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# TOWN OF LIBERTY

*County Seat of Amite County, MS*



160 CLINIC DRIVE P.O. BOX 301  
LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI 39645

PHONE (601) 657-8071 FAX (601) 657-8078 EMAIL [libertymississippi@yahoo.com](mailto:libertymississippi@yahoo.com)

March 12, 2018

Office of the State Auditor  
P.O. Box 956  
Jackson, MS 39205

RE: Annual Municipal Audit

Department of Technical Assistance

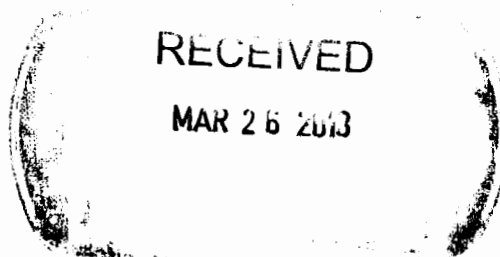
Accompanying this letter are two copies of the annual audit of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. A separate management letter was written to the Town of Liberty. Enclosed you will find a copy of the management letter along with the audit reports.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Talbert  
Mayor  
PAT/sbf

Enclosure



LIBERTY---IT WORKS  
SINCE 1809

March 1, 2018

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons of the  
Town of Liberty  
Liberty, Mississippi

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We have audited the financial statement of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2017. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted 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 September 27, 2017. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### Significant Audit Findings

##### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Town of Liberty, Mississippi are described in Note 1 to the financial statement. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during fiscal year 2017. We noted no transactions entered into by the Town during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statement in the proper period.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

##### *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 clearly trivial, and communicate them to the

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons  
March 1, 2018  
Page Two

Significant Audit Findings - continued:

*Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements* - continued:

appropriate level of management. See the attached list of proposed adjustments for misstatements detected as a result of our audit procedures. Management has corrected all misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures.

*Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statement 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 March 1, 2018.

*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 Town's financial statement or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on that statement, 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 detected one finding as a result of audit procedures related to compliance with state laws and regulations. The finding is discussed in our Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with State Laws and Regulations.

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 Town's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

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To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons  
March 1, 2018  
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Other Matters

We were not engaged to report on the schedules included in the supplementary information section, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statement, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons and management of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

*Haddon Reid Eubank Betts PLLC*

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Client: 05245 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Engagement: FY 2017 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Period Ending: 9/30/2017  
Trial Balance: 1400 - General Fund Database  
Workpaper: 1500 - General Fund AJE Report

Account	Description	W/P Ref	Debit	Credit
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries</b>				
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 101</b>				
Entry to correct PY AJEs posted by client.				
1001190	Fund Balance-General Fund		99.00	
1001199	Current Yr Inc (loss)		1.00	
1200000	Account Receivable		5,121.00	
1001012	Grant Fund			1.00
1001020	Accounts Recievable - General			5,121.00
1200000	Account Receivable			99.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,221.00</b>	<b>5,221.00</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 102</b>				
To properly allocate current year tax collections according to millage rate.				
1001200	(Land) Real Property Taxes	6003	28.43	
1001201	(Auto) Personal Property Taxes		1,662.46	
1001203	Prior Year Taxes - Real		60.16	
1001207	Penalties & Interest On Taxes		51.78	
1001251	Homestead Exempt. Reimbursemet		1,331.75	
1001095	Due to Debt Service Fund			3,061.87
1001202	(Busi) Personal Property Taxes			72.71
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,134.58</b>	<b>3,134.58</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 103</b>				
Entry to correct CDBG grant money received by the GF				
1001091	Due from (to) WSF		8,378.00	
1001344	Miscellaneous Revenues		5,000.00	
1001344	Miscellaneous Revenues			5,900.00
1001344	Miscellaneous Revenues			7,478.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>13,378.00</b>	<b>13,378.00</b>
<b>Total Adjusting Journal Entries</b>			<b>21,733.58</b>	<b>21,733.58</b>
<b>Total All Journal Entries</b>			<b>21,733.58</b>	<b>21,733.58</b>

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Client: 05245 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Engagement: FY 2017 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Period Ending: 9/30/2017  
Trial Balance: 1400.01 - Debt Service Fund Database  
Workpaper: 1500.01 - Debt Service Fund A/E Report

Account	Description	W/P Ref	Debit	Credit
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries</b>				
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 101</b>				
To properly allocate taxes based on millage rate.				
2001095	Due from General Fund	6003	3,061.88	
2001202	(Bus)Personal Property Taxes		72.71	
2001200	(Land)Real Property Taxes			28.43
2001203	(Auto)Personal Property Taxes			1,862.46
2001204	Prior Year Taxes-Real			60.17
2001207	Penalties and Interest on Taxes			51.78
2001251	Homestead Exempt Reimbursement			1,331.75
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,134.59</b>	<b>3,134.59</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 102</b>				
Entry to correct interest and principal payments on loan.				
2001801	CAP Loan	5005	6.42	
2001810	Interest Paid			6.42
<b>Total</b>			<b>6.42</b>	<b>6.42</b>
<b>Total Adjusting Journal Entries</b>			<b>3,141.01</b>	<b>3,141.01</b>
<b>Total All Journal Entries</b>			<b>3,141.01</b>	<b>3,141.01</b>

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Client: 05245 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Engagement: FY 2017 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Period Ending: 9/30/2017  
Trial Balance: 1400.02 - Water and Sewer Fund Database  
Workpaper: 1500.02 - Water and Sewer Fund - AJE Report

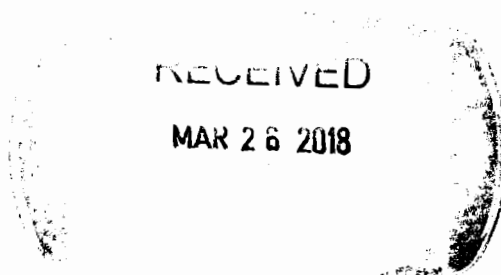
Account	Description	W/P Ref	Debit	Credit
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 101</b>				
To adjust transfer to correct account				
4001091	Due from (to) WSF - GF		1,314.52	
4001100	Accounts Payable			1,314.52
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,314.52</b>	<b>1,314.52</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 102</b>				
To properly record receipt of CDBG funds that was received by General Fund and transferred to W&S.				
4001091	Due from (to) WSF - GF		3,000.00	
4001384	Grant Income			3,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 103</b>				
To reclass restricted cash for change in meter deposits				
4001090	Restricted Cash - Water		1,115.00	
4001009	Less Restricted Cash - Water			1,115.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,115.00</b>	<b>1,115.00</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 104</b>				
Entry to record insurance paid by GF not recorded in WS, as well as revenue received by GF not recorded in WS.				
4001475	Employee Group Insurance		3,840.26	
4001091	Due from (to) WSF - GF			3,243.06
4001360	Water Sales			597.20
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,840.26</b>	<b>3,840.26</b>

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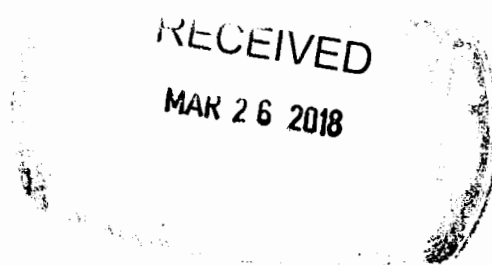
Client: 05245 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Engagement: FY 2017 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Period Ending: 9/30/2017  
Trial Balance: 1400.03 - Natural Gas Fund Database  
Workpaper: 1500.03 - Natural Gas Fund - AJE Report

Account	Description	W/P Ref	Debit	Credit
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 101</b>				
Entry necessary to roll forward fund balance				
5001191	Retained Earn - Unrestricted(G)		0.90	
5001002	Gas Revenue - Checking			0.90
<b>Total</b>			<b>0.90</b>	<b>0.90</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 102</b>				
To update restricted cash for change in meter deposits				
5001009	Less Restricted Cash - Gas		180.00	
5001090	Restricted Cash - Gas			180.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>180.00</b>	<b>180.00</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 103</b>				
To record insurance paid by GF not recorded in Natural Gas fund and Gas refunds issued by GF.				
5001360	Gas Sales		166.45	
5001475	Employee Group Insurance		1,321.38	
5001092	Due from (to) NGF - GF			1,487.83
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,487.83</b>	<b>1,487.83</b>
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 104</b>				
Entry to bring DTF to actual.				
5001093	Due to (from) NGF - WSF		15.63	
5001360	Gas Sales			15.63
<b>Total</b>			<b>15.63</b>	<b>15.63</b>



Client: 05245 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
 Engagement: FY 2017 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
 Period Ending: 9/30/2017  
 Trial Balance: 1400.04 - Perpetual Care Fund Database  
 Workpaper: 1500.04 - Perpetual Care Fund - AJE Report

Account	Description	W/P Ref	Debit	Credit
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 101</b>		2003		
To post interest earned on CD				
6001003	Perpetual Care CD - 1-Trustmark		155.19	
6001340	Interest			155.19
<b>Total</b>			<b>155.19</b>	<b>155.19</b>



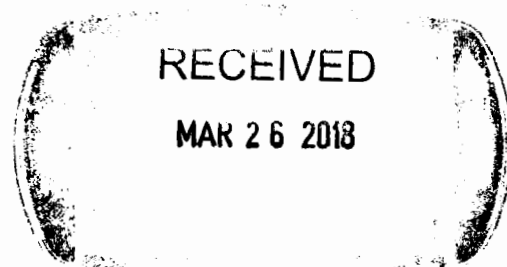
Client: 05245 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Engagement: FY 2017 - Town of Liberty, Mississippi  
Period Ending: 9/30/2017  
Trial Balance: 1400.06 - Payroll Clearing Fund Database  
Workpaper: 1500.06 - Payroll Clearing Fund - AJE Report

Account	Description	W/P Ref	Debit	Credit
<b>Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 101</b>				
To properly reverse payroll transfers for FY 2017				
1001091	Due from (to) GF - WSF		777.53	
1001155	Payroll Transfers in		478,672.28	
1001340	Interest Earned		77.61	
1010475	Employee Group Insurance		253.56	
1010400	Salary - Mayor			27,999.96
1010410	Salaries - Alderman			18,000.00
1010420	Salary - Town Clerk			35,128.15
1010430	Salaries - Admin			4,549.98
1010440	Salary - Town Attorney			12,360.00
1010450	Salary - Town Judge			8,343.00
1010460	State Retirement			20,880.06
1010470	FICA Taxes			21.04
1010490	FICA Expense - All funds			23,932.51
1010492	Medicare Expense - All funds			5,597.13
1010494	State Retirement - All Funds			5,748.75
1010495	System Payroll Expenses			56,672.62
1010500	Office supplies			354.02
1100430	Salaries Full Time			119,768.72
1100440	Salaries - Part Time			11,106.44
1100460	State Retirement			20,678.42
1160430	Fire Chief			1,500.00
1160440	Volunteers			540.00
1200430	Salary			650.00
1301460	State Retirement			2,040.69
1303430	Salary			1,375.00
4001430	Salary			44,485.43
4001460	State Retirement			10,289.74
5001430	Salary			47,759.32
<b>Total</b>			<b>479,780.98</b>	<b>479,780.98</b>

**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
AND  
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT****RECEIVED****MAR 26 2018**

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons of the  
Town of Liberty  
Liberty, Mississippi

We have audited the accompanying statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, this includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express opinions on this financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, 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 statement 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 statement.

**Auditor's Responsibility - continued:**

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 statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of the governmental activities, business-type activities and each major fund of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2017, in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

**Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. This financial statement is prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to that matter.

**Other Matters**

*Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statement of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi. The schedules included in the supplementary information section, which are the responsibility of management, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statement. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statement and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

*Haddox Reid Eubank Betts PLLC*

Jackson, Mississippi  
March 1, 2018

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**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	<b>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>				
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Debt Service Fund</b>	<b>Perpetual Care Fund</b>	<b>Vance Park Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>					
Taxes - Ad valorem	\$ 123,077	14,769	-	-	137,846
Penalties and interest on delinquent taxes	432	52	-	-	484
Franchise fees	21,173	-	-	-	21,173
Licenses and permits	4,940	-	-	-	4,940
Intergovernmental receipts	301,367	1,332	-	-	302,699
Charges for services:					
Sanitation	51,320	-	-	-	51,320
Water and sewer	-	-	-	-	-
Natural gas	-	-	-	-	-
Fines and forfeits	63,006	-	-	-	63,006
Interest	322	55	353	3	733
Other	47,530	-	-	-	47,530
Total receipts	<u>613,167</u>	<u>16,208</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>629,731</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>					
General government	216,736	-	-	-	216,736
Public safety	243,828	-	-	-	243,828
Court	32,543	-	-	-	32,543
Highways and streets	31,712	-	-	-	31,712
Sanitation	44,676	-	-	-	44,676
Culture and recreation	59,018	-	-	-	59,018
Enterprises:					
Water and sewer	-	-	-	-	-
Natural gas	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service:					
Principal	-	10,828	-	-	10,828
Interest and other fiscal charges	-	1,386	-	-	1,386
Total disbursements	<u>628,513</u>	<u>12,214</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>640,727</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over (under) disbursements	<u>(15,346)</u>	<u>3,994</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>(10,996)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES		
Water & Sewer Fund	Natural Gas Fund	Total
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
53,482	-	53,482
-	-	-
213,952	-	213,952
-	141,196	141,196
-	-	-
876	686	1,562
-	582	582
<u>268,310</u>	<u>142,464</u>	<u>410,774</u>
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
264,424	-	264,424
-	200,605	200,605
-	-	-
-	-	-
<u>264,424</u>	<u>200,605</u>	<u>465,029</u>
<u>3,886</u>	<u>(58,141)</u>	<u>(54,255)</u>

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**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED:  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

<b>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>					
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Debt Service Fund</b>	<b>Perpetual Care Fund</b>	<b>Vance Park Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>OTHER CASH SOURCES (USES):</b>					
Interfund loans and transfers	\$ 2,406	(3,062)	-	-	(656)
Utility deposits - net	-	-	-	-	-
Total other cash sources (uses)	<u>2,406</u>	<u>(3,062)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(656)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts and other cash sources over (under) disbursements and other cash uses	(12,940)	932	353	3	(11,652)
<b>CASH BASIS FUND BALANCE -</b>					
Beginning of year	<u>135,659</u>	<u>83,091</u>	<u>74,532</u>	<u>2,499</u>	<u>295,781</u>
<b>CASH BASIS FUND BALANCE -</b>					
End of year	\$ <u><u>122,719</u></u>	<u><u>84,023</u></u>	<u><u>74,885</u></u>	<u><u>2,502</u></u>	<u><u>284,129</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**BUSINESS-TYPE  
ACTIVITIES**

<b>Water &amp; Sewer Fund</b>	<b>Natural Gas Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
526	130	656
<u>1,115</u>	<u>(180)</u>	<u>935</u>
<u>1,641</u>	<u>(50)</u>	<u>1,591</u>
5,527	(58,191)	(52,664)
<u>269,523</u>	<u>343,486</u>	<u>613,009</u>
<u><u>275,050</u></u>	<u><u>285,295</u></u>	<u><u>560,345</u></u>

**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

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**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The Town of Liberty, Mississippi (the Town) was incorporated in 1809. The Town operates under a Mayor-Board of Alderpersons form of government and provides all of the rights and privileges provided by statute for municipalities.

**A. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation**

The financial statement is reported using the cash basis of accounting as permitted by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The cash basis of accounting differs from GAAP primarily because revenues (cash receipts) are recognized when received rather than when earned and susceptible to accrual and expenditures or expenses (cash disbursements) are recognized when paid rather than when incurred or subject to accrual.

Governmental Activities

The Town reports the following major governmental funds:

The **General Fund** is the government's primary operating fund. It accounts for all the financial resources and the legally authorized activities of the Town except those required to be accounted for in other specialized funds.

The **Debt Service Fund** is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal, interest and related costs.

The **Perpetual Care Fund** is used to account for the proceeds legally restricted to expenditures related to cemetery maintenance.

The **Vance Park Fund** is used to account for the proceeds legally restricted to expenditures related to the maintenance of Vance Park.

Business-Type Activities

The Town reports the following major proprietary funds:

The **Water and Sewer Fund** accounts for the activities of providing water and sewer services to citizens of the Town.

The **Natural Gas Fund** accounts for the activities of providing natural gas services to citizens of the Town.

**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED:**

**A. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation - continued:**

When both restricted and unrestricted cash is available for use, it is the Town's policy to use restricted cash first, then unrestricted cash as it is needed.

**NOTE 2 - CASH AND CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT**

The collateral for public entities' deposits in financial institutions is held in the name of the State Treasurer under a program established by the Mississippi Legislature and is governed by Section 27-105-5, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972). Under this program, the Town's funds are protected through a collateral pool administered by the State Treasurer. Financial institutions holding deposits of public funds must pledge securities as collateral against those deposits. In the event of a failure of a financial institution, securities pledged by that institution would be liquidated by the State Treasurer to replace the public deposits not covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

The composition of the Town's cash and certificates of deposit is as follows at September 30, 2017:

	<u>Unrestricted Cash</u>	<u>Restricted Cash</u>	<u>Unrestricted Certificates of Deposit</u>	<u>Restricted Certificates of Deposit</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Governmental activities:</b>					
General Fund	\$ 96,264	26,455	-	-	122,719
Debt Service Fund	-	84,023	-	-	84,023
Perpetual Care Fund	-	545	-	74,340	74,885
Vance Park Fund	-	2,502	-	-	2,502
Total governmental activities	<u>96,264</u>	<u>113,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,340</u>	<u>284,129</u>
<b>Business-type activities:</b>					
Water and Sewer Fund	187,661	41,163	46,226	-	275,050
Natural Gas Fund	<u>238,042</u>	<u>14,750</u>	<u>32,503</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>285,295</u>
Total business-type activities	<u>425,703</u>	<u>55,913</u>	<u>78,729</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>560,345</u>
<b>Government-wide total</b>	<u>\$ 521,967</u>	<u>169,438</u>	<u>78,729</u>	<u>74,340</u>	<u>844,474</u>

**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**NOTE 2 - CASH AND CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT - CONTINUED:**

Deposits at September 30, 2017 are summarized as follows:

	<b><u>Reported Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Bank Balance</u></b>
Cash	\$ 691,405	710,310
Certificates of deposit	<u>153,069</u>	<u>153,069</u>
Total deposits	\$ <u>844,474</u>	<u>863,379</u>

The difference of \$18,905 was principally due to outstanding checks. Of the bank balance, \$500,000 was covered by Federal depository insurance.

*Custodial Credit Risk-Deposits.* Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of a failure of a financial institution, the Town will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Town does not have a formal policy for custodial credit risk. However, the Mississippi State Treasurer manages the risk on behalf of the Town. As of September 30, 2017, \$363,379 of the Town's bank balance of \$863,379 was exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

Collateralized by the State Public Funds Guaranty Pool	<u>\$ 363,379</u>
--	-------------------

*Interest Rate Risk.* The Town does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

*Credit Risk.* State law limits investments to those prescribed in Sections 27-105-33(d) and 27-105-33(e) Miss. Code Ann. (1972). The Town does not have a formal investment policy that would further limit its investment choices or one that addresses credit risk.

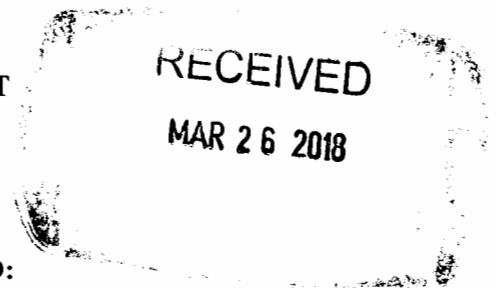
*Custodial Credit Risk - Investments.* Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Town will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Town does not have a formal investment policy that addresses custodial risk. However, the Mississippi State Treasurer manages the risk on behalf of the Town. Deposits above FDIC coverage are collateralized by the pledging financial institutions trust department or agent in the name of the Mississippi State Treasurer on behalf of the Town. The Town had no investments as of September 30, 2017.

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**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**



**NOTE 2 - CASH AND CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT - CONTINUED:**

*Concentration of Credit Risk.* Disclosure of investments by amount and issuer for any issuer that represents five percent or more of total investments is required. This requirement does not apply to investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government, investments in mutual funds and external investment pools, and other pooled investments. As of September 30, 2017, the Town had no investments.

Following is a list of the Town's eligible investments, which in accordance with state statute are limited to the investment of funds in excess of sums required for immediate expenditure or current obligations:

Certificates of deposit with municipal depositories approved annually by the State Treasurer, bonds or direct obligations of the following:

- United States of America
- State of Mississippi
- County or Municipality of Mississippi
- School Districts

State statute allows the investment of funds received from the sale of bonds, notes, or certificates of indebtedness which are not immediately required for disbursement for the purpose issued, in direct obligations issued by or guaranteed in full by the United States of America, or in certificates of deposit with approved municipal depositories.

**NOTE 3 - DEBT SERVICE**

As of September 30, 2017, annual debt service requirements of the governmental activities to maturity are as follows:

<b>Fiscal Year Ended</b> <b><u>September 30,</u></b>	<b><u>Notes Payable</u></b>	
	<b><u>Principal</u></b>	<b><u>Interest</u></b>
2018	\$ 11,151	1,064
2019	11,490	724
2020	11,839	375
2021	5,346	53
	<u>\$ 39,826</u>	<u>2,216</u>

**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**NOTE 4 - PROPERTY TAX**

Property taxes for fiscal year 2017 were levied in September 2016 on the assessed valuation of property located in the Town of Liberty, Mississippi as of the preceding January 1, the lien date. The Town levies property taxes annually based upon assessed valuations. Real property and personal property taxes are collected directly by the Town. Automobile ad valorem taxes and certain road taxes are collected by the Amite County tax collector and disbursed to the Town accordingly. Current collections of taxes for the year ended September 30, 2017 were approximately 86% of the total tax levy.

The tax rate levied by the Town for fiscal year 2017 was set at 28 mills. The Town allocated the property tax per \$100 of assessed value for the year as follows:

General Fund	\$ 2.50
Debt Service Fund	<u>0.30</u>
	\$ <u>2.80</u>

**NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN**

**General information about the Pension Plan**

*Plan Description*

The Town of Liberty, Mississippi contributes to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS), a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. PERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by State law and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. PERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That information may be obtained by writing to Public Employees' Retirement System, PERS Building, 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201-1005 or by calling (601) 359-3589 or 1-800-444-PERS, or by visiting online at [www.pers.ms.gov](http://www.pers.ms.gov).

*Benefits Provided*

Membership in PERS is a condition of employment granted upon hiring for qualifying employees and officials of the State of Mississippi (the State), state universities, community and junior colleges, and teachers and employees of the public school districts. For those persons employed by political subdivisions and instrumentalities of the State, membership is contingent upon approval of the entity's participation in PERS by the PERS' Board of

**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN - CONTINUED:**

**General information about the Pension Plan - continued:**

*Benefits Provided - continued:*

Trustees. If approved, membership for the entity's employees is a condition of employment and eligibility is granted to those who qualify upon hiring. Members and employers are statutorily required to contribute certain percentages of salaries and wages as specified by the Board of Trustees. A member who terminates employment from all covered employers and who is not eligible to receive monthly retirement benefits may request a full refund of his or her accumulated member contributions plus interest. Upon withdrawal of contributions, a member forfeits service credit represented by those contributions. Participating members who are vested and retire at or after age 60 or those who retire regardless of age with at least 30 years of creditable service (25 years of creditable service for employees who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), are entitled, upon application, to an annual retirement allowance payable monthly for life in an amount equal to 2.0 percent of their average compensation for each year of creditable service up to and including 30 years (25 years for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), plus 2.5 percent for each additional year of creditable service with an actuarial reduction in the benefit for each year of creditable service below 30 years or the number of years in age that the member is below 65, whichever is less. Average compensation is the average of the employee's earnings during the four highest compensated years of creditable service. A member may elect a reduced retirement allowance payable for life with the provisions that, after death, a beneficiary receives benefits for life or for a specified number of years. Benefits vest upon completion of eight years of membership service (four years of membership service for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2007). PERS also provides certain death and disability benefits. In the event of death prior to retirement of any member whose spouse and/or children are not entitled to a retirement allowance, the deceased member's accumulated contributions and interest are paid to the designated beneficiary. A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) payment is made to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. The COLA is equal to 3.0 percent of the annual retirement allowance for each full fiscal year of retirement up to the year in which the retired member reaches age 60 (55 for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), with 3.0 percent compounded for each fiscal year thereafter.

For the year ended September 30, 2017, the Town's total payroll for all employees was \$387,380. Total covered payroll was \$374,273. Covered payroll refers to all compensation paid by the Town to active employees covered by the Plan.

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**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN - CONTINUED:**

**General information about the Pension Plan - continued:**

Contributions

PERS members are required to contribute 9.00% of their annual covered salary and the Town is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rate for the year ended September 30, 2017 was 15.75% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. The Town's contribution to PERS for the years ended September 30, 2017, 2016, and 2015 were \$58,948, \$56,791 and \$54,261, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

**NOTE 6 - INTERFUND LOANS AND TRANSFERS**

Interfund loans and transfers during the year were as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Loan	Water & Sewer Fund	General Fund	671
Loan	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	3,062
Loan	General Fund	Natural Gas Fund	15
Loan	Natural Gas Fund	Water & Sewer Fund	145

The above interfund loans and transfers are necessary to move funds collected in one fund to another fund in accordance with the Town's annual budget.

**NOTE 7 - CONTINGENCIES**

Federal Grants

In the normal course of operations, the Town receives grant funds from various Federal and state agencies. The grant programs are subject to audit by the agents of the granting authority, the purpose of which is to ensure compliance with the conditions precedent to the granting of funds. Any liability for reimbursement which may arise as the result of these audits is not believed to be material.

**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Town carries commercial insurance for risks of loss other than workers' compensation and liability. Settled claims resulting from these commercially covered risks have not exceeded commercial coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Risk of loss related to workers' compensation for injuries to Town employees is covered through the Mississippi Municipal Workers' Compensation Group, a public entity risk pool. The pool was formed on March 28, 1989, by the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act, pursuant to Section 71-3-75, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), to provide public entities within the State of Mississippi workers' compensation and employers' liability coverage. The Town pays premiums to the pool quarterly for its workers' compensation insurance coverage based on total payroll. The participation agreement provides that the pool will be self-sustaining through member premiums. If total claims during a year were to deplete the trust account, then the pool members would be required to pay for the deficiencies. The Town has not had an additional assessment for losses incurred by the pool.

The Town is a member of the Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan, a public entity risk pool. The Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan covers liability claims against its members and is funded through member contributions. The Town has not had an additional assessment for excess losses.

**NOTE 9 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

The Town had no subsequent events of a material nature requiring adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statement through March 1, 2018, the date the financial statement was approved by the Town's management and thereby available to be released.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE I****TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI****SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS - ALL FUNDS  
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	<u>Deposit Amount</u>
Certificate of Deposit with Trustmark National Bank, Maturing January 22, 2018, Rate .45%	\$ 34,591
Certificate of Deposit with First Bank, Maturing May 1, 2018, Rate .95%	32,503
Certificate of Deposit with First Bank, Maturing August 9, 2018, Rate .65%	39,749
Certificate of Deposit with First Bank, Maturing May 1, 2018, Rate .95%	<u>46,226</u>
	\$ <u>153,069</u>
Fund Recap:	
Perpetual Care Fund	\$ 74,340
Water and Sewer Fund	46,226
Natural Gas Fund	<u>32,503</u>
	\$ <u>153,069</u>

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**SCHEDULE II****TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI****SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

<b>Balance Outstanding October 1, 2016</b>	<b>Issued</b>	<b>Redeemed</b>	<b>Balance Outstanding September 30, 2017</b>
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**NOTES:**

Capital Improvement Loan through  
Mississippi Department of Economic  
Development due in monthly install-  
ments of \$1,018 for a period of 15  
years at 3.00% interest, maturing  
March 1, 2021.

\$	<u>50,654</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,828)</u>	<u>39,826</u>
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**Total**

\$	<u>50,654</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,828)</u>	<u>39,826</u>
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**SCHEDULE III****TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI****SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS  
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Surety</u></b>	<b><u>Bond Amount</u></b>
J. Walt Gaston	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	\$10,000
Lenora Morgan	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	10,000
Robert E. Hayes, Sr.	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	10,000
Charlie Brister	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	10,000
Greg T. Walsh	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	10,000
Pat Talbert	Mayor	Scott Insurance	50,000
Shawn Felder	Town Clerk	Western Surety	50,000
Shawn Felder	Tax Collector	Western Surety	10,000
Sandra Wall	Deputy Clerk	Old Republic	50,000
Bradley Bellipanni	Chief of Police	Brierfield	50,000
Micheal S. Reeves	Police Officer	Western Surety	25,000
Jason Duncan	Police Officer	Brierfield	25,000
Grant McCurley	Police Officer	Brierfield	25,000
Edwin Schwing	Police Officer	Brierfield	25,000
Pryan S. Taylor	Police Officer	Western Surety	25,000

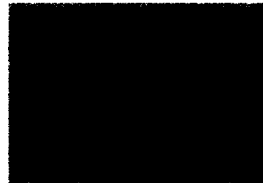
**SCHEDULE IV****TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI****SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements / Reclassifications</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<b>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:</b>				
Capital assets:				
Land	\$ 357,527	-	-	357,527
Building and improvements	555,876	-	-	555,876
Vehicles and machinery	783,544	5,629	-	789,173
Infrastructure	487,822	-	-	487,822
Construction in progress	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total governmental activities capital assets	 \$ <u>2,184,769</u>	 <u>5,629</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>2,190,398</u>
<b>BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES:</b>				
Capital assets:				
Vehicles and machinery	\$ 318,909	1,300	-	320,209
Water distribution system	1,520,809	-	-	1,520,809
Gas distribution system	185,450	-	-	185,450
Construction in progress	<u>-</u>	<u>53,482</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,482</u>
 Total business-type activities capital assets	 \$ <u>2,025,168</u>	 <u>54,782</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>2,079,950</u>

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**STATE COMPLIANCE SECTION**



CPAs & Advisors

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE  
WITH STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons of the  
Town of Liberty  
Liberty, Mississippi

We have audited the financial statement of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2017, and have issued our report thereon dated March 1, 2018. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

As required by the state legal compliance audit program prescribed by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor, we have also performed procedures to test compliance with certain state laws and regulations. However, providing an opinion on compliance with state laws and regulations was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of those procedures and our audit of the financial statement of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund information disclosed the following instance of noncompliance with state laws and regulations. Our finding and recommendation and the Town's response is as follows:

**2017-001 - Disbursements in Excess of Budget**

**Criteria**

Per Section 21-35-15, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), expenditures shall not exceed budget estimates, measured at the lowest level adopted in the budget, except for capital outlay, election expenses and payment of emergency warrants.

**Finding**

The Town's actual disbursements exceeded its budgeted disbursements for ten items as follows:

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Finding - continued:

General Fund:

General Government - Other Services & Charges	\$ 938
Public Safety - Personnel Services	6,332
Public Safety - Other Services & Charges	3,133
Highways and Streets - Other Services & Charges	1,338
Highways and Streets - Supplies	274
Sanitation - Other Services & Charges	1,476
Court - Personnel Services	420
Court - Supplies	42

Water and Sewer Fund:

Personnel Services	\$ 4,414
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Natural Gas Fund:

Other Services and Charges	\$ 4,043
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Recommendation

Management and those charged with governance should establish controls necessary to effectively monitor expenditures to ensure that the Town does not spend more than budgeted amounts.

View of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action

The Town will establish controls necessary to closely monitor disbursements to prevent future budget violations.

This report is intended for the information of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi's management, Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons, and the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

*Haddox Reid Eubank Betts PLLC*

Jackson, Mississippi  
March 1, 2018