

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR REPORT NOTE:

Section 7-7-211, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972) gives the Office of the State Auditor the authority to audit, with the exception of municipalities, any governmental entity in the state. In the case of municipalities, *Section 21-35-31, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)* requires municipalities to obtain an annual audit performed by a private CPA firm and submit that audit report to the Office of the State Auditor. The Office of the State Auditor files these audit reports for review in case questions arise related to the municipality.

As a result, the following document was not prepared by the Office of the State Auditor. Instead, it was prepared by a private CPA firm and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor. The document was placed on this web page as it was submitted and no review of the report was performed by the Office of the State Auditor prior to finalization of the report. The Office of the State Auditor assumes no responsibility for its content or for any errors located in the document. Any questions of accuracy or authenticity concerning this document should be submitted to the CPA firm that prepared the document. The name and address of the CPA firm appears in the document.

TOWN OF BENOIT, MISSISSIPPI

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON
AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES FOR SMALL MUNICIPALITIES**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON THE
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES**

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

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



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SPECIAL REPORT ON AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES FOR SMALL MUNICIPALITIES
(COMPLIANCE LETTER)

Honorable Mayor and Alderpersons
Town of Benoit, Mississippi

We have applied certain agreed-upon procedures, as discussed below, to the accounting records of the Town of Benoit, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2021, and for the year then ended, as required by the Office of the State Auditor, under the provisions of Section 21-35-31, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972). It is understood that the report is solely for the use of the governing body of the Town of Benoit, Mississippi, and the Office of the State Auditor and should not be used for any other purpose. Our procedures and findings are as follows.

1. We reconciled cash on deposit with the following banks to balances in the respective general ledger accounts and obtained confirmation of the related balances from the banks.

<u>Financial Institution</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Balance per General Ledger</u>
Genesis Bank	General Fund	\$ 10,873
Genesis Bank	ARPA	48,981
Total Governmental Activities		<u>59,854</u>
Genesis Bank	Water & Sewer Fund	102,637
Total Business-Type Activities		<u>102,637</u>
Total All Activities		<u>\$ 162,491</u>

2. We physically examined securities held for investment. Securities held in trust were confirmed directly with respective trustees. All investment transactions during the year were examined for compliance with investments authorized by Section 21-33-323, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972).

<u>Financial Institution</u>	<u>Security</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Purchase</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Ledger Cost</u>
Genesis Bank	Certificate of Deposit	0.5000%	8929	7/27/2022	7/27/2023	Water	\$ 4,417
Genesis Bank	Certificate of Deposit	0.5000%	9177	12/9/2021	12/9/2022	Water	23,483
Total							<u>\$ 27,900</u>

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Town of Benoit, Mississippi
Special Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures for Small Municipalities (Continued)
September 30, 2021

3. We performed the following procedures with respect to taxes on real and personal property (including motor vehicles) levied during the year:

- A. Proved the mathematical accuracy of the tax rolls;
- B. Traced levies to governing body minutes;
- C. Reconciled the amount of taxes levied per the tax rolls to amounts actually collected;
- D. Examined uncollected taxes for proper handling, including tax sales;
- E. Traced distribution of taxes collected to proper funds; and
- F. Analyzed increase in taxes for most recent period for comparison with increase limitations of Sections 27-39-320 to 27-39-323, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972).

Tax assessments were found to be mathematically correct and in agreement with collections as follows:

Tax Assessments	Assessed Value	Tax Millage	Tax Levy
Real	\$ 991,717		
Personal Property	121,241		
Motor Vehicle & Mobile Home	600,517		
Public Utility	166,224		
	<u>\$ 1,879,699</u>	<u>0.02800</u>	<u>\$ 52,632</u>
Add: Actual Homestead Reimbursement			5,120
Prior Year's Unpaid Realty Taxes			
Deduct : Homestead Credit			(5,999)
Total to be Accounted for			<u>\$ 51,753</u>

	Taxes	Homestead	
	Penalties & Interest	Reimbursement	Total
Credits:			
Collections allocated to:			
General Fund	\$ 43,572	\$ 5,120	\$ 48,692
Balance represented by:			
Unpaid realty taxes,			
Board Adjustments, etc.			3,061
Total Accounted for			<u>\$ 51,753</u>

The distribution of taxes to funds was found to be in accordance with prescribed tax levies, and uncollected taxes were determined to be properly handled. The tax levy could not be traced to the minutes of the Municipality.

Town of Benoit, Mississippi
Special Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures for Small Municipalities (Continued)
September 30, 2021

Ad valorem tax collections were found to be within the limitations of Sections 27-39-320 to 27-39-323, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), As follows:

Actual Collections (Excluding debt service)		Actual Collections (Excluding debt service)	
Tax Collected 2019-2020	\$ 43,608	Tax Collected 2020-2021	\$ 43,572
10% Increase	4,361	Homestead Exemption	
Tax increase due to increase in assessed value	875	Reimbursement	5,120
Total	<u>\$ 48,844</u>	Under (Over) Limitation	<u>152</u>
		Total	<u>\$ 48,844</u>

4. We obtained a statement of payments made by the Department of Finance and Administration to the Municipality. Payments indicated were traced to deposits in the respective bank accounts and recorded in the general ledger in the appropriate accounts.

Payment Purpose	Receiving Fund	General Ledger Amount
ARPA Grant	General	\$ 51,996
Sales Tax Allocation	General	25,840
MS Emergency Management	General	11,172
Homestead Reimbursement	General	5,120
MS Department of Public Safety	General	2,787
Gasoline Tax	General	1,372
General Municipal Aid	General	238
Total		<u>\$ 98,525</u>

5. We selected a sample of purchases made by the Municipality during the fiscal year. Each sample item was evaluated for compliance with purchasing requirements set forth in Sections 31-7-1, 31-7-49 and 31-7-57 Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), as applicable. We also reviewed the board minutes for approval of claims.

The sample consisted of the following:

Number of sample items: 10

Total dollar value of sample: \$14,520.18

Town of Benoit, Mississippi
Special Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures for Small Municipalities (Continued)
September 30, 2021

We found the Municipality's purchasing procedures to be in agreement with the requirements of the above-mentioned sections (except as follows).

- a. Requisitions were only of a verbal nature not written
- b. Four invoices could not be located.

6. We have read the Municipal Compliance Questionnaire completed by the Municipality. The following response to the questionnaire indicate noncompliance with state requirements:

Part V - Question 15. The Municipality has not conducted an annual inventory of its fixed assets.

The Questionnaire was not recorded in the minutes of the Municipality.

Because the above procedures do not constitute an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we do not express an opinion on any of the specific accounts or classes of transactions referred to above. In connection with the procedures referred to above, no matters came to our attention that caused us to believe the items specified in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 should be adjusted. Had we performed additional procedures, or had we conducted an audit of the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you. This report should not be associated with the financial statements of the Town of Benoit, Mississippi, for the year ended September 30, 2021.

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
Vicksburg, Mississippi
February 1, 2023

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON THE STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES

Honorable Mayor and Alderpersons
Town of Benoit, Mississippi

We have compiled the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements - Governmental and Business-Type Activities of the Town of Benoit, Mississippi, for the year ended September 30, 2021. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statement and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or provide any assurance about whether the financial statement is in accordance with the cash basis of accounting which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the cash basis of accounting and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement.

Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist management in presenting financial information in the form of financial statements without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statement.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures ordinarily included in the financial statements and the statement of cash flows required by generally accepted accounting principles. If the omitted disclosures and the statement of cash flows were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Municipality's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

The accompanying Other Information, Schedule of Investments and the Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials referred to in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the statement of cash receipts and disbursements. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying supplemental information and accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other assurance on it.

We conducted a limited scope audit as of September 30, 2021, as set forth in the Mississippi Municipal Audit and Accounting Guide which pertains to small municipalities. Under the provisions of this Guide, we performed prescribed procedures to the Municipality as outlined in the guide.

These reports are intended solely for informational use of the governing body and management of the Town of Benoit, Mississippi, and filing with the Office of the State Auditor of Mississippi. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report which is a matter of public record.

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
Vicksburg, Mississippi
February 1, 2023

TOWN OF BENOIT, MISSISSIPPI
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
Governmental and Business-type Activities
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021

	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities			Total All Activities Fiscal Year 2021
			Total Governmental Activities			Total Business-Type Activities	
	General Fund	ARPA Fund		Water & Sewer Fund			
Receipts:							
Real & Personal Property Taxes	\$ 29,394		\$ 29,394		\$ -		\$ 29,394
Motor Vehicle Property Taxes	14,178		14,178		-		14,178
Licenses and Permits	366		366		-		366
Franchise and Utility	10,767		10,767		-		10,767
State Shared Revenues:					-		
Sales Tax	25,840		25,840		-		25,840
Homestead Reimbursement	5,120		5,120		-		5,120
Gasoline Tax	1,372		1,372		-		1,372
Municipal Aid - Other	238		238		-		238
State & Federal Grants:					-		
MS Department of Public Safety	2,787		2,787		-		2,787
MS Emergency Management	11,172		11,172		-		11,172
ARPA Grant		51,996	51,996		-		51,996
Other Receipts:					-		
Miscellaneous	1,027		1,027		-		1,027
Charges for Services:					-		
Water & Sewer Fees				114,297.00		114,297.00	114,297
Total Receipts	\$ 102,261	\$ 51,996	\$ 154,257	\$ 114,297	\$ 114,297	\$ 114,297	\$ 268,554

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

TOWN OF BENOIT, MISSISSIPPI
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
Governmental and Business-type Activities
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021

	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities		Total All Activities Fiscal Year 2021
	Major Fund General Fund	ARPA Fund	Total Governmental Activities	Water & Sewer Fund	Total Business-Type Activities	
Disbursements:						
General Government	\$ 101,109		\$ 101,109			\$ 101,109
Public Streets and Structures	31,271	3,015	34,286			34,286
Debt Service	1,000		1,000			1,000
Enterprise Funds:			-			
Water & Sewer Fund			-	\$ 58,148		-
Total Operating Disbursements	133,380	3,015	136,395	58,148	-	136,395
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
Transfers In	15,000		15,000	(15,000)	(15,000)	-
Transfers Out	-		-		-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	15,000	-	15,000	(15,000)	(15,000)	-
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts and other financing sources over disbursements and other financing uses	(16,119)	48,981	32,862	41,149	41,149	74,011
Cash Basis Fund Balance: 10-1-2020	26,992	-	26,992	61,488	61,488	88,480
Cash Basis Fund Balance: 09-30-2021	\$ 10,873	\$ 48,981	\$ 59,854	\$ 102,637	\$ 102,637	\$ 162,491

**TOWN OF BENOIT, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

NOTE (A) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Town of Benoit, Mississippi (the Municipality), have been prepared using the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. That is, revenues are recognized when received rather than when measurable and available, and expenditures are recognized when paid rather than when the obligations are incurred. Accordingly, the statement of cash receipts and disbursements - all fund types, is not intended to present results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

General Information:

The Municipality operates under the Mayor and Alderpersons form of government and provides services as required by law.

Reporting Entity:

The Municipality utilizes fund accounting, with each fund being considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures.

The Municipality reports the following major Governmental Funds:

General Fund - This fund is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Governmental Fund Types:

Capital Projects Fund - The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities.

Proprietary Fund Types:

Enterprise Funds - These funds are used to account for those operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises or where the county has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred and/or net income is necessary for management accountability.

TOWN OF BENOIT, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont'd.)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

NOTE (B) Report Classifications

Receipts and disbursements were classified according to requirements for small towns in the State of Mississippi as prescribed by the Office of the State Auditor.

NOTE (C) Budget

Budgets are adopted as prescribed by the State of Mississippi. Annual appropriated budgets are adopted for all funds. The Mississippi Code Ann. (1972) prescribes cash basis reporting of revenues for budgeting of expenditures to be disbursed within thirty days after year end (with exception for construction in progress).

NOTE (D) Cash and Cash Equivalents

The carrying amount of the Municipality's deposits with financial institutions reported in the governmental funds was \$190,391, which includes \$27,900 in certificate of deposits with original maturities beyond three months. The bank balance was \$191,571.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of a financial institution, the Municipality will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Municipality does not have a formal policy for custodial credit risk. In the event of 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 Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Deposits above FDIC coverage are collateralized by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the name of the Mississippi State Treasurer on behalf of the Municipality.

NOTE (E) Property Tax

The Board of Alderpersons, each year at a meeting in September, levies property taxes for the ensuing fiscal year which begins on October 1. Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 of the current year, and personal property taxes become a lien on March 1 of the current year. Taxes on both real and personal property, however, are due on or before February 1 of the next succeeding year. Taxes on motor vehicle and mobile homes become a lien and are due in the month that coincides with the month of the original purchase. The Municipality entered into an agreement with the Bolivar County Tax Collector to bill and collect real and personal property taxes. Personal auto taxes and mobile home taxes continue to be collected and remitted to the Municipality by the county tax collector. The General Fund millage rate for the Town of Benoit was 28.00 mills.

TOWN OF BENOIT
SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Definition and Purpose	Balance Oct. 1, 2020	Additions	Reductions	Balance Sept. 30, 2021
Equipment Loan	-	27,650	512	27,138
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	27,650	512	27,138

TOWN OF BENOIT
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Financial Institution	Security	Rate	Number	Purchase	Maturity	Fund	Ledger Cost
Genesis Bank	Certificate of Deposit	0.5000%	8929	7/27/2022	7/27/2023	Water	\$ 4,417
Genesis Bank	Certificate of Deposit	0.5000%	9177	12/9/2021	12/9/2022	Water	23,483
Total							<u>\$ 27,900</u>

TOWN OF BENOIT
SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Name of Company	Policy Period Ending	Position	Person Covered	Amount
Travelers	7/3/2025	Mayor	Calvin Ervin Ward	\$ 25,000
Travelers	7/3/2025	Aldersperson	Sarah Nelson Howard	\$ 25,000
Travelers	7/3/2025	Aldersperson	Linda Farris	\$ 25,000
Travelers	7/3/2025	Aldersperson	Frederick Warren Satterfield	\$ 25,000

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Honorable Mayor and Alderpersons
Town of Benoit Mississippi

We have compiled the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements - Governmental and Business-Type Activities, and Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials for the year ended September 30, 2021, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The financial statement has been prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have performed procedures to test compliance with certain state laws and regulations as described by the Municipal Compliance Questionnaire that is prescribed by the Office of the State Auditor of Mississippi. Our procedures were substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on the Municipality's compliance with these requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

With respect to items tested, the results of those procedures, our compilation of the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements - Governmental and Business-Type Activities, and Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials, of the Town of Benoit, Mississippi, for the year ended September 30, 2021, disclosed no material instances of noncompliance with state laws and regulations.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, Town Alderpersons, and the Office of the State Auditor of Mississippi 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.

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
Vicksburg, Mississippi
February 1, 2023