

# Management Letter

**City of Cannon Falls**  
Cannon Falls, Minnesota

For the Year Ended  
December 31, 2014

Management, Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota (the City), for the year ended December 31, 2014. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated November 20, 2014. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

**Our Responsibility Under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards***

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the City. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

**Significant Audit Findings**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City'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 City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City'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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. 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. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described below as item 2014-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

## 2014-001 Preparation of financial statements

- Condition:* As in prior years, we were requested to draft the audited financial statements and related footnote disclosures as part of our regular audit services. Recent auditing standards require auditors to communicate this situation to the City Council as an internal control deficiency. Ultimately, it is management's responsibility to provide for the preparation of your statements and footnotes, and the responsibility of the auditor to determine the fairness of presentation of those statements. It is our responsibility to inform you that this deficiency could result in a material misstatement to the financial statements that could have been prevented or detected by your management. Essentially, the auditors cannot be part of your internal control process.
- Criteria:* Internal controls should be in place to provide reasonable assurance over financial reporting.
- Cause:* From a practical standpoint we do both for you at the same time in connection with our audit. This is not unusual for us to do with an organization of your size.
- Effect:* The effectiveness of the internal control system relies on enforcement by management. The effect of deficiencies in internal controls can result in undetected errors in financial reporting.
- Recommendation:* It is your responsibility to make the ultimate decision to accept this degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations. As in prior years, we have instructed management to review a draft of the auditor prepared financials in detail for their accuracy; we have answered any questions they might have, and have encouraged research of any accounting guidance in connection with the adequacy and appropriateness of classification of disclosure in your statements. We are satisfied that the appropriate steps have been taken to provide you with the completed financial statements. While the City is reviewing the financial statements, we recommend that a disclosure checklist be utilized to ensure all required disclosures are presented and the City should agree its financial software to the numbers reported in the financial statements.

### *Management response:*

For now, the City's management accepts the degree of risk associated with this condition and thoroughly reviews a draft of the financial statements.

## Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City'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* or statutes set forth by the State of Minnesota.

## Summary of Prior Year Findings

### 2013-002 Material audit adjustments

- Condition:* During our audit, an entry was required to record a prior period adjustment. The adjustment related to \$57,483 of tower lease payments received from Mediacom for 2005-2012 and to record FEMA Federal Disaster Aid received for 2012 flood reimbursement in the amount of \$79,609. An entry was also required to record water utility infrastructure not identified.
- Criteria:* The financial statements are the responsibility of the City's Management; therefore, the City must be able to prevent or detect a material misstatement in the financial statements including footnote disclosures.

### *Current year status:*

The City has made the necessary adjustments in the current year.

## **Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit**

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you.

## **Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended December 31, 2014. We noted no transactions entered into by the City during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were depreciation on capital assets and allocation of payroll and compensated absences.

- Management's estimate of depreciation is based on estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method.
- Allocations of gross wages and payroll benefits are approved by the City Council within the City's budget and are derived from each employee's estimated time to be spent servicing the respective functions of the City. These allocations are also used in allocating accrued compensated absences payable.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users.

## **Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

## **Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements.

## **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

## **Management Representations**

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated April 9, 2015.

## **Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the City's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

## **Other Audit Findings or Issues**

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the City's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

## Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

## Financial Position and Results of Operations

Our principal observations and recommendations are summarized on the following pages. These recommendations resulted from our observations made in connection with our audit of the City's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014.

### General Fund

The General fund is used to account for resources traditionally associated with government, which are not required legally or by sound principal management to be accounted for in another fund. The General fund balance decreased \$300,344 from 2013 to end the year at \$1,932,615. We recommend the unassigned fund balance be maintained at a level sufficient to fund operations until the major revenue sources are received in June. The City's unassigned fund balance is 63 percent of the 2015 budgeted expenditures. The City's fund balance policy for the General fund identifies a minimum unassigned fund balance of 40 - 50 percent of the following year's budgeted expenditures. The City's ending fund balance is above this target level as shown in the chart on the following page.

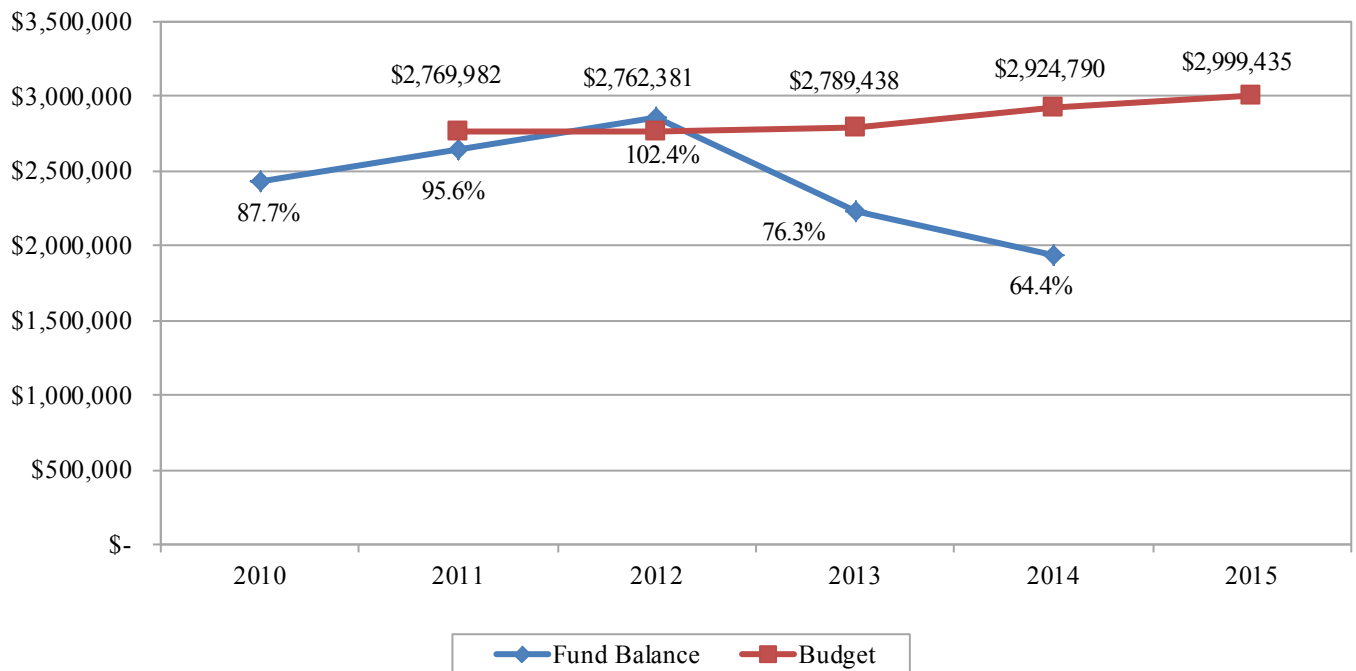
The purposes and benefits of a fund balance are as follows:

- Expenditures are incurred somewhat evenly throughout the year. However, property tax and state aid revenues are not received until the second half of the year. An adequate fund balance will provide the cash flow required to finance the General fund expenditures until these revenue sources are received.
- Expenditures not anticipated at the time the annual budget was adopted may need immediate City Council action. These would include capital outlay replacement, lawsuits and other items. An adequate fund balance will provide the financing needed for such expenditures.
- A strong fund balance will assist the City in obtaining, maintaining or improving its bond rating. The result will be better interest rates in future bond sales.

A table summarizing the General fund balance in relation to budget follows:

Year	Fund Balance December 31	Budget Year	General Fund Budget	Percent of Fund Balance to Budget
2010	2,429,575	2011	2,769,982	87.7 %
2011	2,639,666	2012	2,762,381	95.6
2012	2,855,251	2013	2,789,438	102.4
2013	2,232,959	2014	2,924,790	76.3
2014	1,932,615	2015	2,999,435	64.4

**Fund Balance as a Percent of Next Year's Budget**



We have compiled a peer group average derived from information we have requested from the Office of the State Auditor and the compiled data for Cities of the 4th class which have populations of 2,500-10,000. In 2012 and 2013, the average General fund balance as a percentage of expenditures was 76 percent and 75 percent, respectively.

A summary of 2014 General fund revenue and expenditures is as follows:

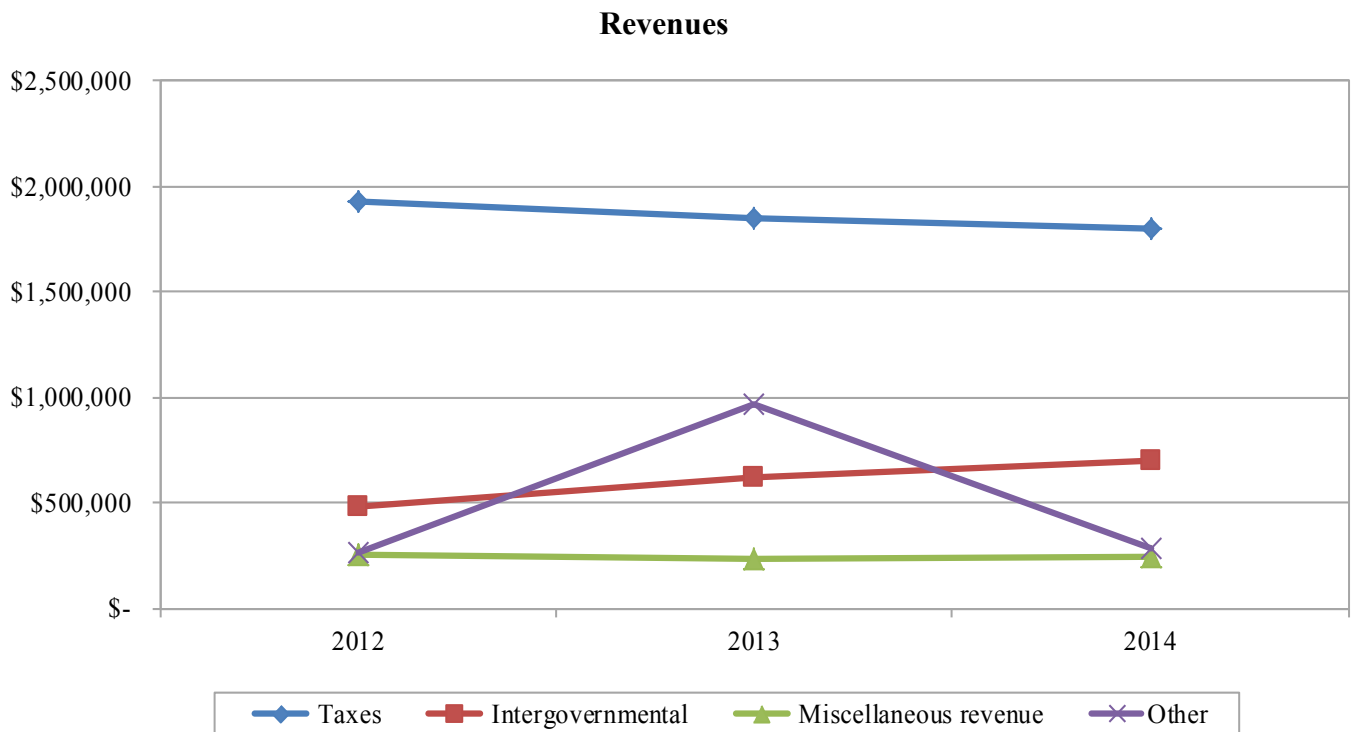
	Original Budgeted Amounts	Final Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues	\$ 2,872,400	\$ 2,872,400	\$ 2,920,554	\$ 48,154
Expenditures	<u>2,819,905</u>	<u>2,819,905</u>	<u>2,831,280</u>	<u>(11,375)</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>52,495</u>	<u>52,495</u>	<u>89,274</u>	<u>36,779</u>
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	47,900	47,900	92,100	44,200
Sale of capital assets	4,490	4,490	11,550	7,060
Transfers out	<u>(104,885)</u>	<u>(104,885)</u>	<u>(493,268)</u>	<u>(388,383)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(52,495)</u>	<u>(52,495)</u>	<u>(389,618)</u>	<u>(337,123)</u>
Net change in fund balances	-	-	(300,344)	(300,344)
Fund balances, January 1	<u>2,232,959</u>	<u>2,232,959</u>	<u>2,232,959</u>	-
Fund balances, December 31	<u>\$ 2,232,959</u>	<u>\$ 2,232,959</u>	<u>\$ 1,932,615</u>	<u>\$ (300,344)</u>

- The largest revenue variance was from intergovernmental revenue, which was \$36,702 over budget due to unanticipated revenues received.
- The largest variances in expenditures included current general government, current public works, and current culture and recreation. Current general government expenditures were under budget by \$55,843 due to administrative expenditures under budget. Current public works expenditures were over budget by \$53,150 due to unbudgeted blacktopping projects incurred. Current culture and recreation expenditures were over budget by \$34,060 due to unbudgeted repairs to the pool heater.

A comparison between 2012, 2013 and 2014 revenues and transfers is presented below:

Source	2012	2013	2014	Percent of Total	Per Capita
Taxes	\$ 1,930,515	\$ 1,846,845	\$ 1,800,086	59.5 %	\$ 439
Licenses and permits	71,264	71,262	56,111	1.9	14
Intergovernmental	479,401	624,612	699,899	23.1	171
Charges for services	56,539	57,127	55,950	1.9	14
Fines and forfeitures	29,967	25,584	31,044	1.0	8
Special assessments	1,000	11,790	10,706	0.4	3
Interest on investments	5,247	(13,283)	23,919	0.8	6
Miscellaneous revenue	249,293	236,030	242,839	8.0	59
Sale of capital assets	54,433	276,735	11,550	0.4	3
Transfers in	45,000	535,726	92,100	3.0	22
<b>Total revenues and transfers</b>	<b>\$ 2,922,659</b>	<b>\$ 3,672,428</b>	<b>\$ 3,024,204</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>\$ 739</b>

A graphical presentation of 2012, 2013 and 2014 revenues and transfers totals follows:



Some of the line items with significant changes are highlighted below:

- Transfers in increased in 2013 due to TIF monies transferred for the Highway 52 interchange project.
- Tax revenues decreased in 2014, mostly due to the levy in the General fund decreasing by nearly \$80,000.
- Intergovernmental revenues increased in 2014 due to an increase in Local Government Aid.

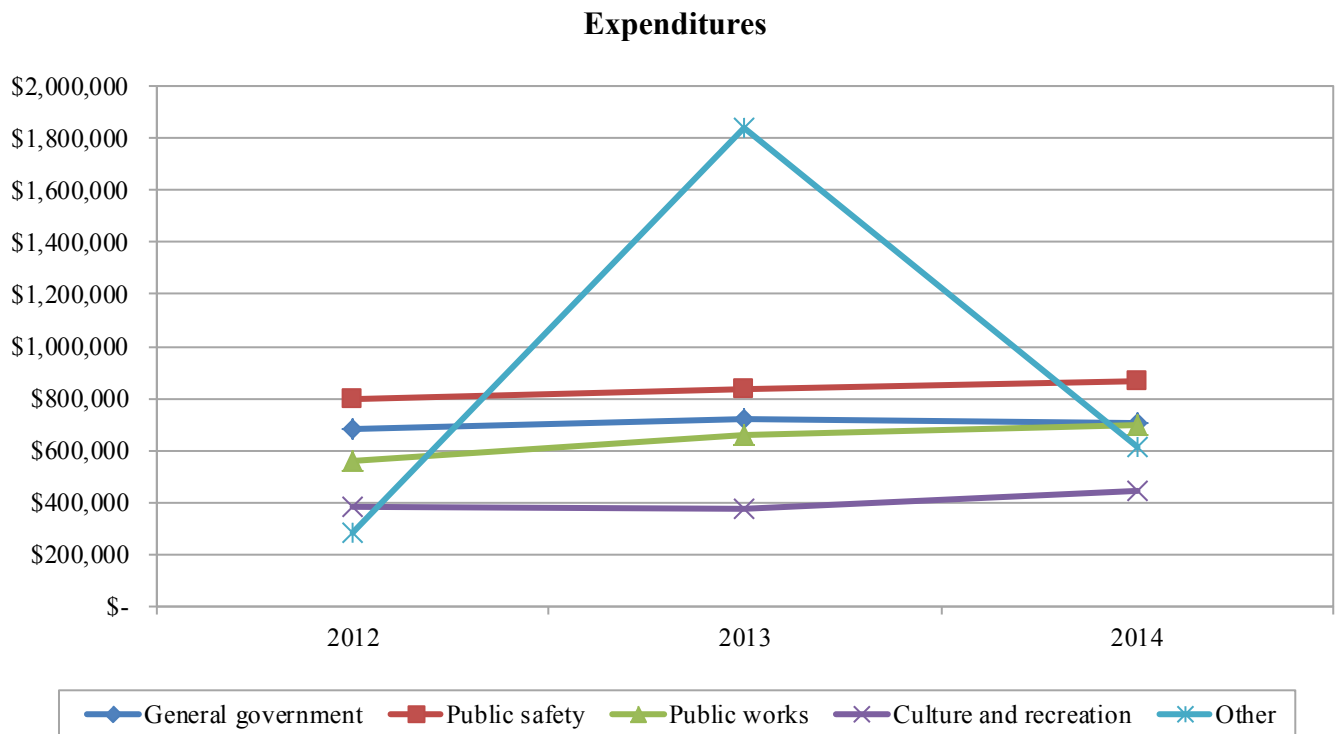


A comparison between 2012, 2013 and 2014 expenditures and transfers is presented below:

Program	2012	2013	2014	Percent of Total	Per Capita	Peer Group Per Capita
<b>Current</b>						
General government	\$ 681,698	\$ 719,780	\$ 706,782	21.3 %	\$ 172	\$ 128
Public safety	795,949	838,592	868,011	26.1	212	221
Public works	558,597	660,860	696,150	20.9	170	114
Culture and recreation	384,749	373,832	443,055	13.3	108	54
Miscellaneous	43,394	48,235	71,455	2.1	17	16
<b>Total current</b>	<b>2,464,387</b>	<b>2,641,299</b>	<b>2,785,453</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>533</b>
Capital outlay	109,366	1,655,210	17,660	0.7	4	28
Debt service	30,010	30,010	28,167	0.8	7	-
Transfers out	103,311	105,293	493,268	14.8	120	-
<b>Total expenditures and transfers</b>	<b>\$ 2,707,074</b>	<b>\$ 4,431,812</b>	<b>\$ 3,324,548</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>\$ 810</b>	<b>\$ 561</b>

The above chart compares the amount the City spends per capita in comparison to a peer group. We have compiled a peer group average derived from 2013 information we have requested from the Office of the State Auditor and the compiled data for Cities of the 4th class which have populations of 2,500-10,000.

A graphical presentation of 2012, 2013 and 2014 expenditure and transfer totals by program follows:



Some of the line items with significant changes are highlighted below:

- The large increase within capital outlay expense in 2013 was due to payments to MN-DOT for the Hwy 52 interchange and payments for the pedestrian bridge.
- Transfers out increased due to transfers out to fund the construction of the library and close the fund.

## Special Revenue Funds

Special revenue funds are used to account for specific revenues that are legally restricted to expenditures for particular purposes. A summary of the special revenue funds and fund balances is shown below:

Fund	Fund Balances		Increase (Decrease)
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	
Nonmajor			
Library	\$ 50,651	\$ 27,272	\$ 23,379
Cable Public Television	104,828	116,843	(12,015)
Fire Department Operations	17,148	11,743	5,405
Total	<u>\$ 172,627</u>	<u>\$ 155,858</u>	<u>\$ 16,769</u>

The increase in the Library fund is mostly revenues in excess of expenditures due to less construction cost associated with the new library. The decrease in the Cable Public Television fund is due to transfers out of \$32,000.

## Capital Projects Funds

A two year comparison of year end fund balances for all capital project funds follows:

Fund	Fund Balances		Increase (Decrease)
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	
Nonmajor			
Public Improvement Revolving	\$ 153,969	\$ 160,209	\$ (6,240)
Street Capital	10,997	5,940	5,057
Public Works Capital	9,682	188,396	(178,714)
Police Capital	4,768	(7,181)	11,949
Fire Capital	150,766	228,872	(78,106)
Administration Capital	27,232	29,048	(1,816)
Park Capital	57,427	51,486	5,941
Library Capital	41,963	44,788	(2,825)
2011 West Side Reconstruction Project	(39,098)	(38,740)	(358)
2012 Library Construction	-	(388,154)	388,154
2013 Eastside Improvement Project	70,449	189,928	(119,479)
Park Board	46,670	72,657	(25,987)
Tax Increment Financing District No. 2-1	20,363	224,490	(204,127)
HWY 20 Clinic Access Road	(137,187)	(137,187)	-
318th Street Construction Project	(8,036)	-	(8,036)
2nd Street SW Street Project	-	-	-
2015 Street Improvement - Westside Phase II	-	-	-
Total capital projects funds	<u>\$ 409,965</u>	<u>\$ 624,552</u>	<u>\$ (214,587)</u>

All the deficits should be monitored by the City and management should develop funding plans to ensure deficits will be eliminated in future years. The decrease in the fund balance in the 2013 Eastside Improvement Project and TIF District 2-1 funds relates directly to costs related to the respective projects. The decrease in the Public Works Capital fund relates to vehicle and equipment purchases. The increase in the 2012 Library Construction fund is due to transfers in from the General fund for internal project financing and to close the fund. The 2<sup>nd</sup> St SW and 2015 Street Improvement Westside Phase II funds incurred expenditures related to the project in 2014 and were funded by transfers in from the General fund totaling \$92,633 and \$26,733, respectively.

**Debt Service Funds**

Debt Service funds are a type of governmental fund to account for the accumulation of resources for the payment of interest and principal on debt (other than enterprise fund debt).

Debt Service funds may have one or a combination of the following revenue sources pledged to retire debt as follows:

- Property taxes - Primarily for general City benefit projects such as parks and municipal buildings. Property taxes may also be used to fund special assessment bonds which are not fully assessed.
- Tax increments - Pledged exclusively for tax increment/economic development districts.
- Capitalized interest portion of bond proceeds - After the sale of bonds, the project may not produce revenue (tax increments or special assessments) for a period of one to two years. Bonds are issued with this timing difference considered in the form of capitalized interest.
- Special assessments - Charges to benefited properties for various improvements.

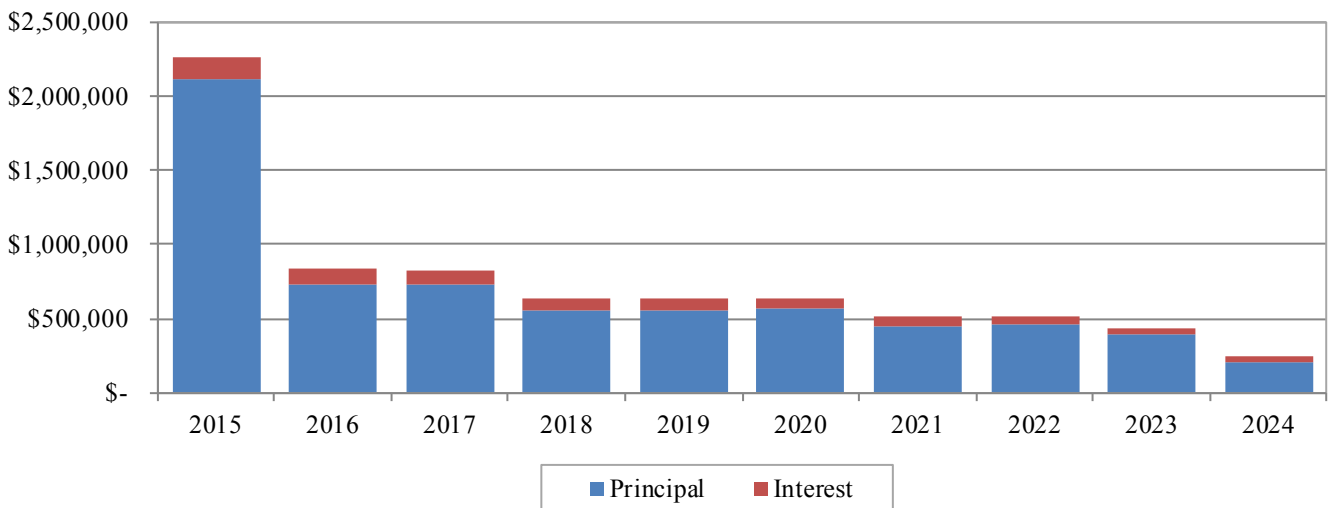
In addition to the above pledged assets, other funding sources may be received by Debt Service funds as follows:

- Residual project proceeds from the related capital projects fund
- Investment earnings
- State or Federal grants
- Transfers from other funds

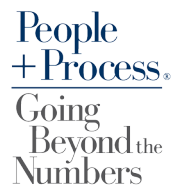
A comparison of the assets of each fund and the remaining bonds outstanding at year end are as follows:

Description	Total Cash	Total Assets	Bonds Outstanding	Maturity Date
1997/2003 Improvement Bonds	\$ 2,846	\$ 173,153	\$ -	03/01/14
2006B G.O. PIR Bonds	158,192	811,227	1,505,000	02/01/15
2011A G.O. Improvement Bond	362,580	672,853	1,320,000	02/01/27
2012A G.O. Improvement Bond	80,397	155,397	639,000	02/01/22
2012B G.O. Refunding Bonds	27,893	1,399,669	2,760,000	02/01/23
2013A G.O. Improvement Bonds	312,671	819,476	1,475,000	02/01/34
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 944,579</b>	<b>\$ 4,031,775</b>	<b>\$ 7,699,000</b>	

**Scheduled Governmental Debt Service for the Next Ten Years**



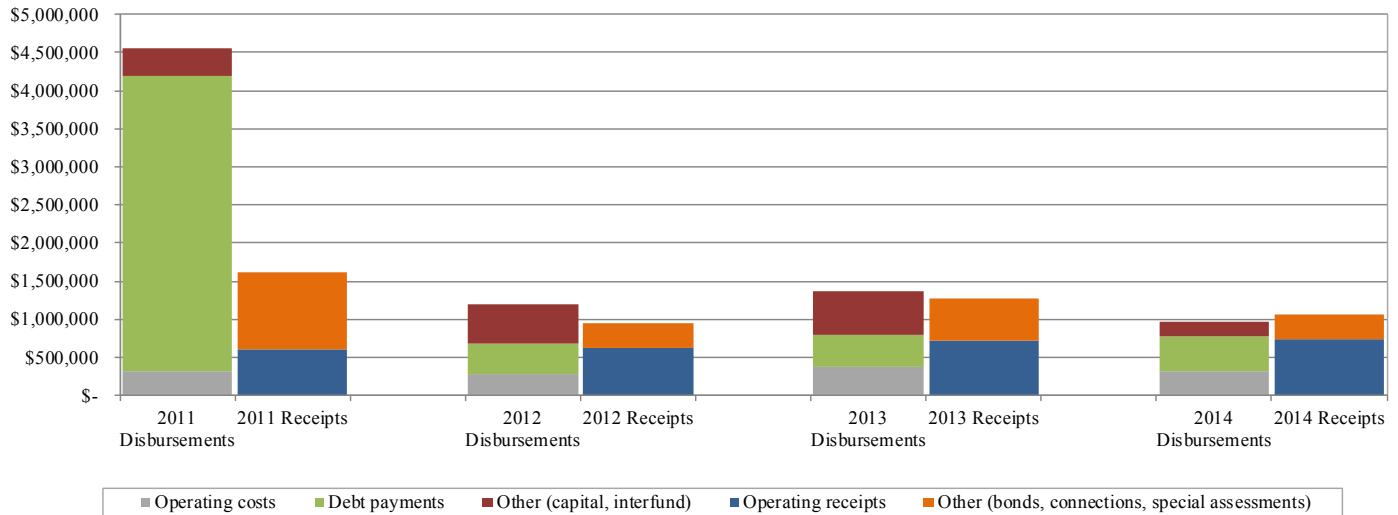
The large principal payments in 2015 relates to \$1,505,000 of refunded bond payments from refunding bonds issued in 2013. There is currently \$1,371,776 is cash held with fiscal agent to make the required payment.



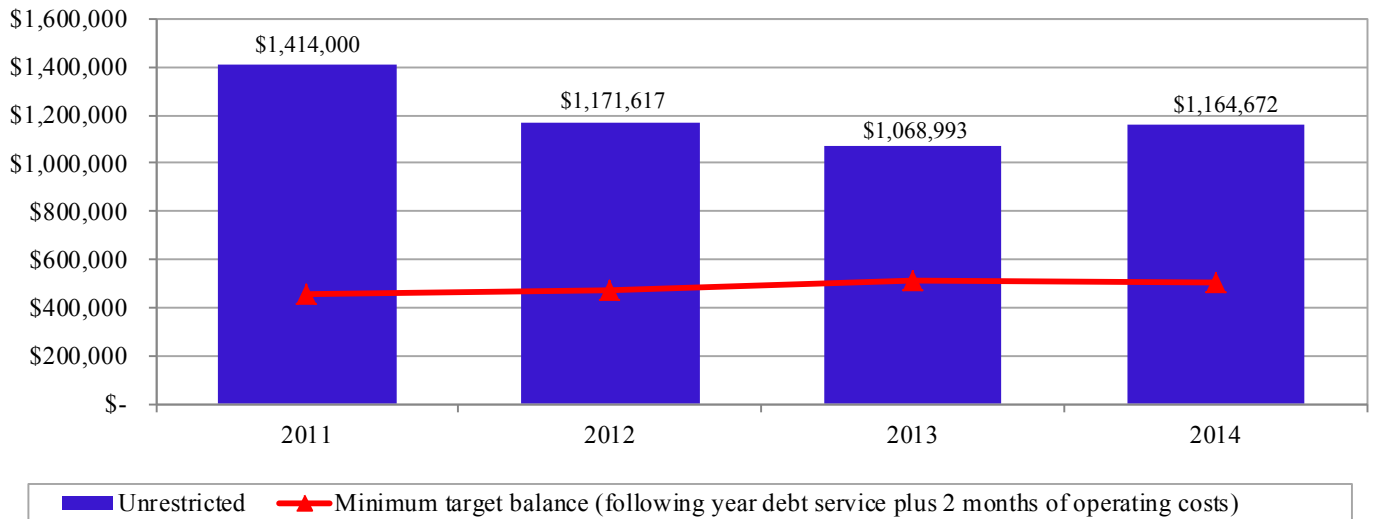
## Enterprise Funds

Enterprise funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises—where the intent is that the costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The results of the operations in terms of cash flow and the breakdown of the cash balances for the past four years are as follows:

### Water Utility Fund Cash Flow



### Water Utility Fund Cash Balance



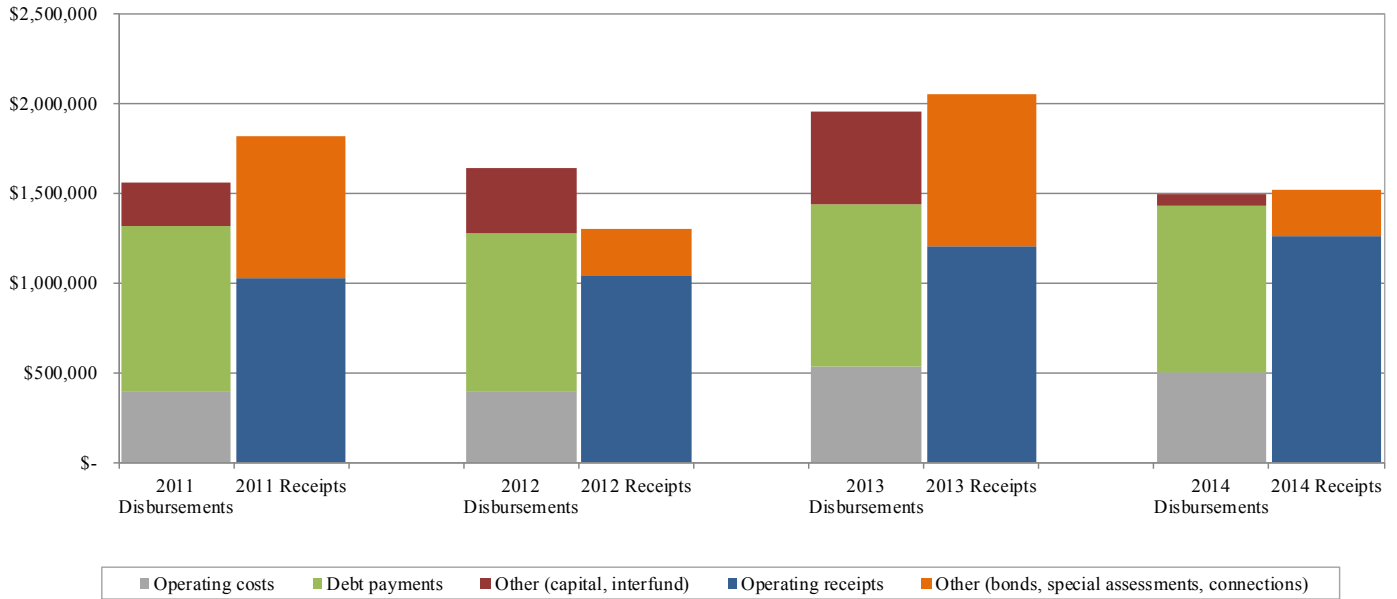
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bonds payable	<u>\$ 4,056,617</u>	<u>\$ 3,746,617</u>	<u>\$ 3,719,699</u>	<u>\$ 3,372,984</u>

Some of the items with significant changes in the above charts are highlighted below:

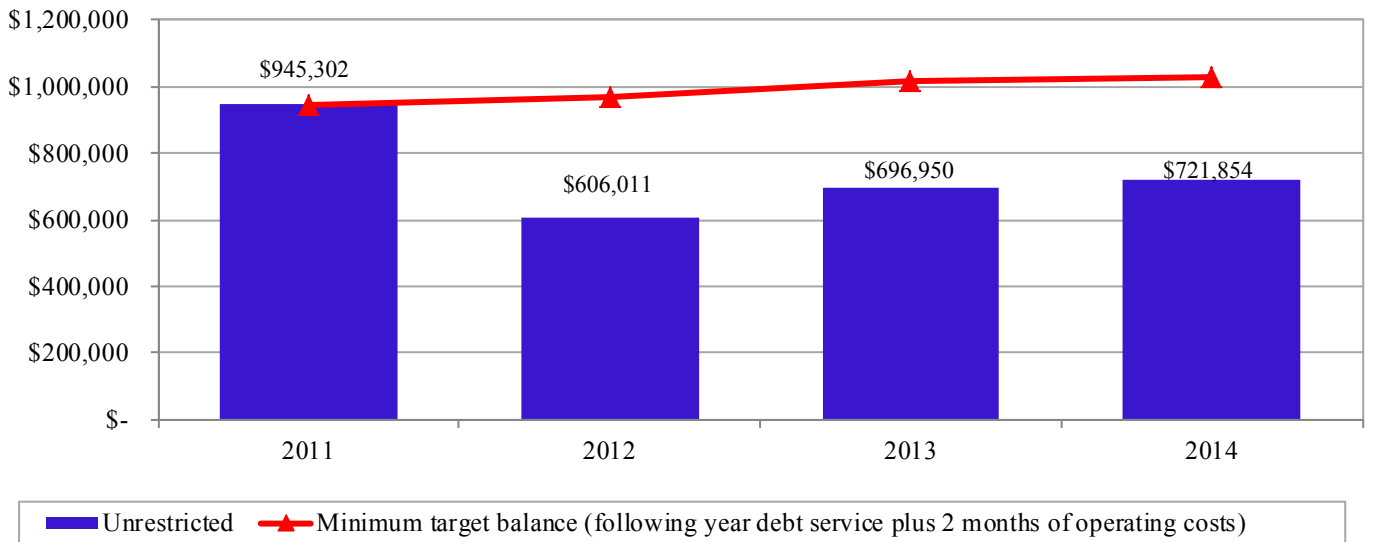
- Operating receipts (blue) have been sufficient to cover operating costs (grey) the past four years. However, operating receipts have not been sufficient to cover debt payments (green) in any of the four years presented. This signifies the need for cash from connections and special assessments (included in orange) and utilizing cash reserves to cover costs related to capital.
- The high debt payments (green) in 2011 were when the bonds were called for refunding.

We recommend the City review rates annually to determine if operating revenues will cover operating costs, annual scheduled debt payments, and future projects.

### Disposal Fund Cash Flow



### Disposal Fund Cash Balance



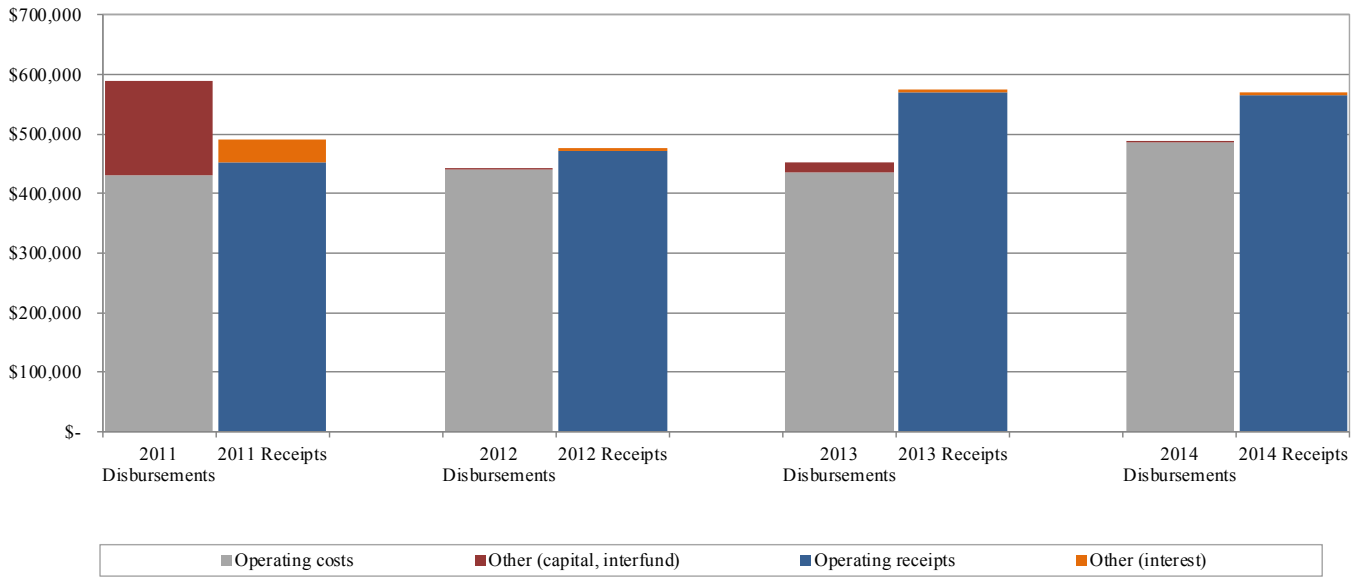
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bonds payable	<u><u>\$ 8,374,327</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,738,327</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,724,310</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,026,107</u></u>

Some of the items with significant changes in the above charts are highlighted below:

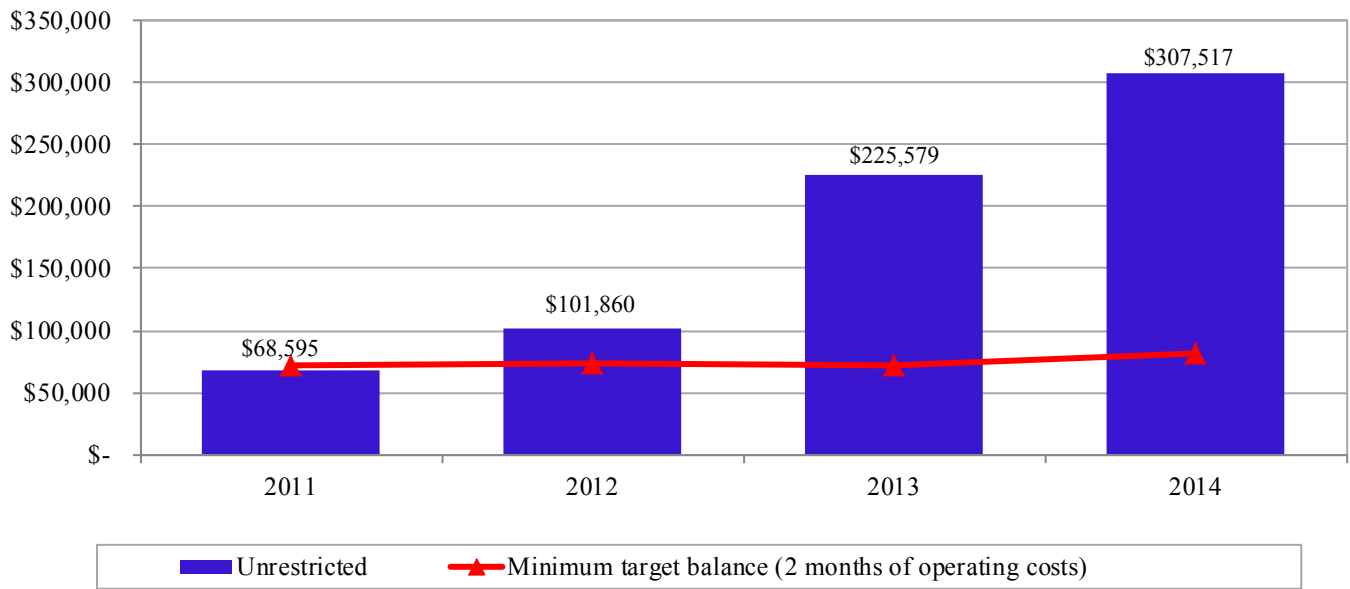
- Operating receipts (blue) have been sufficient to cover operating costs (grey) the past four years. However, operating receipts have not been sufficiently covered debt payments (green) in any of the four years presented. This signifies the need for cash from connections and special assessments (included in orange) and utilizing cash reserves to cover capital costs.
- In 2011 and 2013 the disposal fund received bond proceeds of \$660,000 and \$573,177, respectively, resulting in an increase in cash.

We recommend the City review rates annually to determine if operating revenues will cover operating costs, annual scheduled debt payments, and future projects.

### Ambulance Fund Cash Flow



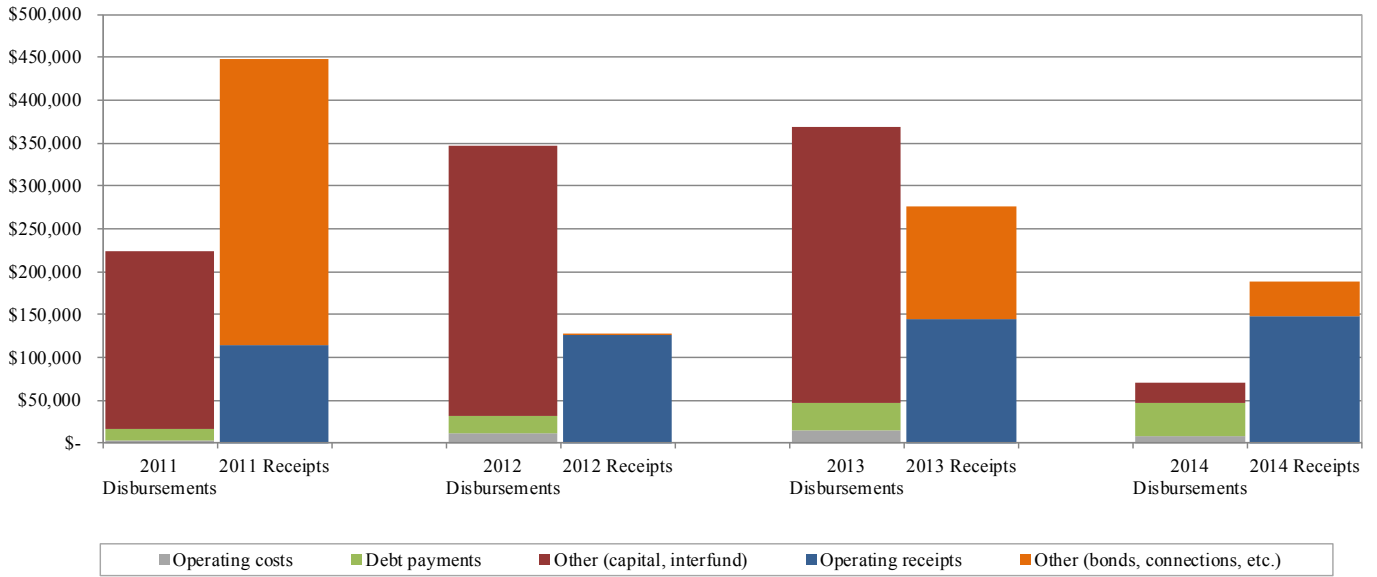
### Ambulance Fund Cash Balance



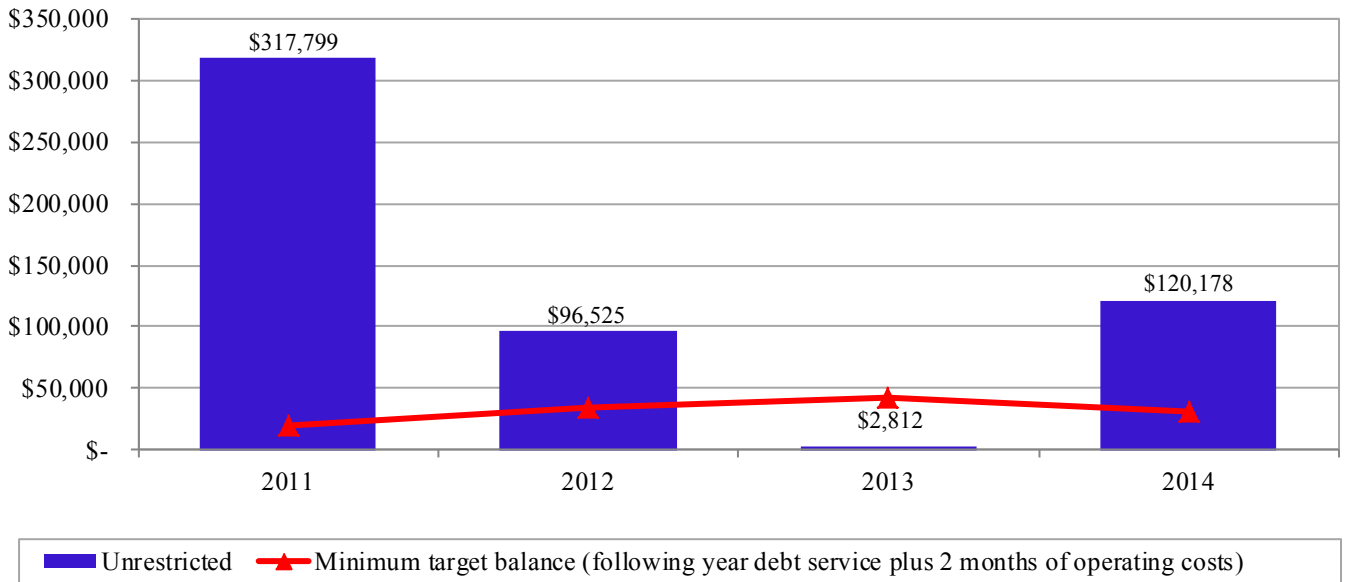
Some of the items with significant changes in the above charts are highlighted below:

- Operating receipts (blue) have been sufficient alone to cover operating costs (grey) in all of the four years presented.
- The low cash balance in 2011 relates to the purchase of a new ambulance. The cash has since increased to above the target balance.

### Storm Water Fund Cash Flow



### Storm Water Fund Cash Balance



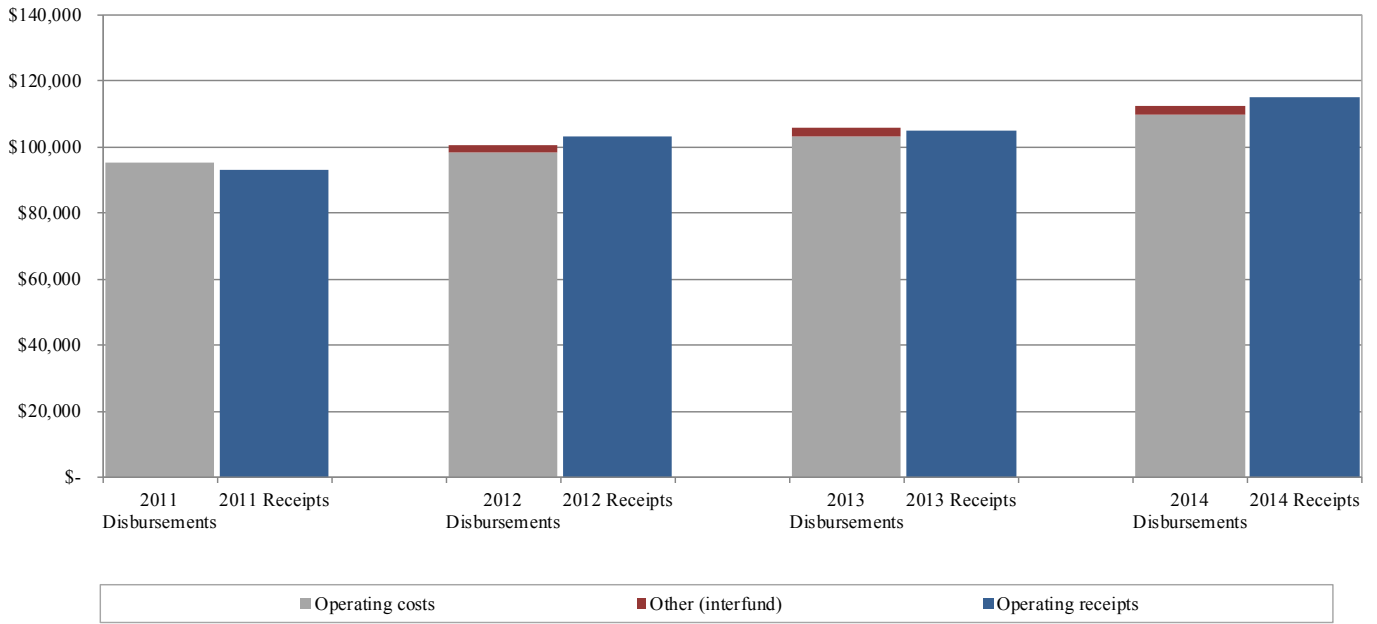
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bonds payable	<u>\$ 335,965</u>	<u>\$ 324,900</u>	<u>\$ 442,817</u>	<u>\$ 425,135</u>

Some of the items with significant changes in the above charts are highlighted below:

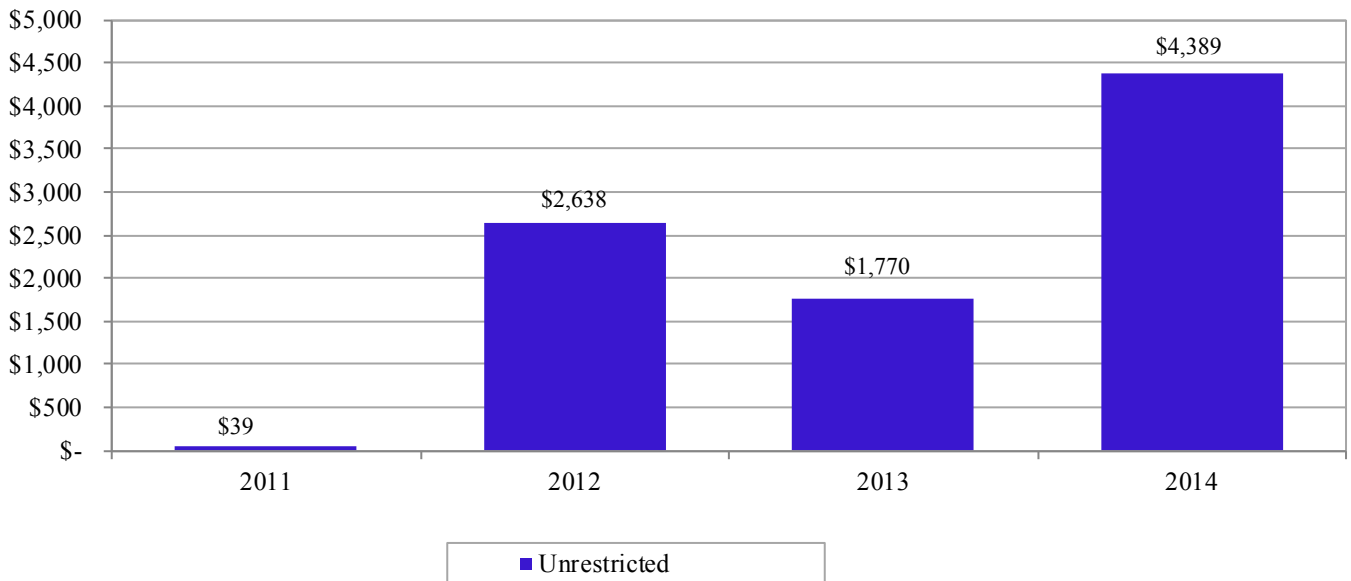
- Operating receipts (blue) were sufficient alone to cover operating costs (grey) and debt payments (green) in all four years presented.
- Cash has significantly decreased since 2011 due to project costs. The City bonded for these costs in 2011 and 2013. However, the costs have been higher than the amounts bonded (red higher than orange in 2012 and 2013) therefore decreasing cash. Cash increased in 2014 due to comparable operating receipts and a decrease in capital expenditures.

We recommend the City review rates annually to determine if operating revenues will cover operating costs, annual scheduled debt payments, and future projects.

## Deputy Registrar Fund Cash Flow



## Deputy Registrar Fund Cash Balance

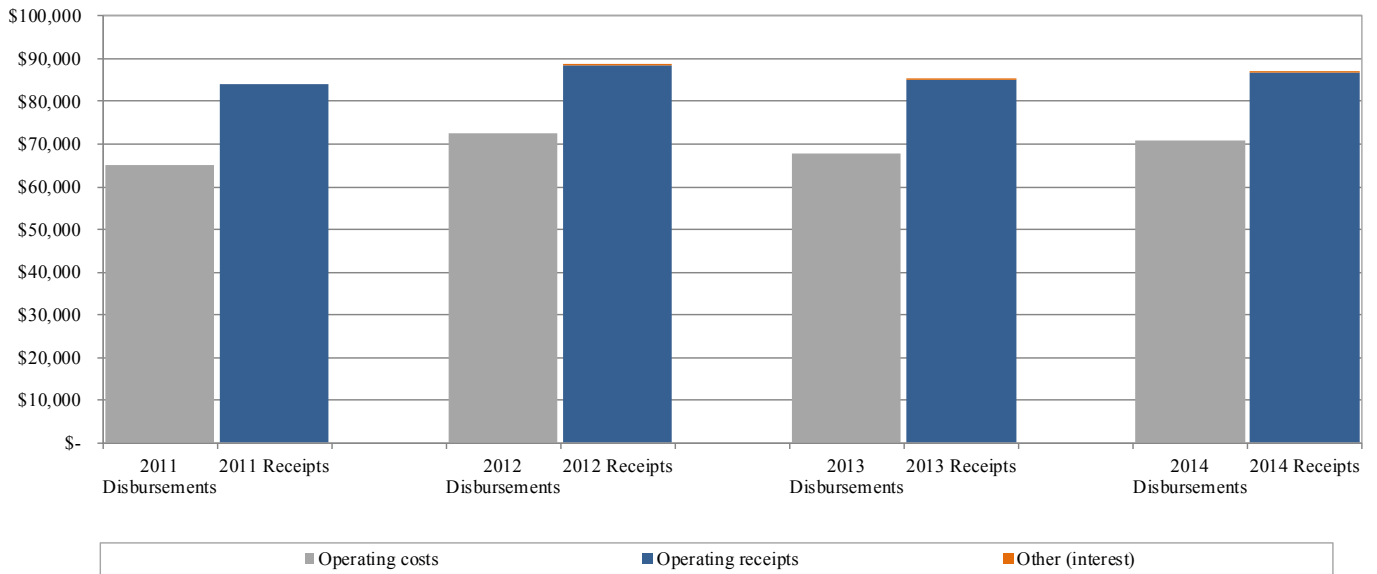


Some of the items with significant changes in the above charts are highlighted below:

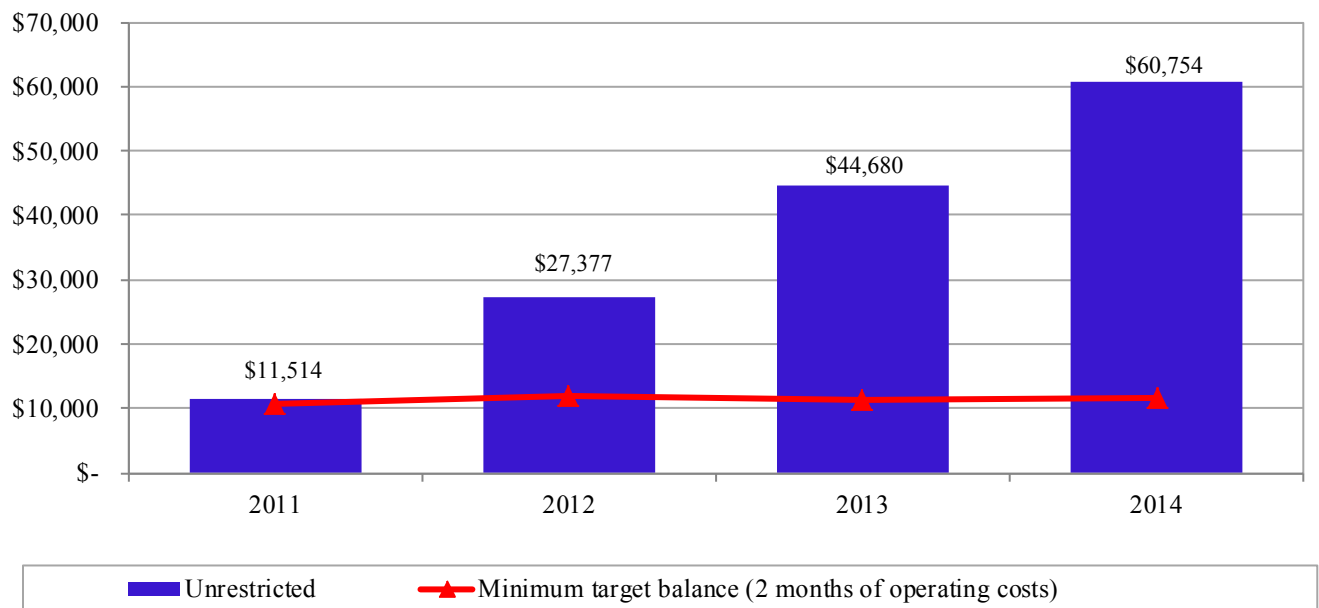
- Operating receipts (blue) were sufficient alone to cover operating costs (grey) in 2012, 2013, and 2014.
- The fund has transferred out \$2,500, 2,575, and \$2,650 in 2012, 2013, and 2014, respectively to the General fund.



### Recycling Fund Cash Flow



### Recycling Fund Cash Balance



Some of the items with significant changes in the above charts are highlighted below:

- Operating receipts (blue) were sufficient alone to cover operating costs (grey) in all four years presented.
- The increase in cash over the past four years is a result of operating income earned being continuously higher than disbursements.

## Ratio Analysis

The following captures a few ratios from the City's financial statements that give some additional information for trend and peer group analysis. The peer group average is derived from information we have requested from the Office of the State Auditor. Different peer group averages are used for Cities of the 4<sup>th</sup> Class (population 2,500 – 10,000). The majority of these ratios facilitate the use of economic resources focus and accrual basis of accounting at the government-wide level. A combination of liquidity (ability to pay its most immediate obligations), solvency (ability to pay its long-term obligations), funding (comparison of financial amounts and economic indicators to measure changes in financial capacity over time) and common-size (comparison of financial data with other cities regardless of size) ratios are shown below.

Ratio	Calculation	Source	2011	2012	2013	2014
Debt to assets	Total liabilities/total assets	Government-wide	41%	44%	42%	39%
			33%	33%	32%	N/A
Debt service coverage	Net cash provided by operations/ enterprise fund debt payments	Enterprise funds	82%	86%	85%	94%
			106%	106%	117%	N/A
Debt per capita	Bonded debt/population	Government-wide	\$ 4,727	\$ 5,263	\$ 4,988	\$ 4,521
			\$ 2,826	\$ 2,626	\$ 2,656	N/A
Taxes per capita	Tax revenues/population	Government-wide	\$ 565	\$ 579	\$ 557	\$ 411
			\$ 500	\$ 480	\$ 487	N/A
Current expenditures per capita	Governmental fund current expenditures/population	Governmental funds	\$ 765	\$ 872	\$ 791	\$ 829
			\$ 640	\$ 649	\$ 634	N/A
Capital expenditures per capita	Governmental fund capital expenditures/population	Governmental funds	\$ 257	\$ 692	\$ 915	\$ 179
			\$ 229	\$ 298	\$ 294	N/A
Capital assets % left to depreciate - Governmental	Net capital assets/ gross capital assets	Government-wide	69%	71%	71%	69%
			64%	65%	64%	N/A
Capital assets % left to depreciate - Business-type	Net capital assets/ gross capital assets	Government-wide	73%	71%	69%	67%
			65%	63%	63%	N/A

Represents the City of Cannon Falls

Peer Group Ratio

### **Debt-to-Assets Leverage Ratio (Solvency Ratio)**

The debt-to-assets leverage ratio is a comparison of a city's total liabilities to its total assets or the percentage of total assets that are provided by creditors. It indicates the degree to which the City's assets are financed through borrowings and other long-term obligations (i.e. a ratio of 50 percent would indicate half of the assets are financed with outstanding debt).

### **Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Solvency Ratio)**

The debt coverage ratio is a comparison of cash generated by operations to total debt service payments (principal and interest) of enterprise funds. This ratio indicates if there are sufficient cash flows from operations to meet Debt Service obligations. Except in cases where other nonoperating revenues (i.e. taxes, assessments, transfers from other funds, etc.) are used to fund Debt Service payments, an acceptable ratio would be above 100 percent.

### **Bonded Debt per Capita (Funding Ratio)**

This dollar amount is arrived at by dividing the total bonded debt by the population of the City and represents the amount of bonded debt obligation for each citizen of the City at the end of the year. The higher the amount, the more resources are needed in the future to retire these obligations through taxes, assessments or user fees.

### **Taxes per Capita (Funding Ratio)**

This dollar amount is arrived at by dividing the total tax revenues by the population of the City and represents the amount of taxes for each citizen of the City for the year. The higher this amount is, the more reliant the City is on taxes to fund its operations.

### **Current Expenditures per Capita (Funding Ratio)**

This dollar amount is arrived at by dividing the total current governmental expenditures by the population of the City and represents the amount of governmental expenditure for each citizen of the City during the year. Since this is generally based on ongoing expenditures, we would expect consistent annual per capita results.

### **Capital Expenditures per Capita (Funding Ratio)**

This dollar amount is arrived at by dividing the total governmental capital outlay expenditures by the population of the City and represents the amount of capital expenditure for each citizen of the City during the year. Since projects are not always recurring, the per capita amount will fluctuate from year to year.

### **Capital Assets Percentage (Common-size Ratio)**

This percentage represents the percent of governmental or business-type capital assets that are left to be depreciated. The lower this percentage, the older the City's capital assets are and may need major repairs or replacements in the near future. A higher percentage may indicate newer assets being constructed or purchased and may coincide with higher debt ratios or bonded debt per capita.

## Future Accounting Standard Changes

The following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements have been issued and may have an impact on future City financial statements: <sup>(1)</sup>

### **GASB Statement No. 68** - *The Accounting and Financial Reporting of Pensions- an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for pensions. It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for pensions that is provided by other entities. This Statement results from a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing standards of accounting and financial reporting for pensions with regard to providing decision-useful information, supporting assessments of accountability and interperiod equity, and creating additional transparency.

This Statement replaces the requirements of Statement No. 27, Accounting for Pensions by State and Local Governmental Employers, as well as the requirements of Statement No. 50, Pension Disclosures, as they relate to pensions that are provided through pension plans administered as trusts or equivalent arrangements (hereafter jointly referred to as trusts) that meet certain criteria. The requirements of Statements 27 and 50 remain applicable for pensions that are not covered by the scope of this Statement.

This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. Earlier application is encouraged.

### **How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting**

The requirements of this Statement will improve the decision-usefulness of information in employer and governmental nonemployer contributing entity financial reports and will enhance its value for assessing accountability and interperiod equity by requiring recognition of the entire net pension liability and a more comprehensive measure of pension expense. Decision-usefulness and accountability also will be enhanced through new note disclosures and required supplementary information.

### **GASB Statement No. 71** - *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measure Date - an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*

#### **Summary**

The objective of this Statement is to address an issue regarding application of the transition provisions of Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions. The issue relates to amounts associated with contributions, if any, made by a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity to a defined benefit pension plan after the measurement date of the government's beginning net pension liability.

Statement No. 68 requires a state or local government employer (or nonemployer contributing entity in a special funding situation) to recognize a net pension liability measured as of a date (the measurement date) no earlier than the end of its prior fiscal year. If a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity makes a contribution to a defined benefit pension plan between the measurement date of the reported net pension liability and the end of the government's reporting period, Statement No. 68 requires that the government recognize its contribution as a deferred outflow of resources. In addition, Statement No. 68 requires recognition of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources for changes in the net pension liability of a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity that arise from other types of events. At transition to Statement No. 68, if it is not practical for an employer or nonemployer contributing entity to determine the amounts of all deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, paragraph 137 of Statement No. 68 required that beginning balances for deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources not be reported.

Consequently, if it is not practical to determine the amounts of all deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, contributions made after the measurement date of the beginning net pension liability could not have been reported as deferred outflows of resources at transition. This could have resulted in a significant understatement of an employer or nonemployer contributing entity's beginning net position and expense in the initial period of implementation.

This Statement amends paragraph 137 of Statement No. 68 to require that, at transition, a government recognize a beginning deferred outflow of resources for its pension contributions, if any, made subsequent to the measurement date of the beginning net pension liability. Statement No. 68, as amended, continues to require that beginning balances for other deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions be reported at transition only if it is practical to determine all such amounts.

The provisions of this Statement are required to be applied simultaneously with the provisions of Statement No. 68.

## Future Accounting Standard Changes - Continued

### How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will eliminate the source of a potential significant understatement of restated beginning net position and expense in the first year of implementation of Statement No. 68 in the accrual-basis financial statements of employers and nonemployer contributing entities. This benefit will be achieved without the imposition of significant additional costs.

### **GASB Statement No. 72 - Fair Value Measurement and Application**

#### Summary

This Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting issues related to fair value measurements. The definition of *fair value* is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. This Statement provides guidance for determining a fair value measurement for financial reporting purposes. This Statement also provides guidance for applying fair value to certain investments and disclosures related to all fair value measurements.

#### Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is described as an exit price. Fair value measurements assume a transaction takes place in a government's principal market, or a government's most advantageous market in the absence of a principal market. The fair value also should be measured assuming that general market participants would act in their economic best interest. Fair value should not be adjusted for transaction costs.

To determine a fair value measurement, a government should consider the unit of account of the asset or liability. The unit of account refers to the level at which an asset or a liability is aggregated or disaggregated for measurement, recognition, or disclosure purposes as provided by the accounting standards. For example, the unit of account for investments held in a brokerage account is each individual security, whereas the unit of account for an investment in a mutual fund is each share in the mutual fund held by a government.

This Statement requires a government to use valuation techniques that are appropriate under the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value. The techniques should be consistent with one or more of the following approaches: the market approach, the cost approach, or the income approach. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets, liabilities, or a group of assets and liabilities. The cost approach reflects the amount that would be required to replace the present service capacity of an asset. The income approach converts future amounts (such as cash flows or income and expenses) to a single current (discounted) amount. Valuation techniques should be applied consistently, though a change may be appropriate in certain circumstances. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

This Statement establishes a hierarchy of inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. That hierarchy has three levels. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices-included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Finally, Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs, such as management's assumption of the default rate among underlying mortgages of a mortgage-backed security.

A fair value measurement takes into account the highest and best use for a nonfinancial asset. A fair value measurement of a liability assumes that the liability would be transferred to a market participant and not settled with the counterparty. In the absence of a quoted price for the transfer of an identical or similar liability and if another party holds an identical item as an asset, a government should be able to use the fair value of that asset to measure the fair value of the liability.

This Statement requires additional analysis of fair value if the volume or level of activity for an asset or liability has significantly decreased. It also requires identification of transactions that are not orderly. Quoted prices provided by third parties are permitted, as long as a government determines that those quoted prices are developed in accordance with the provisions of this Statement.

## Future Accounting Standard Changes - Continued

### Fair Value Application

This Statement generally requires investments to be measured at fair value. An *investment* is defined as a security or other asset that (a) a government holds primarily for the purpose of income or profit and (b) has a present service capacity based solely on its ability to generate cash or to be sold to generate cash. Investments not measured at fair value continue to include, for example, money market investments, 2a7-like external investment pools, investments in life insurance contracts, common stock meeting the criteria for applying the equity method, unallocated insurance contracts, and synthetic guaranteed investment contracts. A government is permitted in certain circumstances to establish the fair value of an investment that does not have a readily determinable fair value by using the net asset value per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

This Statement requires measurement at acquisition value (an entry price) for donated capital assets, donated works of art, historical treasures, and similar assets and capital assets received in a service concession arrangement. These assets were previously required to be measured at fair value.

### Fair Value Disclosures

This Statement requires disclosures to be made about fair value measurements, the level of fair value hierarchy, and valuation techniques. Governments should organize these disclosures by type of asset or liability reported at fair value. It also requires additional disclosures regarding investments in certain entities that calculate net asset value per share (or its equivalent).

The requirements of this Statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2015. Earlier application is encouraged.

### **How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting**

The requirements of this Statement will enhance comparability of financial statements among governments by requiring measurement of certain assets and liabilities at fair value using a consistent and more detailed definition of fair value and accepted valuation techniques. This Statement also will enhance fair value application guidance and related disclosures in order to provide information to financial statement users about the impact of fair value measurements on a government's financial position.

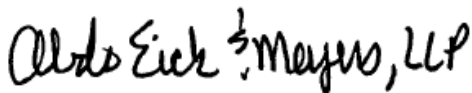
<sup>(1)</sup> *Note.* From GASB Pronouncements Summaries. Copyright 2014 by the Financial Accounting Foundation, 401 Merritt 7, Norwalk, CT 06856, USA, and is reproduced with permission.

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This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, City Council, others within the City and the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Our audit would not necessarily disclose all weaknesses in the system because it was based on selected tests of the accounting records and related data. The comments and recommendations in the report are purely constructive in nature, and should be read in this context.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the items contained in this letter, please feel free to contact us at your convenience. We wish to thank you for the opportunity to be of service and for the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by your staff.



ABDO, EICK & MEYERS, LLP  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
April 9, 2015