial condition from the prior year.

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The following is a condensed summary of net position for the primary government for fiscal years 2020 and 2019:

**Summary of Net Position**

	2020	2019
<b>Assets:</b>		
Current Assets	\$ 23,530,329	\$ 19,733,807
Capital Assets	10,047,904	10,720,444
Total Assets	33,578,233	30,454,251
<b>Deferred Outflow of Resources:</b>		
Accumulated Decreases in Fair Value Hedge	119,589	116,123
Deferred Amount on OPEB	349,185	-
Deferred Amount on Pension	5,254,228	6,373,865
Total Deferred Outflow of Resources	5,723,002	6,489,988
Total Assets and Deferred Outflow of Resources	\$ 39,301,235	\$ 36,944,239
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,399,881	\$ 1,094,772
Unearned Revenue	51,845	40,454
Non-current Liabilities	5,265,131	4,582,510
Total Liabilities	6,716,857	5,717,736
<b>Deferred Inflow of Resources:</b>		
Deferred Amount on OPEB	149,846	170,862
Deferred Amount on Pension	1,315,173	1,889,410
Total Deferred Inflow of Resources	1,465,019	2,060,272
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflow of Resources	8,181,876	7,778,008
<b>Net Position:</b>		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	8,889,368	9,416,953
Restricted	605,401	583,421
Unrestricted	21,624,589	19,165,858
Total Net Position	31,119,359	29,166,231
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflow of Resources, and Net Position	\$ 39,301,235	\$ 36,944,239

Current assets represent 70.1 percent of total assets. Current assets are comprised of unrestricted cash and Certificate of Deposits of \$18,510,641, restricted cash of \$1,109,137, and other assets of \$3,910,551. The unrestricted cash represents amounts that are available for spending at the District's discretion. Restricted cash includes impact fees restricted for debt repayment and the debt reserve required by the notes.

The investment in capital assets is comprised of land and improvements, buildings, vehicles, and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and the outstanding related debt used to acquire the assets. The Restricted Net Position is comprised of \$605,401 for repayment of debt.



The following schedule reports the revenues, expenses, and changes in net position for the District for the current fiscal years 2020 and 2019:

**Summary of Activities**

	2020	2019
Revenues:		
General Revenues		
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 15,608,379	\$ 15,014,841
Insurance Premium Tax for Firefighters' Pension	347,246	306,612
Interest	140,647	176,060
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Capital Assets	(2,010)	-
Other Revenues	69,001	184,712
Program Revenues		
Federal, State, and Local Grants	107,416	332,002
State Shared	27,644	27,480
Charges for Services	110,016	168,186
Impact Fees	486,443	383,769
Total Revenues	16,894,782	16,593,662
Expenses:		
Public Safety - Fire and Rescue Services	14,941,654	14,213,546
Increase in Net Position	1,953,128	2,380,117
Net Position - Beginning of the Year, as restated	29,166,231	26,786,114
Net Position - End of the Year	\$ 31,119,359	\$ 29,166,231

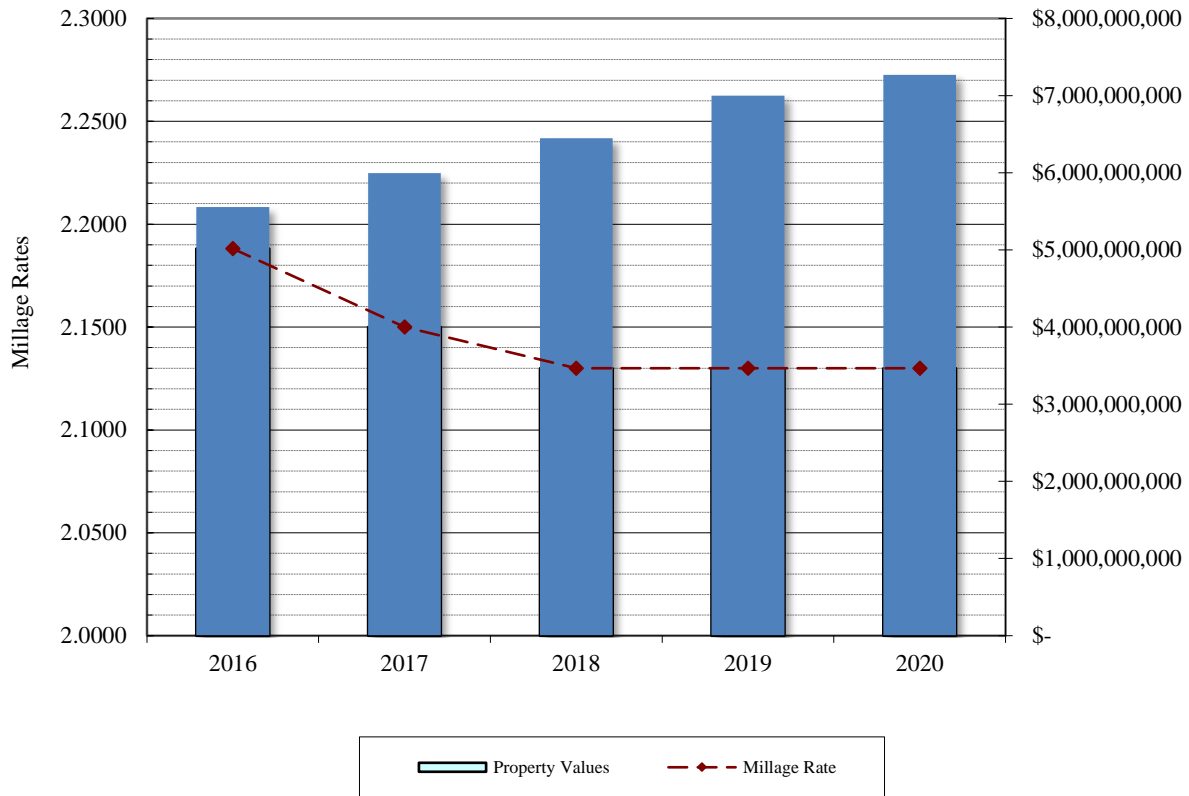
Total revenues increased \$301,120 or 1.8 percent, in comparison to prior year. Total expenditures increased by \$728,108, or 5.1 percent, in comparison to prior year. This is primarily the result of increases in payroll expenses.

**Additional Financial Overview**

Property values have increased by approximately \$1,573,426,207 or 26.3 percent, in the past five years. The taxable property value has been increasing in the last 5 years and the area noticed an increase of 4.1 percent between fiscal years 2019 and 2020. The District adopted a millage rate of 2.13 for fiscal year 2020. The millage rate remained the same as the 2.13 adopted in 2019. Ad Valorem tax revenues increased by \$593,538, or 4.0 percent, in comparison to the prior year. Estero Fire Rescue's millage rate continues to be one of the lowest fire district millage rates in the region.

The following schedule compares the change in property value and growth in millage rates for the past five years:

**Property Values and Millage Assessed**



Impact fee receipts increased \$102,674, or 26.8 percent, in comparison to the prior year; however, overall impact fees have experienced an average increase of 28.5 percent for the last five years. Impact fees had a dramatic decrease from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2016 but have increased each year since then. The five year trend of impact fee receipts compounded with the increase in property values is a positive indicator the economy is maintaining stability. The District will continue to anticipate conservative growth for budget purposes and long term planning.

**Budgetary Highlights**

Esterio Fire Rescue adopts an annual budget for its General Fund as required by Florida Statute. Budget versus actual comparisons are reported on pages 17 and 18. Budget transfers are made from time to time in the General Fund to manage unanticipated costs as they relate to originally estimated amounts. The General Fund difference between the final budgeted expenditures and actual expenditures represents a favorable variance of \$1,305,097, or 8.0 percent.

## Debt Administration

At September 30, 2020, the District had \$1,038,947 of outstanding debt for notes payable. Total long-term liabilities of \$5,265,131, which includes notes payable, derivative instrument, an implicit subsidy for OPEB, compensated absences, and deferred compensation, increased \$682,621, or 14.9 percent, in comparison to the prior year. The increase is significantly due to the increase in the implicit subsidy for OPEB. The following is a schedule of the District's outstanding notes payable as of September 30, 2020 and 2019:

<b>Outstanding Debt</b>		
	2020	2019
Series 2007 A	<u>\$ 1,038,947</u>	<u>\$ 1,187,369</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,038,947</u>	<u>\$ 1,187,369</u>

The General Fund is currently responsible for payment of the debt. Impact Fees designated for debt will be used for debt as they become available. The District's debt was collateralized by future impact fee revenue. As such, general dollars currently paying debt will be reimbursed by future impact fee revenue. Additional information on the repayment process can be found in Note L on page 55-56.

Additional information on the District's long-term debt can be found in Note E on pages 36-38.

## Capital Assets

Non-depreciable capital assets include land and depreciable assets include buildings and improvements, vehicles, and equipment.

The following is a schedule of the District's capital assets as of September 30, 2020 and 2019:

<b>Capital Assets</b>		
	2020	2019
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>		
Land	\$ 2,433,668	\$ 2,433,668
Construction in Progress	<u>14,092</u>	<u>680,453</u>
Total Capital Assets Not Depreciated	<u>2,447,760</u>	<u>3,114,121</u>
Buildings and Improvements	9,122,261	9,215,314
Vehicles	6,643,614	6,030,184
Equipment	<u>1,652,950</u>	<u>1,612,307</u>
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	<u>17,418,825</u>	<u>16,857,805</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>		
Buildings and Improvements	(4,169,228)	(3,996,264)
Vehicles	(4,739,241)	(4,425,028)
Equipment	<u>(910,212)</u>	<u>(830,190)</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(9,818,681)</u>	<u>(9,251,482)</u>
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net	<u>7,600,144</u>	<u>7,606,323</u>
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS, NET</b>	<u>\$ 10,047,904</u>	<u>\$ 10,720,444</u>

Noteworthy capital asset activity that took place in fiscal year 2020 is as follows:

- The District purchased a new generator for Station 44 to replace an aging and failing unit. The capital outlay was approximately \$44,800.
- The District purchased new EMS equipment including three video laryngoscopes, two new AEDs, and one new airway management training manikin to enhance patient treatment. The capital outlay was approximately \$14,859.
- The District purchased eight new radios to comply with Lee County's migration to a P25 digital radio system. The capital outlay was approximately \$19,979.
- The District purchased a PortaCount Fit Tester to test employee breathing apparatus equipment internally (SCBA). The capital outlay was approximately \$13,493.
- The District purchased a washer extractor to provide in-house decontamination of firefighter structural PPE. The capital outlay was approximately \$9,090.
- The District purchased ten new computers to replace aging equipment. The capital outlay was approximately \$18,657.
- The District purchased four stabilizer struts to enhance patient rescue capabilities. The capital outlay was \$6,079.
- The District purchased a new fire boat to enhance fire/rescue capabilities and to replace an aging fire boat. The capital outlay was \$104,431.

### **Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget Rates**

The following were factors considered when next year's budget (2020-2021) was prepared:

- Property values within the District increased approximately \$245,269,327 or 3.2 percent, to \$7,812,238,447. When property values increase, the rolled-back millage rate decreases so tax revenue may remain unchanged. Although the District adopted the same millage rate of 2.13 in FY 2021, the tax levy increased by \$501,115. When the millage rate adopted exceeds the calculated rolled-back rate, the government is levying a tax increase, regardless of the change in the millage rate. The rolled-back rate formula essentially provides a rate relative to the current property values, which creates a tax levy equal to the amount in the previous year. The property values used in the rolled-back rate formula excludes, among other things, amounts for new construction and improvements, essentially rolling back a government's operating revenue to that of the prior year.
- The District budgeted for several new capital items to include a generator replacement at a fire station, a boat lift, a renovation to the administration gym, some EMS equipment, some replacement radios, and some land and building expenses for where our future station will be built.
- With the anticipated increase to revenue and expenditures, the District is anticipating a net decrease to fund balance in an amount of \$470,582.

### **Request for Information**

The financial report is designed to provide the reader an overview of Estero Fire Rescue District. Questions regarding any information provided in this report should be directed to:

*Estero Fire Rescue District, 21500 Three Oaks Pkwy, Estero, Florida 33928, or by calling (239) 390-8000.*

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**September 30, 2020**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Cash	\$ 18,510,641
Prepaid Items	205,402
Accounts Receivable	11,351
Due from Other Governments	421,933
Restricted Assets:	
Cash	1,109,137
Due from Other Governments	111,555
Pension Asset	3,160,310
Capital Assets:	
Land	2,433,668
Construction in Progress	14,092
Depreciable Buildings, Equipment, and Vehicles, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	<u>7,600,144</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>33,578,233</u></u>
 <b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Accumulated Decreases in Fair Value of Hedging Derivative	119,589
Deferred Amount on OPEB	349,185
Deferred Amount on Pensions	<u>5,254,228</u>
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<u><u>5,723,002</u></u>
 <b>TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	 <u><u>\$ 39,301,235</u></u>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 1,399,881
Unearned Revenue	51,845
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Due within one year	170,401
Due in more than one year	<u>5,094,730</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u><u>6,716,857</u></u>
 <b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred Amount on OPEB	149,846
Deferred Amount on Pensions	<u>1,315,173</u>
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<u><u>1,465,019</u></u>
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	 <u><u>8,181,876</u></u>
 <b>NET POSITION</b>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	8,889,368
Restricted for:	
Debt Service	605,401
Unrestricted	<u>21,624,589</u>
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<u><u>31,119,359</u></u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION</b>	<u><u>\$ 39,301,235</u></u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
Year Ended September 30, 2020**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	
Public Safety - Fire and Rescue Services	
Personal Services	\$ 11,804,419
Operating	2,223,781
Depreciation	866,116
Interest and Fiscal Charges	47,338
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	<u>14,941,654</u>
<b>PROGRAM REVENUES</b>	
Insurance Premium Tax for Firefighters' Pension	347,246
Federal, State, and Local Grants	107,416
State Shared	27,644
Charges for Services	110,016
Impact Fees	486,443
TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUES	<u>1,078,765</u>
NET PROGRAM EXPENSES	<u>13,862,889</u>
<b>GENERAL REVENUES</b>	
Ad Valorem Taxes	15,608,379
Interest	140,647
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Capital Assets	(2,010)
Other Revenues	69,001
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	<u>15,816,017</u>
INCREASE IN NET POSITION	1,953,128
<b>NET POSITION - Beginning of the Year</b>	<u>29,166,231</u>
<b>NET POSITION - End of the Year</b>	<u><u>\$ 31,119,359</u></u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
BALANCE SHEET – GENERAL FUND  
September 30, 2020**

**ASSETS**

*Unrestricted*

Cash	\$ 18,510,641
Prepaid Items	205,402
Accounts Receivable	11,058
Due from Other Governments	<u>421,933</u>
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED	<u>19,149,034</u>

*Restricted*

Cash	1,109,137
Due from Other Governments	<u>111,555</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED	<u>1,220,692</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 20,369,726</u></u>
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**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expense	\$ 1,399,881
Unearned Revenue	<u>51,845</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,451,726</u>

**DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Unavailable Revenue	<u>298,044</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>1,749,770</u>
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**FUND BALANCE**

*Restricted*

Debt	446,862
Impact Fees	164,599

*Committed*

Capital Improvement Program	7,677,402
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*Nonspendable*

Prepaid Items	205,402
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*Assigned*

Community Safety Program	24,207
Mobile Radio Fund	36,361
VEBA Contributions	609,231

*Unassigned*

TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>9,455,892</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>18,619,956</u>
	<u><u>\$ 20,369,726</u></u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET –  
GENERAL FUND TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
September 30, 2020**

	<u>Amounts</u>
Total Fund Balance for General Fund	\$ 18,619,956
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:	
Pension assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore, are not reported in the general fund.	3,160,310
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore, are not reported in the general fund.	
Capital assets not being depreciated:	
Land & Improvements	2,433,668
Construction in Progress	14,092
Capital assets being depreciated:	
Building, Equipment, and Vehicles	\$ 17,418,825
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(9,818,681)</u>
	7,600,144
Deferred outflows of resources are not recognized in the general fund; however, they are recorded in the statement of net position under full accrual accounting.	
OPEB	349,185
Pension earnings and experience	5,254,228
Derivative Instruments	119,589
Deferred inflows of resources are not recognized in the general fund; however, they are recorded in the statement of net position under full accrual accounting.	
Pension assumptions	(1,315,173)
OPEB Assumptions	(149,846)
Deferred inflows of resources related to unavailable revenue are recognized in the general fund but are recorded as revenue in the statement of net position under full accrual accounting.	298,044
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore, are not reported in the funds.	
Series 2007A Promissory Note Payable	(1,038,947)
Termination Benefit	(72,904)
Compensated Absences	(1,201,460)
Derivative Instruments	(119,589)
Implicit Subsidy (OPEB)	<u>(2,832,231)</u>
	(5,265,131)
Expenditures for services extending over more than one accounting period are not allocated between or among accounting periods, but are accounted for as expenditures of the period of acquisition in the governmental funds.	<u>293</u>
Total Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 31,119,359</u>



**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
 CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 Year Ended September 30, 2020**

**Revenues**

Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 15,608,379
Insurance Premium Tax for Firefighters' Pension	347,246
Intergovernmental:	
State Shared	27,644
Local Grant	146,374
Charges for Services	110,016
Miscellaneous:	
Impact Fees	486,443
Community Safety Program Donations	3,177
Interest	140,647
Other	65,824
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>16,935,750</u>

**EXPENDITURES**

Current	
Public Safety	
Personnel Services	12,209,970
Operating Expenditures	2,223,781
Capital Outlay	197,512
Debt Service	
Principal Reduction	148,421
Interest and Fiscal Charges	47,338
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>14,827,022</u>

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES 2,108,728

**OTHER FINANCING SOURCES**

Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	<u>1,925</u>
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	<u>1,925</u>

NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE 2,110,653

FUND BALANCE - Beginning of the Year 16,509,303

FUND BALANCE - End of the Year \$ 18,619,956

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,  
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE –  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
Year Ended September 30, 2020**

	<u>Amounts</u>
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Net change in fund balance - general fund	\$ 2,110,653
General fund reports capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlays in the current period.	(659,002)
The net effect of various miscellaneous transactions involving capital assets (i.e., sales, trade-ins, and donations) is to increase net position.	(3,935)
Repayment of principal is an expenditure in the general fund but reduces the liability in the statement of net position.	
Repayments:	
Notes payable	148,421
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do (do not) require the use of current financial resources and therefore, are (are not) reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.	
Increase in compensated absences	\$ (119,003)
Change in OPEB assumptions	115,695
Increase in termination benefits	<u>(10,373)</u>
	(13,681)
The increase in OPEB expense does not affect the use of financial resources and is not reflected as an increase of expenditures in the governmental funds.	(443,695)
The reduction of pension expense does not affect the use of financial resources and is not reflected as a reduction of expenditures in the governmental funds.	853,325
Intergovernmental revenue is recorded as revenue in the statement of net position when measurable and is not recognized as a revenue in the fund financial statements in accordance with modified accrual accounting.	<u>(38,958)</u>
 Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	 <u><u>\$ 1,953,128</u></u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES**  
**IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND**  
**Year Ended September 30, 2020**

REVENUES	General Fund			Variance with Final Budget
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	
Taxes				
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 15,503,622	\$ 15,503,622	\$ 15,608,379	\$ 104,757
Insurance Premium Tax for Pension	280,000	347,246	347,246	-
Subtotal - Taxes	15,783,622	15,850,868	15,955,625	104,757
Intergovernmental:				
State Shared (Degree Incentive)	31,440	31,440	27,644	(3,796)
State and local grants	5,000	5,000	146,374	141,374
Subtotal - Intergovernmental	36,440	36,440	174,018	137,578
Charges for services				
EMS Standby	40,000	40,000	29,873	(10,127)
Public Safety Classes	14,000	14,000	10,554	(3,446)
False Alarm Fees	3,500	3,500	1,250	(2,250)
Permit & Plan Review Fees	39,000	39,000	30,249	(8,751)
Community Safety Program Vaccine Program	-	-	549	549
Inspection Fees	36,000	36,000	37,541	1,541
Subtotal - Charges for Services	132,500	132,500	110,016	(22,484)
Miscellaneous:				
Impact Fees	180,000	180,000	486,443	306,443
Community Safety Program	1,500	1,500	3,177	1,677
Interest				
Operating Interest	45,000	45,000	58,424	13,424
Other Interest	45,000	45,000	80,816	35,816
Impact Fees Interest - Restricted	1,200	1,200	1,407	207
Other				
Ambulance Bay Rent	29,474	29,474	29,699	225
Miscellaneous	500	500	36,125	35,625
Subtotal - Miscellaneous	302,674	302,674	696,091	393,417
TOTAL REVENUES	16,255,236	16,322,482	16,935,750	613,268

**EXPENDITURES**

Current

Public Safety

Personal Services:

Regular Salaries/Wages/Unemployment	6,806,146	6,700,352	6,687,169	13,183
Other Salaries and Wages	122,600	103,610	73,298	30,312
Overtime	189,000	264,602	257,651	6,951
Special Pay	892,158	941,340	938,050	3,290
FICA Taxes	612,765	612,765	589,242	23,523
Retirement Contributions	1,911,723	1,978,969	1,895,403	83,566
Life, Health Insurance	1,822,878	1,822,878	1,538,092	284,786

(continued on next page)

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND  
Year Ended September 30, 2020**

	General Fund			Variance with Final Budget
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	
Workers' Compensation Insurance	245,000	245,000	231,065	13,935
Other Postemployment Benefits	241,639	241,639	195,040	46,599
Subtotal - Personnel Services	<u>12,843,909</u>	<u>12,911,155</u>	<u>12,405,010</u>	<u>506,145</u>
Operating Expenditures:				
Property Appraiser Fees	106,138	106,138	95,846	10,292
Tax Collector Fees	323,887	323,887	312,178	11,709
Professional Services	236,718	236,718	88,553	148,165
Accounting and Auditing	40,615	40,615	36,115	4,500
Other Services (Janitorial)	7,300	7,300	6,060	1,240
Travel	107,390	83,086	29,017	54,069
Communications and Freight Services	135,815	158,290	152,645	5,645
Utility Services	68,528	68,528	60,546	7,982
Rentals and leases	2,600	2,600	2,189	411
Insurance	196,315	196,315	178,854	17,461
Repair and Maintenance Services	738,480	738,480	665,438	73,042
Printing and Binding	2,665	2,665	194	2,471
Promotional Activities	22,225	22,225	18,841	3,384
Other Current Charges and Obligations	37,430	39,259	38,930	329
Office Supplies	15,500	15,500	15,045	455
Operating Supplies	461,810	461,810	420,028	41,782
Training, Subscriptions, Memberships	200,202	200,202	103,302	96,900
Subtotal - Operating Expenditures	<u>2,703,618</u>	<u>2,703,618</u>	<u>2,223,781</u>	<u>479,837</u>
Capital Outlay:				
Buildings	345,000	300,000	300	299,700
Land	-	15,000	13,792	1,208
Vehicles	-	20,000	16,382	3,618
Equipment	154,400	154,400	146,627	7,773
Information Technology	17,200	27,200	20,411	6,789
Subtotal - Capital Outlay	<u>516,600</u>	<u>516,600</u>	<u>197,512</u>	<u>319,088</u>
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement - Unrestricted	148,422	148,422	148,421	1
Interest and Fiscal Charges - Unrestricted	47,364	47,364	47,338	26
Subtotal - Debt Service	<u>195,786</u>	<u>195,786</u>	<u>195,759</u>	<u>27</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>16,259,913</u>	<u>16,327,159</u>	<u>15,022,062</u>	<u>1,305,097</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(4,677)	(4,677)	1,913,688	1,918,365
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>				
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	5,000	5,000	1,925	(3,075)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>1,925</u>	<u>(3,075)</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	323	323	1,915,613	1,915,290
Beginning Fund Balance	12,114,863	12,520,678	16,509,303	3,988,625
TOTAL FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING	<u>12,114,863</u>	<u>12,520,678</u>	<u>16,509,303</u>	<u>3,988,625</u>
Ending Fund Balance	12,115,186	12,521,001	18,424,916	5,903,915
TOTAL FUND BALANCE - ENDING	<u>\$ 12,115,186</u>	<u>\$ 12,521,001</u>	<u>\$ 18,424,916</u>	<u>\$ 5,903,915</u>
VEBA Contributions - Reconciliation to GAAP			195,040	
TOTAL FUND BALANCE - ENDING			<u>\$ 18,619,956</u>	

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION – FIDUCIARY FUND  
 September 30, 2020**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<u>Firefighters' Trust</u>
Cash	\$ 264,772
Contributions Receivable	3,310
Investments, at fair value:	
Pooled/common/comingled funds:	
Fixed Income	\$ 9,233,915
Equities	<u>23,597,783</u>
Total investments at fair value	<u>32,831,698</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u>33,099,780</u>
 <b>PLAN NET POSITION</b>	
<b>RESTRICTED FOR PENSIONS</b>	 <u><u>\$ 33,099,780</u></u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION –  
FIDUCIARY FUND  
Year Ended September 30, 2020**

	<u>Firefighters' Trust</u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>	
Contributions	
Employer	\$ 1,437,653
Plan Members	172,685
State Contributions	<u>267,811</u>
Total Contributions	<u>1,878,149</u>
Investment Income (Expense)	
Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments	2,036,636
Less: Investment Expenses	<u>(41,116)</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>1,995,520</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>3,873,669</u>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	
Benefits and Refunds	266,240
Administrative Expenses	<u>23,815</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>290,055</u>
NET INCREASE IN PLAN NET POSITION	3,583,614
<b>PLAN NET POSITION - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>29,516,166</u>
<b>PLAN NET POSITION - End of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ 33,099,780</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Organization and nature of activities**

Estero Fire Rescue District (the "District") is an independent special taxing district located in southern Lee County, Florida. The District was established on June 25, 1976 by Laws of Florida, Chapter 76-408. The District's governing legislation was recreated, reenacted and codified by the Laws of Florida, Chapter 2000-437 on July 5, 2000. The District is governed by a five-member (5) elected Board of Commissioners. Commissioners serve on a staggered four (4) year term basis.

The District provides fire control and rescue services, fire safety inspections, fire prevention education, and EMS services. In providing these services, the District operates and maintains four (4) station houses, an administrative building and the related equipment, and employs 70 professional firefighters and administrative and support personnel.

**Summary of significant accounting policies**

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these basic financial statements.

**Reporting entity**

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Number 14, "Financial Reporting Entity" (GASB 14), as amended, requires the financial statements of the District (the primary government) to include its component units, if any. A component unit is a legally separate organization for which the elected officials of the primary government are financially accountable. Based on the criteria established in GASB 14, as amended, there are no component units included and/or required to be included in the District's financial statements.

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) report information on all of the activities of the District and do not emphasize fund types. These governmental activities comprise the primary government. General governmental and intergovernmental revenues support the governmental activities. The purpose of the government-wide financial statements is to allow the user to be able to determine if the District is in a better or worse financial position than the prior year .

Government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the pension fund financial statements. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from non-exchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement Number 33, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions" (GASB 33).

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Government-wide Financial Statements (Continued)**

Amounts paid to acquire capital assets are capitalized as assets in the government-wide financial statements, rather than reported as expenditures. Proceeds of long-term debt are recorded as liabilities in the government-wide financial statements, rather than as other financing sources. Amounts paid to reduce long-term indebtedness of the reporting government are reported as a reduction of the related liability in the government-wide financial statements, rather than as expenditures.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include: 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit for goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function, such as inspection fees, and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital improvements of a particular function. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

**Fund Financial Statements**

The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of funds; a fund is considered a separate accounting entity. The operation of funds are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures or expenses, as appropriate. Government resources may be allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

Fund financial statements for the District's governmental and fiduciary funds are presented after the government-wide financial statements. The fiduciary statement includes financial information for the firefighters' pension fund. The fiduciary fund represents assets held by the District in a trustee capacity for the benefit of other individuals.

**Governmental Funds**

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collected within the current period or soon thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period.

The District's only major fund, the General Fund, is presented in the governmental fund financial statements. The definition of a major fund is one that meets certain criteria set forth in GASB Statement Number 34, "Basic Financial Statements-and Management's Discussion and Analysis-for State and Local Governments" (GASB 34).



**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Fiduciary Fund**

A Fiduciary Fund accounts for assets held by the government in a trustee capacity or as an agent on behalf of others. Specifically, a trust fund accounts for assets held by the government under the terms of a formal trust agreement. The District has one fiduciary fund: a pension trust fund—the Retirement Plan and Trust for the Firefighters of Estero Fire Rescue District.

The Fiduciary Fund is excluded from the government-wide financial statements because the resources of that fund are not available to support the District's programs.

**Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures, or expenses, are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources management focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period and soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers tax revenues to be available if they are collected within sixty days of the end of the current fiscal period.

Revenues susceptible to accrual are property taxes, interest on investments, charges for services and intergovernmental revenues. Property taxes are recorded as revenues in the fiscal year in which they are levied, provided they are collected in the current period or within sixty days thereafter. Interest on invested funds is recognized when earned.

Intergovernmental revenues that are reimbursements for specific purposes or projects are recognized when all eligibility requirements are met. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 65, Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities, the District records unavailable revenues (deferred inflow of resources) for amounts for which all eligibility requirements have been met, however funds are not available. Unavailable revenues are also recorded when amounts have been received and all eligibility requirements, except time requirements, have been met.

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. Exceptions to this general rule include: (1) principal and interest on long-term debt, if any, which is recognized when due, and (2) expenditures are generally not divided between years by the recording of prepaid expenditures.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)**

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

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements.

**Major Funds**

The District reports the following major governmental fund:

The General Fund is the District's only major governmental and operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the District. Restricted funds are accounted for separately within the General Fund. Restricted activities include those activities related to impact fees and projects funded by loan proceeds. The community safety program is also accounted for in the District's General Fund and those funds are assigned to activities relating to promoting safety through education, for supporting the Estero Fire Rescue Cadet Program, and providing smoke alarms and emergency relief.

**Investments**

The District adheres to the requirements of GASB Statement Number 31, "*Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools*", as amended, GASB Statement Number 79, "*Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*," GASB Statement Number 40, "*Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures—an amendment of GASB Statement Number 3*", and GASB Statement Number 72, "*Fair Value Measurement and Application*."

Investments consist of the Florida Municipal Pension Trust Fund.

The District's Firefighters' Retirement Plan is part of a collectively managed single-employer plan, and therefore reports all income (loss) from investments as allocated investment income as it is not feasible to allocate specific components of income to a specific plan.

**Capital Assets**

Capital assets, which include land, buildings and improvements, equipment, and vehicles, are reported in the government-wide financial statements in the Statement of Net Position.

The District follows a capitalization policy which calls for capitalization of all capital assets that have a cost or donated value of \$1,000 or more and have a useful life in excess of one year.

All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are valued at their acquisition cost on the date donated. No debt-related interest expense is capitalized as part of general capital assets in accordance with GASB 34.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Capital Assets (Continued)**

The acquisition of land and construction projects utilizing resources received from federal and state agencies are capitalized when the related expenditure is incurred.

Maintenance, repairs, and minor renovations are not capitalized. Expenditures that materially increase values, change capacities or extend useful lives are capitalized. Upon sale or retirement, the cost and related accumulated depreciation is eliminated from the respective accounts.

Depreciable capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Asset</u>	<u>Years</u>
Buildings and improvements	3-35
Equipment	3-7
Vehicles	4-15

**Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources**

In addition to assets, the statement of net position reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The District reports deferred outflows for interest rate swaps, as well as for changes in actuarial assumptions on pension plan investments. A deferred outflow on interest rate swaps results from the difference in the interest rates paid and received. This amount is deferred and fair value is adjusted over the term of the interest rate swap agreement. The amounts relating to the pension plan will be recognized as increases in pension expense in future years.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The deferred inflows of resources reported in the District’s statement of net position represent changes in actuarial assumptions. These amounts will be recognized as reductions in pension expense and post-employment benefits other than pension (OPEB) in future years.

**Pensions**

The Pension financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). These standards require two basic financial statements: (1) a Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and (2) a Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position. In addition, actuarially determined information about the funded status of the Plan and related funding progress is presented in two additional schedules: (1) a Schedule of Funding Progress and (2) a Schedule of Employer and Employee Contributions. GAAP also establishes certain parameters for the measurement of all actuarially determined information.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Pensions (Continued)**

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

The District expenses are required pension contributions as a component of personal services expense. The remaining portion of pension expenses, consisting of the actuarially determined amounts related to the amortization of deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources, is presented as an expense in the statement of activities by function.

**Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

In fiscal year 2018, the District implemented GASB Statement Number 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions. The District expenses OPEB payments to retirees as a component of personal services expense. The remaining portion of OPEB expense, consisting of the actuarially determined amounts related to the amortization of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources, is presented as an expense in the statement of activities.

**Budgets and Budgetary Accounting**

The District adopted an annual budget for the General Fund which included budgeted appropriated expenditures equal to budgeted revenue and beginning fund balance.

The District follows these procedures in establishing budgetary data for the General Fund:

1. During the summer of each year, the District's Fire Chief submits to the Board of Commissioners a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing on the upcoming October 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
2. Public hearings are conducted to obtain taxpayer comments.
3. The budget is adopted by approval of the Board of Commissioners.
4. Budget amounts, as shown in these financial statements, are as originally adopted and as amended by the Fire Chief and Board of Commissioners.
5. The budget was adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. From time to time there may be activity that differs from a basis consistent with GAAP. For the year ended September 30, 2020, no differences were noted.
6. The level of control for appropriations is exercised at the account level.
7. Appropriations for expenditures lapse at year-end.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Budgets and Budgetary Accounting (Continued)**

The Board of Commissioners approved one (1) separate request to reconcile budget amounts at the program level and/or the account level during the year ended September 30, 2020. The Fire Chief has the authority to reclassify budgeted amounts at the account level up to \$10,000, and such reclassifications are performed as needed. During the year ended September 30, 2020, the Fire Chief approved no separate requests to transfer budgeted amounts at the account level. These transfers are reclassification transactions necessary to appropriately manage the budget. Overall expenditure amounts would not change as a result of these types of transfers.

**Compensated Absences**

The District's employees accumulate annual personal leave, based on the number of years of continuous service and the bargaining unit contract. Upon termination of employment, employees can receive payment of accumulated annual leave, if certain criteria are met. Annually, the District will purchase banked hours in excess of 200 hours for administrative employees; 500 hours for 40 hour chief officers, executive staff, and bargaining unit employees; and 600 hours for 56 hour chief officers and bargaining unit employees. The cost of personal leave benefits (compensated absences) are expended in the General Fund when payments are made to employees. However, the liability for all accrued personal leave benefits is recorded in the government-wide financial statements—Statement of Net Position.

**Accounts Receivable**

No allowance for losses on uncollectible accounts has been recorded since the District considers all amounts to be fully collectible.

**Management Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Fund Balance**

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report fund classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. Fund balance is reported in five components: nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

The components of Fund Balance are:

**Nonspendable**

The portion of net resources or fund balance that cannot be spent because of their form. These amounts will never convert to cash or not convert soon enough to affect the current period (e.g., long-term receivables or prepaid items).

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Fund Balance (Continued)**

**Restricted**

The restricted fund balance is the portion that reflects resources that are subject to externally enforceable legal restrictions such as debt covenants or county ordinances.

Since the Board has no authority to expend restricted fund balances, the restricted component is typically excluded from discussions in which the Board and management at their discretion may approve to expend, commit or assign. All other components may be generally referred to as “unrestricted” even though constraints imposed by the District may exist.

**Committed**

The portion of fund balance that represents resources whose use is constrained by a formal action (resolution) of the District’s Board of Fire Commissioners, the District’s highest level of decision making authority. Constraints made by the Board remain binding unless removed in the same manner. The Board has committed fund balance for the capital improvement program.

**Assigned**

The portion of fund balance that reflects the District’s intended use of resources. Such intent can be established by the Board or delegated to the Fire Chief for unforeseen expenses below \$10,000 that were not budgeted for and advance Board approval is deemed unnecessary in order to maintain the normal operation of the District. The Board has assigned the activities of the Community Safety Program to the Fire Chief. Additionally, any amounts appropriated for projected deficits in the subsequent year will be assigned. Assigned funds also include funds donated to purchase mobile repeaters for radio enhancements. These funds were donated in fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 but will not be recognized until the radios can be purchased. A portion of these funds were recognized in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 with the purchase of some mobile repeaters.

**Unassigned**

The portion of fund balance representing net resources in excess of what can properly be classified in one of the three categories described above and whose use is constrained by limitations set by the Board. Only the Board may, from time to time, as deemed necessary increase or decrease fund balance commitments and assignments. Annually, the Board will evaluate, or assign or commit estimated net resources that are in excess of those amounts already committed and assigned.

The District expends restricted amounts first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balances are available unless there are legal documents that prohibit doing this. Additionally, the District would first use committed fund balance, followed by assigned fund balance, and then unassigned fund balance, when expenditures are incurred for purposes in which amounts are available from any of these unrestricted fund balance classifications.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE A ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Derivatives**

The District adheres to the requirements of GASB Statement Number 53, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments". GASB 53 requires governments to measure derivative instruments, with the exception of synthetic guaranteed investment contracts (SGIC) that are fully benefit-responsive, at fair value in their economic resources measurement focus financial statements. This should allow users of the financial statements to more fully understand a government's resources available to provide services. The application of inter-period equity means that changes in fair value are recognized in the reporting period to which they relate. The changes in fair value of hedging derivative instruments do not affect investment revenue but are reported as deferrals. On the other hand, the changes in fair value of investment derivative instruments (which include ineffective hedging derivative instruments) are reported as part of investment revenue in the current reporting period. The disclosures provide a summary of the government's derivative instrument activity (hedging) and the information necessary to assess the government's objectives for derivative instruments, their significant terms, and the risks associated with the derivative instruments. The fair market value of the Districts hedging derivative instruments is reported as deferrals in the Statement of Net Position.

**NOTE B CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

As of September 30, 2020, the District's cash was as follows:

General Fund		
Cash on Hand	\$	400
Demand Deposits		<u>19,619,378</u>
Total General Fund		19,619,778
Pension Trust		
Cash with Fiscal Agent		<u>264,772</u>
Total General Fund and Pension Trust	\$	<u><u>19,884,550</u></u>

**Custodial Credit Risk**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. In accordance with its policy, all District depositories are banks designated by the Florida Chief Financial Officer as qualified public depositories. Chapter 280 of the Florida Statutes "Florida Security for Public Deposits Act" provides procedures for public depositories to ensure public monies in banks and saving and loans are collateralized with the Florida Chief Financial Officer as agent for the public entities. Chapter 280 defines deposits as the demand deposit accounts, time deposit accounts, and nonnegotiable certificates of deposit.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE B CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (Continued)**

**Custodial Credit Risk (Continued)**

Financial institutions qualifying as public depositories shall deposit with the Florida Chief Financial Officer, eligible collateral at the pledging level required pursuant to Chapter 280. The Florida Security for Public Deposits Act has procedures for the payment of losses in the event of a default or insolvency. When public deposits are made in accordance with Chapter 280, no public depositor shall be liable for any loss thereof, and therefore, the District is not exposed to custodial credit risk for its deposits.

The Pension Trust Fund cash was held by a financial and investment institution and insured up to certain limits specific to the Trustee/Custodian institution and Retirement Trust Funds.

**NOTE C DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

**Custodial Credit Risk**

By Florida Statutes 218.415 the District is authorized to invest in the Florida Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund, Florida Local Government Investment Trust, Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds, interest-bearing savings accounts, certificates of deposit, federal agencies and instrumentalities, and direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury.

The Pension Trust Funds' investment policy pursuant to Section 112.661(10), Florida Statutes, states that securities should be held with a third party custodian; and all securities purchased by, and all collateral obtained by the Pension Fund, should be properly designated as an asset of the Pension Fund.

As of September 30, 2020, the Firefighters' Retirement Pension Trust Fund investments were held with a third-party custodian as required by Florida Statutes. Its investments in the external pool are not exposed to custodial credit risk because their existence is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical book entry form.

The Pension Plan adheres to State Statutes and prudent business practices. By decision of the Board of Trustees, the Plan is affiliated with the Florida Municipal Pension Trust Fund ("FMPTF"). As a result, the Plan's assets are held with FMPTF, an agent multiple employer pension plan administered by the FMPTF Board of Trustees. The FMPTF issues a publicly available report that includes the combined financial statements of all plan members. Separate accounts are maintained for each employer group.

The Florida Municipal Investment Trust (FMIT) was created under the laws of the State of Florida to provide eligible units of local government with an investment vehicle to pool their surplus funds and to reinvest such funds in one or more investment portfolios under the direction and daily supervision of an investment advisor. The Florida League of Cities serves as the administrator, investment manager and secretary-treasurer of the Trust. The FMIT is a Local Government Investment Pool and is considered an external investment pool for GASB reporting purposes. The District reports its investment in the FMIT at fair value in accordance with the GASB Statement 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application* fair value hierarchy.



**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE C DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

GASB 72 requires governments to disclose the fair value hierarchy for each type of asset or liability measured at fair value in the notes to the financial statements. The standard also requires governments to disclose a description of the valuation techniques used in the fair value measurement and any significant changes in valuation techniques. GASB 72 establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy. The hierarchy is based on valuation inputs used to measure the fair value as follows:

Level 1: Inputs are directly observable, quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Inputs are other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These inputs are derived from or corroborated by observable market data through correlation or by other means.

Level 3: Inputs are unobservable inputs used only when relevant Level 1 and Level 2 inputs are unavailable.

The level in which an asset is assigned is not indicative of its quality but an indication of the source of valuation inputs.

At September 30, 2020, the Plan reported the following investments:

<u>Investments by Fair Value Level:</u>	<b>Fair Value Measurement Using:</b>	
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Level</b>
FMIvT Broad Market High Quality Bond Fund	\$ 4,600,409	2
FMIvT Core Plus Fixed Income Fund	4,633,506	3
FMIvT Diversified Large Cap Equity Portfolio	11,947,826	2
FMIvT Diversified Small to Mid Cap Equity Portfolio	3,375,840	2
FMIvT International Equity Portfolio	5,262,339	2
FMIvT Core Real Estate	3,011,778	3
Total Investments at Fair Value	<u>\$ 32,831,698</u>	

Investment management and custodial fees are calculated quarterly as a percentage of the fair market value of the Plan’s managed assets. The Plan follows the investment policies of the FMPTF. The Master Trustees of the FMPTF have the exclusive authority and discretion to manage and control the assets of the FMPTF. The District has elected to participate in the FMPTF 60% equity fund. The maximum target asset allocation for equities is 60%. A variance of more than 10% from the approved allocation percentages of any asset class requires approval by the Master Trustees. Percentage allocations are intended to serve as guidelines; the Master Trustees will not be required to remain strictly at the designated allocation. Market conditions or an investment transition (asset class or manager) may require an interim investment strategy and, therefore, a temporary imbalance in asset mix.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE C INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

The following was the adopted asset allocation policy as of September 30, 2020:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>
Equities	60%
Large Cap	34%
Small Cap	11%
International	15%
Fixed Income	30%
Core Bonds	15%
Core Plus	15%
Core Real Estate	10%

All employee pension plans assets with the FMPTF are included in the trust’s master Trust Fund. Employee pension plan assets of the defined benefit type are invested by the FMPTF through the Florida Municipal Investment Trust (“FMIvT”) for the benefit of the Participating Employers, Participating Employees and Beneficiaries. The FMIvT is a Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) and, therefore, considered an external investment pool. The plans have a beneficial interest in shares in the FMIvT portfolios listed below. The plan’s investment is the beneficial interest in the FMIvT portfolio, not the individual securities held within each portfolio.

The Plan had no instrument that in whole, or in part, is accounted for as a derivative instrument under GASB Statement 53, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments* during the current Plan year.

As of September 30, 2020, the asset allocations for the various investment models were as follows:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Fair Market Value</u>	<u>Percentage of Portfolio</u>
Cash	\$ 264,772	0.80%
Pooled, common, comingled funds:		
Fixed income funds	9,233,915	27.90%
Equity funds	20,586,005	62.20%
International funds	<u>3,011,778</u>	<u>9.10%</u>
	<u>\$ 33,096,470</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE C INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**Interest Rate Risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment in debt securities. Generally, the longer the time to maturity, the greater the exposure to interest rate risk.

FMIvT Interest Rate Risk (Years)		
Fixed Income Fund	Modified Duration	WAM*
FMIvT Broad Market High Quality Bond Fund	5.52	6.60
FMIvT Core Plus Fixed Income Fund	3.35	5.82

\*w eighted average maturity

**Credit Risk**

Credit risk is the risk that a debt issuer will not fulfill its obligations. Consistent with state law the Plan’s investment guidelines limit its fixed income investments to a quality rating of A or equivalent as rated by Fitch bond rating services at the time of purchase. Fixed income investments, which are downgraded below the minimum rating, must be liquidated at the earliest beneficial opportunity.

The Plan’s investments had the following credit structure at September 30, 2020:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Fitch Rating</u>
FMIvT Broad Market High Quality Bond Fund	\$ 4,600,409	Aaf/S4
FMIvT Core Plus Fixed Income Fund	4,633,506	Not Rated
FMIvT Diversified Large Cap Equity Portfolio	11,947,826	Not Rated
FMIvT Diversified Small to Mid Cap Equity Portfolio	3,375,840	Not Rated
FMIvT International Equity Portfolio	5,262,339	Not Rated
FMIvT Core Real Estate Portfolio	3,011,778	Not Rated
Total Investments at Fair Value	<u>\$ 32,831,698</u>	

**Concentration Risk**

GASB Statement 40, *Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 3*, requires disclosure if 5% or more of the total fiduciary net position is invested with one issuer. However, investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government and investments in mutual funds, external investment pools and other investments are excluded from the concentration of credit risk disclosure requirements. Since 100% of plan assets are in an investment pool, disclosure is not required.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE C INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**Custodial Credit Risk**

Pursuant to GASB 40, Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures, disclosure is only required if investments are uninsured, unregistered, and held by either the counterparty or the counterparty's trust department or agent but not in the government's name.

Participating Employers' investments through the FMPTF in the FMLvT are evidenced by shares of the pool. Investments in pools should be disclosed, but not categorized because they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form. The public entity's investment is with the pool, not the securities that make up the pool; therefore, no disclosure is required.

**Foreign Currency Risk**

This category applies only if a government's deposits or investments are exposed to foreign currency risk. If subject to such exposure, the government should disclose the dollar balances subject to such risks, organized by currency denomination and investment type. Participating Employers' investments in the FMLvT are not subject to foreign currency risk.

**Rate of Return**

For the year ended September 30, 2020, the annual money weighted rate of return on the Firefighters' Retirement Pension Plan investments, net of investment expense was 6.08%. The money weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, and is adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

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**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE D CAPITAL ASSETS**

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended September 30, 2020:

	Balance September 30, 2019	Additions	Deletions	Balance September 30, 2020
Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 2,433,668	\$ 80,800	\$ (80,800)	\$ 2,433,668
Construction in Progress	680,453	14,092	(680,453)	14,092
Total Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated	<u>3,114,121</u>	<u>94,892</u>	<u>(761,253)</u>	<u>2,447,760</u>
Capital Assets Being Depreciated:				
Buildings and Improvements	9,215,314	-	(93,053)	9,122,261
Vehicles	6,030,184	696,835	(83,405)	6,643,614
Equipment	1,612,307	167,037	(126,394)	1,652,950
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	<u>16,857,805</u>	<u>863,872</u>	<u>(302,852)</u>	<u>17,418,825</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Buildings and Improvements	(3,996,264)	(262,962)	89,998	(4,169,228)
Vehicles	(4,425,028)	(397,027)	82,814	(4,739,241)
Equipment	(830,190)	(206,127)	126,105	(910,212)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(9,251,482)</u>	<u>(866,116)</u>	<u>298,917</u>	<u>(9,818,681)</u>
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net	<u>7,606,323</u>	<u>(2,244)</u>	<u>(3,935)</u>	<u>7,600,144</u>
Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 10,720,444</u>	<u>\$ 92,648</u>	<u>\$ (765,188)</u>	<u>\$ 10,047,904</u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE E LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

**Summary of Long-Term Obligations**

The following is a summary of the long-term obligations at September 30, 2020:

	<u>Amount</u>
\$4,000,000 Promissory Note, Series 2007A dated September 11, 2007, payable to a financial institution. The District only borrowed \$2,820,000. The note is payable over 20 years in monthly principal payments of \$12,368 plus interest. The variable interest rate of 63.7% of LIBOR plus 0.80% has changed to a fixed rate of 4.16% commencing on October 24, 2008 via the amendment to the original ISDA Master Agreement (Swap) dated September 11, 2007. The fixed rate applies to \$2,820,000. The District is obligated to pay principal and interest on the \$2,820,000 fixed Swap arrangement beginning in October 2008. The note proceeds have been used for financing the construction of fire department facilities. The note is collateralized by a pledge of impact fees and other non-ad valorem revenue with the final installment due September 24, 2027.	\$ 1,038,947
Outside of the bargaining unit, the Fire Chief is the only contracted employee of the District. The employment contract includes a deferred compensation benefit equal to one week of salary for every year of service, from November 2, 1998.	72,904
Fair market value of the District's hedging derivative instruments (Swaps).	119,589
Implicit subsidy - actuarial annualized funding estimates in the event the District chooses to fund its future obligation to provide optional post-employment healthcare, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage to eligible individuals.	2,832,231
Non-current portion of compensated absences. Employees of the District are entitled to annual personal leave time, based on length of service and job classification.	1,201,460
	\$ 5,265,131

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE E LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Summary of Long-Term Obligations (Continued)**

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020:

	Balance October 1, 2019	Additions	Retirements	Balance September 30, 2020	Amounts Due Within One Year
Series 2007A	\$ 1,187,368	\$ -	\$ (148,421)	\$ 1,038,947	\$ 148,421
Deferred Compensation	62,531	10,373	-	72,904	-
Derivative Instruments	116,123	3,466	-	119,589	-
Implicit Subsidy (OPEB)	2,134,030	706,379	(8,178)	2,832,231	-
Compensated Absences	1,082,457	1,058,905	(939,902)	1,201,460	21,980
	<u>\$ 4,582,509</u>	<u>\$ 1,779,123</u>	<u>\$ (1,096,501)</u>	<u>\$ 5,265,131</u>	<u>\$ 170,401</u>

The annual debt service requirements are as follows at September 30:

	<u>Series 2007A</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2021	\$ 148,421	\$ 40,944
2022	148,421	34,683
2023	148,421	28,423
2024	148,421	22,225
2025	148,421	15,903
2026	148,421	9,643
2027	148,421	3,383
	<u>1,038,947</u>	<u>155,204</u>
Deferred Compensation Benefit	72,904	-
Derivative Instruments	119,589	-
Implicit Subsidy (OPEB)	2,832,231	-
Accrued Compensated Absences	1,201,460	-
Total Long-Term Debt	<u>\$ 5,265,131</u>	<u>\$ 155,204</u>

The District was required by the lender to establish a reserve account of \$435,000 which, as of September 30, 2020, was funded by the loan proceeds.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE F INTEREST RATE SWAP**

In order to protect against the potential of rising interest rates, the District entered into interest rate swap agreements in fiscal 2003. On September 11, 2007, the District amended its swap agreements by reducing the two existing fixed rates and including a fixed rate for the new debt acquired in 2007. The existing fixed rates were decreased from 3.72% to 3.62%. The new debt swapped to a fixed rate of 4.16% on October 24, 2008. The intention of the swaps was to effectively change the District’s variable interest rate on the associated loans to fixed rates.

The terms, including the fair value and credit rating of the outstanding swap as of September 30, 2020, are listed in the following table. The notional value of the swap declines as the associated loan balance declines.

<u>Notional Amounts</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Fixed Rate Paid</u>	<u>Variable Rate Received</u>	<u>Fair Values at September 30, 2020</u>	<u>Swap Termination</u>	<u>Counterparty Credit Rating</u>
\$ 1,038,947	09/24/2008	4.16%	63.7% of LIBOR + 0.80%	\$ (119,589)	09/24/2027	Aaa/AA+/AA

The swap is associated with the promissory note reported in Note E. The fair value of the swap at September 30, 2020 is included in long-term liabilities due in more than one year on the Statement of Net Position. The fair value of the remaining swap agreement increased by \$3,466 during the year ending September 20, 2020.

Because the variable interest rates have decreased below the fixed rates, the swap has a negative fair value as of September 30, 2020. The negative fair value may be countered by increases in total interest payments required under the variable rate loans, creating higher synthetic interest rates. Because the coupons on the District’s variable-rate bond adjusts to changing interest rates, the loan does not have corresponding fair value increases. The fair value is estimated using a proprietary pricing service and is provided to the District by the counterparty financial institution known to be high volume participants in this market.

As of September 30, 2020, the District was exposed to credit risk because the swap had a negative fair value. The District or the counterparty may terminate the swap if the other party fails to perform under the terms of the contract. If at the time of termination the swaps have a negative fair value, the District would be liable to the counterparty for a payment equal to the swaps’ fair value.



**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE F INTEREST RATE SWAP (CONTINUED)**

As of September 30, 2020, debt service requirements of the variable-rate debt and net swap payments, assuming current interest rates remain the same, for their term were as follows. As rates vary, variable-rate debt interest payments and net swap payments will vary.

Fiscal Year Ending September 30	Variable Rate Debt		Interest Rate	Total
	Principal	Interest	Sw ap. Net	
2021	\$ 148,421	\$ 8,821	\$ 32,123	\$ 189,365
2022	148,421	7,473	27,210	183,104
2023	148,421	6,124	22,299	176,844
2024	148,421	4,788	17,437	170,646
2025	148,421	3,426	12,477	164,324
2026	148,421	2,078	7,565	158,064
2027	148,421	729	2,654	151,804
	<u>\$ 1,038,947</u>	<u>\$ 33,439</u>	<u>\$ 121,765</u>	<u>\$ 1,194,151</u>

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS**

The District has funded retirement costs in two ways:

1. Plan 1 – Florida Municipal Pension Trust – Certified firefighters as qualified under the Plan (F.S. 175) – Retirement Plan and Trust for the Firefighters of the Estero Fire Rescue District.
2. Plan 2 – 401(a) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan – Employees not within Plan 1.

Except for those provisions that are mandated in Note H, the District does not currently provide benefits to its retired employees other than the benefits indicated below:

**Plan 1 – Plan Description and Provisions – Firefighters' Retirement Plan**

**Plan Description** - On December 1, 2000, the District resolved to establish a single-employer defined benefit pension plan for its full-time firefighters. The plan is legally administered by the Board of Trustees of the Chapter 175 Municipal Firefighters Pension Trust Fund of Estero Fire Rescue (the "Plan"). All full-time certified firefighters of the District hired after December 1, 2000 are eligible to participate in the Plan and become participants in the Plan immediately upon hire. Those firefighters hired on or before December 1, 2000 could elect to participate as of that date or were given an additional opportunity to participate effective January 1, 2007, but did not receive credit for service prior to 2007 unless they made a contribution equal to the full actuarial cost of their prior service. In addition, the participant may purchase up to five additional years of Credited Service for certain military service or other firefighter service by paying into the Plan the full actuarial cost, thereof, subject to the restrictions on such service purchases as set forth in the legal plan document. The Fire Chief may elect not to participate in the Plan.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan 1 – Plan Description and Provisions – Firefighters' Retirement Plan (Continued)**

**Contributions** - For the year ended September 30, 2020, the District was required to contribute an actuarially determined amount of 29.54% of covered payroll (excluding regular overtime, bonuses, and lump sum payments for accrued annual leave, and sick time) of the qualified and participating employees. Participating employees are required to make regular contributions to the Plan in the amount of 3% of their covered payroll. Employees vest immediately in their own contributions. The employee contribution requirement may be amended by District resolution, but employer contribution requirement is subject to State minimums.

Contributions to the Plan are derived from three sources: employees, 3% of compensation paid by the employee; state funds, (insurance premium tax per Florida Statute Chapter 175); and the employer, remaining amount necessary to meet the actuarial funding requirement. The state contribution is based on property fire insurance premiums collected within the District and may be applied up to an approved "frozen" limit. The District (employer) is required to fund the difference each year between the total contributions from all other sources for the year and the total funding cost for the year pursuant to the most recent actuarial valuation of the Plan.

The District contributed 100% of its required contributions. As such, the District made employer contributions of \$1,705,464, \$1,581,108, and \$1,648,459, for the years ended September 30, 2020, 2019, and 2018, respectively. Covered payroll for the years ended September 30, 2020, 2019, and 2018, was \$4,648,570, \$4,680,282, and \$4,782,434, respectively.

The employees contributed 100% of their respective required contributions to the Plan during the year ended September 30, 2020. Employee contributions for the years ended September 30, 2020, 2019, and 2018, were \$172,685, \$157,741, and \$158,408, respectively.

**Pension Benefits** – Employees with 10 or more years of service are entitled to annual pension benefits, beginning at the earlier of age 55 with 10 years of credited service or 25 years credited service and attainment of age 52. The benefit is equal to 2.00% of Average Final Compensation (AFC) multiplied by Credited Service earned prior to December 1, 2000, plus 3.70% of AFC multiplied by Credited Service earned during the period December 1, 2000 through September 30, 2010, plus 3.00% of AFC multiplied by Credited Service earned after September 30, 2010. The average final monthly compensation (AFC) is the average of the five highest years within the last 10 years of service or career average, whichever is higher. Maximum benefit is 100% of AFC, paid during the retiree's lifetime with a minimum of 120 monthly benefit payments. Several other actuarially equivalent payment options are available. A lump sum payment is required if the single sum value of the participant's benefit is less than or equal to \$1,000.

In fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, the District adopted what is known as a Stop Start Plan. This essentially simultaneously stopped the Plan and restarted the Plan at its original benefit rates. The benefit multiplier was then increased for a 10 year period of credited service. A supplemental benefit now provided to participants is a Share Account that is to be funded solely and entirely by Chapter 175 premium tax revenues in excess of the frozen amount. Each participant's "share" of this supplemental benefit will be based on credited years of service. The assets in the Share Account at September 30, 2020 totaled \$1,088,507.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan 1 – Plan Description and Provisions – Firefighters' Retirement Plan (Continued)**

**Employees Covered by Benefit Terms** – At September 30, 2019, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

	September 30, 2020 Current Membership	October 1, 2019 Actuary Valuation Date
Inactive Employees or Beneficiaries Currently Receiving Benefits	7	7
Inactive Employees Entitled to but not yet Receiving Benefits	5	5
Active Plan Members Participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)	1	1
Active Employees	60	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>

**Early Retirement** - The Plan permits early retirement with 10 years of credited service. Applicable benefits are reduced by 3% for each year before normal retirement. If employees terminate before rendering 10 years of credited service, they forfeit the right to receive their portion of the accumulated Plan benefits, except for the employee contributed portion.

**Death and disability benefits** – Upon the death of any vested member, whether or not still in active employment, a survivor benefit is payable to a beneficiary or joint pensioner starting when the member would have reached early or normal retirement age. The benefit is equal to the vested pension benefit and is payable for 10 years. The beneficiary may also elect to receive an immediate benefit payable for 10 years which is actuarially reduced to reflect the commencement of benefits prior to retirement date.

Active employees who become totally and permanently disabled directly from the performance of their duty as a firefighter shall receive a Normal Retirement Benefit with the minimum benefit equal to 42% of AFC for service-connected disabilities and a minimum benefit equal to 25% of AFC for non-service connected disabilities if the participant has earned at least 10 years of service. Disability benefits are offset as necessary to preclude the total of the disability benefit, worker’s compensation, and other District-provided disability compensation from exceeding average earnings

**Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)** – DROP is available to those participants who have attained their normal retirement age and individuals may participate in the DROP for up to 60 months; at the elections of the participant (which election can be changed one time). DROP accounts are credited with interest based on the actual investment return on plan assets or at a flat rate of 6.50% per annum.

**Payments of benefits** – Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

The Plan is a single-employer defined benefit retirement plan and trust. The Plan is totally administered by the Florida Municipal Pension Trust Fund/Florida League of Cities, Inc. The Florida Municipal Pension Trust Fund acts as the trustee of the Plan.

A copy of the Plan’s annual report for September 30, 2020 and a complete detail of the Plan can be obtained by writing the Florida League of Cities, Inc., P.O. Box 1757, Tallahassee, Florida, 32302-1757 or by calling (850) 222-9684.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan 1 – Plan Description and Provisions – Firefighters' Retirement Plan (Continued)**

In addition, the Plan issued a stand-alone report that includes audited financial statements and required supplementary information. The report may be obtained from the Plan Board of Trustees.

**Plan 1 - Information Used to Determine the Net Pension Liability/(Asset)**

The District's net pension asset was measured as of September 30, 2020, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of October 1, 2019.

*Actuarial assumptions.* The total pension liability in the October 1, 2019 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Actuarial Cost Method	Aggregate Cost Method
Asset Method	Actuarial value of assets is equal to the market value of assets, adjusted to reflect a five-year phase-in of the net investment gains and losses that occur after September 30, 2013
Interest (or discount) rate	7.00 % per annum, net of investment expenses and commissions
Salary Increases	4.50% per annum
Pre- and Post-retirement Mortality Decrements	Sex-distinct rates set forth in the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table, with full generational improvements in mortality using Scale BB
Disability and Termination Decrements	Age and gender based rates
Retirement Decrement	For those participants whose normal retirement age is age 53 or earlier, retirement is assumed to occur at the rate of 15% at age 50, 10% at each of ages 51 and 52, and 100% at the earlier of age 53 or normal retirement age; for those participants whose normal retirement age is age 54 or later, retirement is assumed to occur at the rate of 15% at each of ages 50 through 54 and 100% at age 55, except that 40% retirement is assumed to occur at a normal retirement age of 54
Form of Payment	Future retirees have been assumed to select the 10-year certain and life annuity, except that participants who terminate their service with less than 10 years of service are assumed to receive a refund of their accumulated employee contributions
Expenses	The total projected benefit liability has been loaded by 1.75% to account for anticipated administrative expenses.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan 1 - Information Used to Determine the Net Pension Liability/(Asset) (Continued)**

Future Contributions	Contributions from the employer and employees are assumed to be made as legally required
Changes	No changes have been made since the prior measurement date.

**Plan 1 - Determination of the Long-Term Expected Rate of Return on Plan Assets**

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return*	*per annum
Core Bonds	15.00%	1.60%	
Multi-sector	15.00%	2.10%	
U.S. Large Cap Equity	34.00%	4.60%	
U.S. Small Cap Equity	11.00%	5.50%	
Non-U.S. Equity	15.00%	6.70%	
Core real estate	10.00%	5.00%	
Total/Weighted Arithmetic Average	100.00%	4.23%	

**Plan 1 - Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that District contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the employee rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan 1 - Changes in the Net Pension Asset**

	Increase (Decrease)		
	Total Pension Liability	Plan Fiduciary Net Position	Net Pension Asset
Balance - September 30, 2019	\$27,754,581	\$(29,516,166)	\$(1,761,585)
Changes for the Year			
Service Cost	435,707	-	435,707
Expected Interest Growth	1,950,281	(2,119,360)	(169,079)
Unexpected Investment Income	-	82,723	82,723
Demographic Experience	65,142	-	65,142
Contributions - Employer	-	(1,705,464)	(1,705,464)
Contributions – Employee	-	(172,685)	(172,685)
Benefit Payments, Including Refunds of Employee Contributions	(266,240)	266,240	-
Administrative Expenses	-	64,931	64,931
Change in Benefit Terms	-	-	-
Assumption Changes	-	-	-
Balance - September 30, 2020	<u>\$29,939,471</u>	<u>\$(33,099,781)</u>	<u>\$(3,160,310)</u>

**Plan 1 - Sensitivity of the net pension asset to changes in the discount rate**

The following table presents the net pension asset of the District, calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the District's net pension asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current rate:

	1 % Decrease	Current	1% Increase
	6.00%	Discount Rate 7.00%	8.00%
Total Pension Liability	\$ 34,482,221	\$ 29,939,471	\$ 26,240,510
Less Fiduciary Net Position	(33,099,781)	(33,099,781)	(33,099,781)
Net Pension Liability/(Asset)	<u>\$ 1,382,440</u>	<u>\$ (3,160,310)</u>	<u>\$ (6,859,271)</u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan 1 - Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

For the year ended September 30, 2020, the District recognized a pension expense of \$852,139. At September 30, 2020, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Description	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Balance as of September 30, 2019	\$ 6,373,865	\$ 1,889,410
Change due to:		
Amortization Payments	(1,267,502)	(574,237)
Investment Gain/Loss	82,723	-
Demographic Gain/Loss	65,142	-
Assumption Changes	-	-
TOTAL CHANGE	<u>(1,119,637)</u>	<u>(574,237)</u>
Balance as of September 30, 2020	<u>\$ 5,254,228</u>	<u>\$ 1,315,173</u>

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

Year Ended September 30,	
2021	\$ 734,186
2022	990,137
2023	1,009,872
2024	946,025
2025	247,281
Thereafter	\$ 11,554

**Plan 1 - Income recognition**

Allocated investment income is recorded on the accrual basis. Investments are reported at market value. Short-term investments are reported at cost, which approximates market value. Since the Plan is collectively managed with other government's plans, investment income is allocated to each plan as a net amount, as it is not feasible to specifically allocate income (loss) by individual component of income (loss).

**Plan 1 - Funding**

The State of Florida makes contributions from taxes on casualty insurance premiums to the Firefighters' Retirement Plan – Plan 1. The state contributions of \$347,246 for the year ended September 30, 2020, are recognized by the District as on behalf payments and are reported as revenues and expenditures in the general fund statements.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan 1 – Funding (Continued)**

The District funds the Plan based on a funding method recommended by the Florida Department of Revenue. A contribution surplus reserve in the amount of \$509,702 is available at September 30, 2020. The contribution surplus reserve is restricted to funding the Plan and it will be utilized in future years.

The Plan assets are legally reserved for the payment of the respective Plan member benefits within the Plan. There are no assets legally restricted for Plan benefits other than those assets within the Plan. The Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund held certain investments at year-end. There are no long-term contracts for contributions.

The share account is the defined contribution component of the pension plan. The assets are not included in the actuarial value of assets available to fund accumulated Plan benefits and are not included in the fiduciary statement of net position of the Plan.

**Defined Contribution Component, “Share Plan”**

**Description of Share Plan** – During the year ended September 30, 2011, the District adopted what is known as the Share Plan. The Share Plan is not included in the actuarial value of assets available to fund accumulated Plan benefits. For plans participating in Chapter 175 or 185, Florida Statutes, in accordance with sections 175.351(6) and 185.36(6), Florida Statutes, there is an established defined contributions plan component (“Share Plan”) to provide special benefits to Firefighters who are Members of the defined benefit plan. The Share Plan is funded solely and entirely by Chapter 175 and 185 premium tax monies that are allocated to the Share Plan, by mutual consent of the District and the plan members’ collective bargaining representative.

**Eligible Share Plan Participants** – Eligible Share Plan participants shall be determined through collective bargaining between the Employer and the plan members’ collective bargaining representative.

**Individual Share Accounts** – An individual share account is created for each eligible Share Plan participant as of the date that premium tax monies are first allocated to the Share Plan. Thereafter, the plan administrator maintains appropriate records showing the share account balance of each participant.

**Share Account Funding** – Individual share accounts were established as of December 31, 2015 for all eligible Share Plan participants, or at a later date when premium tax monies were first allocated to the Share Plan. Individual share accounts were credited with a portion of any premium tax monies allocated to the Share Plan for the plan year beginning October 1, 2015, and each plan year thereafter in which premium tax monies are allocated to the Share Plan.

**Allocation of Investment Gains and Losses** – As of October 1 each year in which premium tax monies have been or are credited to participant share accounts, each individual share account is adjusted to reflect the net investment earnings or losses for the Trust for the immediately preceding plan year. The net investment earnings or losses for the Trust is the percentage earned or lost by the total Trust investments, including realized and unrealized gains or losses, net of brokerage commissions, transaction costs and management fees, as determined by the Plan’s investment advisor.



**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Forfeitures** – A Share Plan participant who terminates employment with less than the minimum number of years of credited service specified in the Adoption Agreement for vesting shall forfeit his/her share account. Forfeited amounts shall be reallocated to the other participant share accounts at the end of the plan year in which a forfeiture occurs, unless a different allocation is required by law. A participant whose share account is forfeited shall not thereafter be entitled to any portion of the amount forfeited, and if subsequently reemployed in an eligible position shall participate in the Share Plan as a new participant.

**Distribution of Share Account** – A participant's share account balance shall be distributed to the participant or his/her designated beneficiary within 180 days following the participant's retirement, death, or termination of employment after obtaining the minimum number of years of credited service specified in the Adoption Agreement for vesting and reaching the normal retirement date. The share account distribution shall reflect one hundred percent of the participant's share account balance as of October 1 preceding the participant's retirement, death, or termination of employment and meeting the conditions specified herein, and shall be paid in one lump sum payment. No optional forms of payments shall be permitted.

**Contributions to the Share Plan** – For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, the State premium tax monies contributed to the plan were \$79,435. There were no District or employee contributions.

**Plan 2 – Defined Contributions Retirement Plan – Employees Not Within the Bargaining Unit**

The District established a Governmental Money Purchase Plan (401(a)), a defined contribution plan, on October 5, 2001, for the District's full time general employees who are not participants in the firefighters' pension trust. Participants are eligible to participate upon their hire date. The Plan is completely administered by the Plan custodian, the Florida Municipal Pension Trust Fund. Employees are immediately vested 100% in their own contributions. Participants vest in the employer's Plan contributions 100% after completion of five years of credited service. Vesting begins at 40% after completion of two years of credited service and increases at 20% per year. Normal retirement age is 52 years of age.

The Plan requires the District to make contributions equal to 12% of the qualified employee's compensation, excluding bonuses and lump sum payments. The Plan also allows the employee participants to make contributions. Employee contributions are deposited into the respective employee's deferred compensation plan (Section 457 Plan) account. Therefore, the employee's contributions are maintained separately from those of the employer (District) contributions. The Plan also requires the employer to match the employee's voluntary contributions dollar for dollar up to 5% of the employee's eligible compensation. Total District contributions to the Plan, including the employer 12% contributions, and the employer match amount, for the years ended September 30, 2020, 2019, and 2018 were \$110,245, \$88,768, and \$60,368, respectively. The District utilized \$23,954 in forfeitures in fiscal year 2017-2018 to meet the required employer contribution amount of \$84,322.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE G RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan 2 – Defined Contributions Retirement Plan – Employees Not Within the Bargaining Unit (Continued)**

The District contributed 100% of its required contributions for the year ended September 30, 2020. Employee contributions to the Plan were \$477,074, \$381,208, and \$313,201, for the years ended September 30, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The employee contributions are deposited to a Section 457 account which is a deferred compensation plan that is available to all employees of the District, as such, employee contribution amounts provided are made by participants of both District provided retirement plans.

**NOTE H OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)**

*Plan Description:*

The District’s Retiree Health Care Plan (Plan) is a single-employer defined benefit postemployment health care plan that covers eligible retired employees of the District. The Plan, which is administered by the District, allows employees who retire and meet retirement eligibility requirements under one of the District’s retirement plans to continue medical, dental and/or vision insurance coverage as a participant in the District’s plan. For purposes of applying Paragraph 4 under Statement No. 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions, the Plan does not meet the requirements for an OPEB plan administered through a trust, as no assets are accumulated. The contributions made to the program are assumed to be the benefits paid to retirees and administrative expenses.

*Employees Covered by Benefit Terms. At October 1, 2019, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:*

Inactive Plan Members, or Beneficiaries Currently Receiving Benefits	1
Inactive Plan Members Entitled to But Not Yet Receiving Benefits	-
Active Plan Members	<u>69</u>
	<u>70</u>

*Benefits Provided:*

A retired employee and his or her spouse and eligible dependents are eligible to continue health insurance identical to active employees if they meet the eligibility for retirement under the applicable retirement plan. The retiree is responsible for paying the entire monthly premium for health coverage and that of any covered spouse or eligible dependents. Medicare is assumed to become primary upon attainment of age 65.

Effective October 1, 2019, for eligible managers, the full cost of medical coverage is paid for by the District for the first two years following retirement.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE H OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)**

**TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY**

The measurement date is September 30, 2019.

The measurement period for the OPEB expense was October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

The actuarial valuation date is September 30, 2019.

The reporting period is October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

Note - The Sponsor's Total OPEB Liability for the District's ledger adjustment was measured as of September 30, 2019 using a discount rate of 3.58%.

**Actuarial Assumptions:**

The Total OPEB Liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2019 using the following actuarial assumptions:

Inflation Rate	2.5%
Salary Increase Rate(s)	3.00%
Discount Rate	3.58%
Initial Trend Rate	7.50%
Ultimate Trend Rate	4.00%
Years to Ultimate	55

*Discount Rate:* Given the District's decision not to fund the program, all future benefit payments were discounted using a high quality municipal bond rate of 3.58%. The high quality municipal bond rate was based on the measurement date of the S&P Municipal Bond 20-year High Grade Index as published by S&P Dow Jones Indices. The S&P Municipal 20 Year High Grade Rate Index consists of bonds in the S&P Municipal Bond Index with a maturity of 20 years. Eligible bonds must be rated at least AA by Standard and Poor's Ratings Services, Aa2 by Moody's or AA by Fitch. If there are multiple rates, the lowest rating is used.

*Mortality:* All mortality rates were based on the PubS-2010 mortality tables. All mortality rates are those outlined in Milliman's July 1, 2019 Florida Retirement System valuation report. All tables include fully generational adjustments for mortality improvements using gender-specific improvement scale MP-2018.

*Retirement Rates:* Retirement is assumed to occur at a rate of 15% per year from ages 50 through 53, 40% per year at age 54, and 100% at age 55.

*Termination Rates:* See samples rates below.

Age	% Terminating During the Year
20	6.00%
30	5.00%
40	2.60%
50	0.80%
60	0.20%

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE H OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)**

***Actuarial Assumptions (Continued):***

*Inflation:* 2.50% per year.

*Salary Inflation:* 3.00% per year.

*Marital Status:* 100% of employees are assumed to be married, with male spouses 3 years older than female spouses.

*Health Coverage Participation:* 50% of employees are assumed to elect medical coverage until age 65 upon retirement or disability. Of those electing coverage for themselves, 40% of males and 30% of females are also assumed to elect coverage for their spouse. For managers eligible for the full retiree health care subsidy, they are assumed to participate at a rate of 100% for the first two years following retirement, and 50% thereafter.

*Medical Inflation:* Increases in healthcare costs are assumed to be an initial rate of 7.50% in fiscal 2020, then 7.00% in fiscal 2021, grading down to the ultimate trend rate of 4.00% in fiscal 2075.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>
2020	7.50%
2021	7.00%
2022	6.50%
2023-2024	6.00%
2025-2026	5.75%
2027-2028	5.50%
2029-2048	5.25%
2049-2057	5.00%
2058-2067	4.75%
2068-2070	4.50%
2071-2074	4.25%
2075+	4.00%

The above rates reflect recent healthcare trend rate surveys, blended with the long-term rates from the Getzen model published by the Society of Actuaries.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE H OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)**

***Actuarial Assumptions (Continued):***

*Funding Method-* Entry Age Cost Method (Level Percentage of Pay).

	Increases and (Decreases) in Total OPEB Liability
Reporting Period Ending September 30, 2019	\$ 2,134,030
Changes for the Year:	
Service Cost	143,030
Interest	82,737
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	200,141
Changes of Assumptions	59,292
Changes of Benefit Terms	221,179
Contributions - Employer	-
Benefit Payments & Refunds	(8,178)
Other Changes	-
Net Changes	<u>698,201</u>
Reporting Period Ending September 30, 2020	<u><u>\$ 2,832,231</u></u>

All results for the reporting Period Ending September 30, 2019 were calculated by the prior actuary.

Differences between Expected and Actual Experience reflect the impact of changes to the census data from the prior valuation to the valuation as of September 30, 2019.

Changes of Assumptions reflect a change in the discount rate from 3.64% for the reporting period ended September 30, 2019, to 3.58% for the reporting period ended September 30, 2020. The following assumption changes are also reflected:

- Updated projected medical claims and premiums,
- Updated mortality rates, and
- Updated health care inflation rates.

Changes of Benefit Terms reflects the full cost of medical coverage being paid for by the District for the first two years following retirement for certain eligible mangers, effective October 1, 2019.

*Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to changes in the Discount Rate:*

The following presents the Total OPEB Liability of the District, as well as what the District's Total OPEB Liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
	2.58%	3.58%	4.58%
Total OPEB Liability (Asset)	<u>\$ 3,141,937</u>	<u>\$ 2,832,231</u>	<u>\$ 2,559,018</u>

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE H OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)**

*Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates:*

The following presents the Total OPEB Liability of the District, as well as what the District's Total OPEB Liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	Healthcare Cost		
	1% Decrease 3.00%-6.50%	Trend Rates 4.00%-7.50%	1% Increase 5.00%-8.50%
Total OPEB Liability (Asset)	<u>\$ 2,481,450</u>	<u>\$ 2,832,231</u>	<u>\$ 3,248,846</u>

**OPEB EXPENSE AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO OPEB**

For the year ended September 30, 2020, the District will recognize OPEB Expense of \$451,873. On September 30, 2020, the District reported Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 180,127	\$ 22,833
Changes of Assumptions	53,363	127,013
Employer Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	115,695	-
Total	<u>\$ 349,185</u>	<u>\$ 149,846</u>

Amounts reported as Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB Expense as follows:

<u>Year Ended September 30,</u>	
2021	\$ 4,927
2022	\$ 4,927
2023	\$ 4,927
2024	\$ 4,927
2025	\$ 4,927
Thereafter	\$ 59,009

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 September 30, 2020**

**NOTE I PROPERTY TAXES**

Property taxes are levied after formal adoption of the District's budget and become due and payable on November 1 of each year and are delinquent on April 1 of the following year. Discounts on property taxes are allowed for payments made prior to the April 1 delinquent date. Tax certificates are sold to the public for the full amount of any unpaid taxes and must be sold not later than June 1 of each year. The billing, collection, and related recordkeeping of all property taxes are performed for the District by the Lee County Tax Collector. No accrual for the property tax levy becoming due in November 2020 is included in the accompanying financial statements, since such taxes are collected to finance expenditures of the subsequent period.

Procedures for collecting delinquent taxes, including applicable tax certificate sales and tax deed sales, are provided for by Florida Statutes. The enforceable lien date is approximately two years after taxes become delinquent and occurs only upon request of a holder of a delinquent tax certificate.

Important dates in the property tax cycle are as follows:

Assessment roll certified	July 1
Millage resolution approved	No later than 93 days following certification of assessment roll
Taxes due and payable (levy date)	November/with various discount provisions through March 31
Property taxes payable-maximum discount (4 percent)	30 days after levy date
Beginning of fiscal year for which taxes have been levied	October 1
Due date	March 31
Taxes become delinquent (lien date)	April 1
Tax certificates are sold by the Lee County Tax Collector	Prior to June 1

The Board of Commissioners of the District levied ad valorem taxes at a millage rate of \$2.13 per \$1,000 (2.13 mills) of the 2020 net taxable value of real property located within the District.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE J COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

The District is involved from time to time in certain routine litigation, the substance of which either as liabilities or recoveries would not materially affect the financial position of the District. Although the final outcome of the lawsuits, assertions and claims or the exact amount of costs and/or potential recovery is not presently determinable, in the opinion of the District's legal counsel, the resolution of these matters will not have a materially adverse effect on the financial condition of the District. As a general policy, the District plans to contest any such matters.

On April 8, 2003, the District entered into an agreement with Lee County in which the County paid the District \$118,836 for the right to use space at the Three Oaks Fire Station for Lee County owned emergency vehicles and assigned Lee County personnel. This agreement is for a term of 25 years and can be terminated by either party upon giving the other party a written 365 day notice. Should the right to use be terminated by the District, the sums paid to the District by the County shall be repaid to the County on a pro-rata basis for the years that the space was made available over the term of this agreement. At September 30, 2020, the amortized balance of the liability owed by the District if the agreement was terminated is approximately \$35,756. Currently, there has been no interest by either party to terminate the agreement.

The District entered into a Traffic Signal Agreement in 2007 with a local developer or its assigns to share the cost of the construction of an emergency flashing traffic signal. Under this agreement, the financial obligation to the District for this improvement is 50% of the total design/permit/construction costs up to \$150,000. At September 30, 2020, the District had contributed \$106,581. Upon the emergency flashing traffic signal converting to a fully operational traffic signal, the District is entitled to a reimbursement of their contributed cost share less their pro rata share of the total cost of the fully operating traffic signal based on the District's traffic impact to the signal. Currently there is no anticipated date as to when or if the emergency flashing signal will convert to a fully operational traffic signal.

The District's Fire Chief is the only employee with an employment contract, outside of the bargaining unit. The contract contains various commitments associated with the potential termination of the Fire Chief, including, but not limited to, deferred compensation benefit. The estimated liability for the deferred compensation benefit at September 30, 2020 was \$72,904. This liability is considered a long-term liability and is recorded in the Statement of Net Position as deferred compensation benefits expected to be paid after one year. There is currently no expected termination of the Fire Chief.

**NOTE K RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; thefts of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

Insurance for workers' compensation, general/management liability, automobile, and property is provided by a commercial insurance carrier. Workers' compensation risk of loss is transferred to the insurance carrier with limits of liability of \$1,000,000 per accident or disease.



**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE K RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

The District retains the risk of loss up to a deductible amount (ranging from \$500 to \$2,500) with the risk of loss in excess of this amount transferred to the insurance carrier with limits of liability amounts (ranging from \$2,000 to \$1,000,000 per occurrence) for general/management liability, automobile and property; except for those essential assets that have a guaranteed replacement value. An umbrella policy minimizes the District's exposure with an additional amount of coverage (up to \$5,000,000 per occurrence) for general/management claims. The District pays annual premiums for this insurance coverage. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage as compared to the prior year. Settled claims have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

The District's dental insurance program is self-funded and is administered by a third party administrator. At September 30, 2020, the District's dental plan had liabilities equal to the amounts reflected as reserved and unasserted claims. These amounts were calculated by the third-party self-insurance program's underwriters and actuaries, based on industry standards. These liabilities are subject to adjustments in future years, which would be recorded as claim expenses when they are estimated. However, the amounts are insignificant to the financial statements as a whole and do not exceed more than the average monthly dental claims, and therefore are not reported.

**NOTE L FUTURE FIRE IMPACT FEES**

In 2002, the District pledged future fire impact fee revenues to secure two bank loans. The loan proceeds were used for financing the construction of fire department facilities and related equipment that was necessary due to population growth in the District.

Impact fee revenue has not been sufficient to pay the District's debt since FY 2008. As such, the District's general ad valorem dollars have been paying the debt service on the loans. It is permissible to pay the debt service with the general ad valorem dollars, but the District is not permitted to secure the long term debt with the ad valorem dollars. Ad valorem revenue is intended for the operation of the District and the impact fee revenue is intended to finance costs associated with growth, such as additional stations and additional equipment. The District has received Lee County's consent to devise a plan and policy to support the reimbursement of its general ad valorem dollars with future impact fees as they become available.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**September 30, 2020**

**NOTE L FUTURE FIRE IMPACT FEES (CONTINUED)**

The following is a summary of the use and repayment of ad valorem dollars paying the debt service that is secured with impact fees:

Financial Statement Fiscal Year	Principal retirement-unrestricted	Interest/fiscal charges-unrestricted	Impact Fee Reimbursement*	Accumulated Outstanding Balance
2020	\$ 148,421	\$ 47,338	\$ 522,446	5,919,612
2019	148,421	53,474	351,741	6,442,058
2018	148,421	59,556	508,119	6,598,040
2017	462,753	69,543	654,417	6,898,182
2016	671,934	94,568	73,769	7,020,303
2015	653,423	118,759	-	6,327,570
2014	635,487	142,957	-	5,555,388
2013	463,644	118,062	-	4,776,944
2012	749,645	190,890	-	4,195,238
2011	918,212	225,945	-	3,254,703
2010	892,102	257,451	-	2,110,546
2009	721,967	239,026	-	960,993

\*In the year of reimbursement, impact fee revenue will be reported as "Unrestricted", and the cash will be moved into the District's operating account.

**NOTE M BUDGETARY RESULTS RECONCILED TO RESULTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED**

The budgetary process is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis other than GAAP basis. The results of operations are presented in the budget-to-actual comparison statement in accordance with the budgetary process (Budget basis) to provide a meaningful comparison with the budget. The major difference between the Budget basis "actual" and GAAP basis is as follows:

	<u>Budget Basis</u>	<u>GAAP Basis</u>
Expenditures:		
VEBA Contributions	\$ (195,040)	\$ -

VEBA Contributions were set aside as payable and expensed under the budget basis. Under the GAAP basis, they have not been expensed.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
September 30, 2020**

**NOTE N SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Subsequent to the District's fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, the District finalized the establishment of the Estero Fire Rescue District's Retiree Insurance Trust Fund (VEBA) Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) Program. The VEBA is a single employer defined benefit postemployment health care plan that covers eligible retired employees of the District. The VEBA, which is to be administered by the Estero Fire Rescue District's Retiree Insurance Trust Fund allows employees who retire and meet retirement eligibility requirements under one of the District's retirement plans to receive a monthly reimbursement, regardless of whether the retiree continues insurance in the District's Plan. The VEBA will be reported within the District's financial statements pursuant to GASB 74/75 beginning with fiscal year 2021.

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**REQUIRED  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT PLAN  
September 30, 2020**

**Last Seven Fiscal Years**

September 30,	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Total Pension Liability:</b>							
Service cost	\$ 435,707	\$ 444,623	\$ 485,455	\$ 455,634	\$ 462,980	\$ 236,813	\$ 296,869
Expected interest growth	1,950,281	1,792,095	1,614,497	1,374,646	911,490	1,116,502	915,736
Demographic experience	65,142	828,505	715,572	681,912	727,005	1,222,925	-
Changes of assumptions	-	(443,827)	-	1,087,356	4,790,497	(1,870,609)	-
Benefit payments, including refunds	(266,240)	(307,120)	(165,996)	(187,513)	(163,056)	(225,627)	(183,085)
Net change in Total Pension Liability	2,184,890	2,314,276	2,649,528	3,412,035	6,728,916	480,004	1,029,520
Total Pension Liability - Beginning of Year	27,754,581	25,440,305	22,790,777	19,378,742	12,649,826	12,169,822	11,140,302
Total Pension Liability - End of Year (a)	<u>\$29,939,471</u>	<u>\$27,754,581</u>	<u>\$25,440,305</u>	<u>\$ 22,790,777</u>	<u>\$ 19,378,742</u>	<u>\$ 12,649,826</u>	<u>\$ 12,169,822</u>
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position</b>							
Contributions - employer	\$ 1,437,653	\$ 1,313,297	\$ 1,380,648	\$ 1,032,000	\$ 754,447	\$ 1,139,300	\$ 981,425
Contributions - state	267,811	267,811	267,811	267,811	267,811	-	393,429
Contributions - employee	172,685	157,741	158,408	156,888	148,229	146,502	134,012
Expected interest growth	2,119,360	1,512,964	1,782,592	2,679,023	1,428,448	(40,658)	1,125,520
Unexpected investment income	(82,723)						
Benefit payments & refunds	(266,240)	(307,120)	(165,996)	(187,513)	(163,056)	(93,875)	(102,421)
Administrative expenses	(64,931)	(62,631)	(76,484)	(52,390)	(64,972)	(62,772)	(52,454)
Net change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	3,583,615	2,882,062	3,346,979	3,895,819	2,370,907	1,088,497	2,479,511
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	29,516,166	26,634,104	23,287,125	19,391,306	17,020,399	15,931,902	13,452,391
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - End of Year (b)	<u>\$33,099,781</u>	<u>\$29,516,166</u>	<u>\$26,634,104</u>	<u>\$ 23,287,125</u>	<u>\$ 19,391,306</u>	<u>\$ 17,020,399</u>	<u>\$ 15,931,902</u>
Net Pension Asset - End of Year (a) - (b)	\$ (3,160,310)	\$ (1,761,585)	\$ (1,193,799)	\$ (496,348)	\$ (12,564)	\$ (4,370,573)	\$ (3,762,080)
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	110.56%	106.35%	104.69%	102.18%	100.06%	134.55%	130.91%
Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 4,648,570	\$ 4,680,262	\$ 4,782,434	\$ 4,674,731	\$ 4,718,212	\$ 4,288,910	\$ 4,234,095

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS  
FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT PLAN  
September 30, 2020**

**Last Seven Fiscal Years**

September 30,	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Actuarially determined contributions □	\$ 1,700,404	\$ 1,663,637	\$ 1,648,462	\$ 1,300,081	\$ 1,092,921	\$ 1,012,328	\$ 1,113,639
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contributions	1,705,464	1,581,108	1,648,459	1,299,811	1,022,258	1,139,300	1,374,854
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ (5,060)</u>	<u>\$ 82,529</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>	<u>\$ 270</u>	<u>\$ 70,663</u>	<u>\$ (126,972)</u>	<u>\$ (261,215)</u>
Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 4,648,570	\$ 4,680,262	\$ 4,782,434	\$ 4,674,731	\$ 4,718,212	\$ 4,288,910	\$ 4,234,095
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	36.69%	33.78%	34.47%	27.81%	21.67%	26.56%	32.47%

Notes to Schedule

Valuation date	10/01/2019	10/01/2018	10/01/2017	10/01/2016	10/01/2015	10/01/2014	10/01/2013
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Actuarially determined contribution rates are calculated as of October 1, two years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported.

**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS (EXCLUDES SHARE PLAN)  
FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT PLAN  
September 30, 2020**

The Table below summarizes the annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expenses.

**Last Seven Fiscal Years**

<u>September 30,</u>	<u>Rate of Return</u>
2020	6.08%
2019	5.56%
2018	7.45%
2017	13.45%
2016	8.06%
2015	-0.28%
2014	9.12%

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**ESTERO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS**  
**OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**  
**September 30, 2020**

Reporting Period Ending	09/30/2020	09/30/2019
Measurement Date	<u>09/30/2019</u>	<u>09/30/2018</u>
<b>TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY</b>		
Service Cost	\$ 143,030	138,864
Interest	82,737	81,824
Changes of Benefit Terms	221,179	-
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	200,141	(29,237)
Changes of Assumptions	59,292	(162,641)
Benefit Payments	<u>(8,178)</u>	<u>(7,572)</u>
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	698,201	21,238
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	<u>2,134,030</u>	<u>2,112,792</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Ending	<u><u>2,832,231</u></u>	<u><u>2,134,030</u></u>
Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 5,907,023	\$ 5,641,789
Total Liability as a percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	47.95%	37.83%

*The amounts presented represent the figures for the District for the current fiscal year and previous fiscal year only, as there is not data available prior to the implementation of GASB 75*

Notes to Schedule:

Covered Employee Payroll was projected one year forward from the valuation date for the reporting period ending September 30, 2020. Results prior to the measurement date September 30, 2019 were calculated by the prior actuary.

*Difference between Expected and Actual Experience* reflects the impact of changes to the census data from the prior valuation to the valuation as of September 20, 2019.

*Changes of assumptions* and other inputs reflect the effects of changes in the discount rate each period. The following are the discount rates used in each period:

Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2020:	3.58%
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019:	3.64%
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2018:	3.35%

Additional changes include updates to the projected medical claims and premiums, mortality rates, and health care inflation rates.

*Changes of Benefit Terms* reflects the full cost of medical coverage being paid for by the District for the first two years following retirement for certain eligible managers, effective October 1, 2019.

*Benefit Payments:* The plan sponsor did not provide actual net benefits paid by the Plan for the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2020. Expected net benefit payments produced by the valuation model for the same period are shown in the table above.





PHONE: 941.639.6600 | FAX: 941.639.6115  
366 E OLYMPIA AVE, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950  
AshleyBrownCPAS.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Board of Commissioners  
Estero Fire Rescue District  
Estero, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Estero Fire Rescue District, Estero, Florida (the "District"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 24, 2021.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

## **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs*

Punta Gorda, Florida  
May 24, 2021

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT LETTER

Board of Commissioners  
Estero Fire Rescue District  
Estero, Florida

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the financial statements of the Estero Fire Rescue District (the "District"), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated May 24, 2021.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General.

### **Other Reporting Requirements**

We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and Independent Accountant's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports and schedule, which are dated May 24, 2021, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

### **Prior Audit Findings**

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. There were no recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

### **Official Title and Legal Authority**

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. The District discloses this information in the notes to the financial statements.

## **Financial Condition and Management**

Section 10.554(1)(i)5.a. and 10.556(7), Rules of the Auditor General, require us apply appropriate procedures and communicate the results of our determination as to whether or not the District has met one or more of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, and identification of the specific condition(s) met. In connection with our audit, we determined that the District did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.c. and 10.556(8), Rules of the Auditor General, we applied financial condition assessment procedures for the District. It is management's responsibility to monitor the District's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information provided by same.

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendation to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

## **Special District Component Units**

Section 10.554(1)(i)5.d., Rules of the Auditor General, requires, if appropriate, that we communicate the failure of a special district that is a component unit of a county, municipality, or special district, to provide the financial information necessary for proper reporting of the component unit within the audited financial statements of the county, municipality, or special district in accordance with Section 219.39(3)(b), Florida Statutes. In connection with our audit, we determined that there are no special district component units required to report to the District.

## **Additional Matters**

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings

## **Purpose of this Letter**

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the District Board of Commissioners, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs*

Punta Gorda, Florida  
May 24, 2021



PHONE: 941.639.6600 | FAX: 941.639.6115  
366 E OLYMPIA AVE, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950  
AshleyBrownCPAS.com

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' ON COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POLICIES

Board of Commissioners  
Estero Fire Rescue District  
Estero, Florida

We have examined the Estero Fire Rescue District's (the "District") compliance with the local government investment policy requirements of Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, during the year ended September 30, 2020. Management is responsible for the District's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the District complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the District complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with the specified requirements.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements during the year ended September 30, 2020.

The purpose of this report is to comply with the audit requirements of Sections 218.415, Florida Statutes and Rules of the Auditor General.

*Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs*

Punta Gorda, Florida  
May 24, 2021

AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally Valarie Rhodes who being duly sworn, deposes and says on oath that:

1. I am the Finance Director of Estero Fire Rescue District which is a local governmental entity of the State of Florida;
2. Estero Fire Rescue District adopted Resolutions 99-01 and 99-04 declaring that the District wants to continue participation in Lee County's impact fee program and does not wish to establish it's own impact fee program; and
3. Estero Fire Rescue District has complied and, as of the date of this Affidavit, remains in compliance with Section 163.31801, Florida Statutes.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

Valarie Rhodes

Valarie Rhodes  
Finance Director

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF LEE

SWORN TO AN SUBSCRIBED before me this 18 day of May, 2021.



**KIM E. POLI**  
Commission # GG 251964  
Expires October 10, 2022  
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services

Kim E. Poli

NOTARY PUBLIC

Kim E. Poli

Print Name

Personally known  or produced identification \_\_\_\_\_

Type of identification produced: \_\_\_\_\_

My commission expires: 10/10/2022