

## 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 Ethel  
P O Box 58  
Ethel, MS 39067***

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

Re: Annual Municipal Compilation

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the annual compilation of the Town of Ethel, Mississippi, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021. A separate management letter was not written to the town in connection with this compilation.

An electronic copy was mailed to [municipal.reports@osa.ms.gov](mailto:municipal.reports@osa.ms.gov) on November 23, 2022

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwen Sims", written in a cursive style.

Gwen Sims  
Mayor

**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI  
COMPILATION REPORT  
AND REPORT ON AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI  
COMPILATION REPORT AND REPORT ON AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

**Contents**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Independent Accountants' Compilation Report	1
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements- Governmental and Business-type Activities	3
Supplementary Information	
Schedule of Investments	7
Schedule of Capital Assets	8
Schedule of Long-Term Debt	9
Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials	10
Report on Compliance with State Laws and Regulations	11
Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures	12



**WATKINS, WARD and STAFFORD**  
Professional Limited Liability Company  
Certified Public Accountants

James L. Stafford, CPA	Anita L. Goodrum, CPA
Harry W. Stevens, CPA	Ricky D. Allen, CPA
S. Keith Winfield, CPA	Jason D. Brooks, CPA
William B. Staggers, CPA	Robert E. Cordle, Jr., CPA
Michael W. McCully, CPA	Perry C. Rackley, Jr., CPA
R. Steve Sinclair, CPA	Jerry L. Gammel, CPA
Marsha L. McDonald, CPA	Michael C. Knox, CPA
Wanda S. Holley, CPA	Clifford P. Stewart, CPA
Robin Y. McCormick, CPA/PFS	Edward A. Maxwell, CPA
J. Randy Scrivner, CPA	Bradley L. Harrison, CPA
Kimberly S. Caskey, CPA	Justin H. Keller, CPA
Susan M. Lummus, CPA	Dana R. Estes, CPA
Stephen D. Flake, CPA	April W. Posey, CPA
John N. Russell, CPA	

## **INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' COMPILATION REPORT**

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen  
Town of Ethel, Mississippi

Management is responsible for the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements-Governmental and Business-type Activities of the Town of Ethel, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2022, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable financial reporting framework. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements-Governmental and Business-type Activities nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on these financial statements.

The Statements of Cash Receipts and Disbursements-Governmental and Business-type Activities is prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management has elected to omit substantially all the disclosures ordinarily included in financial statements prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. If the omitted disclosures were included in the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements-Governmental and Business-type Activities, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Town of Ethel, Mississippi's cash receipts and disbursements. Accordingly, the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements-Governmental and Business-type Activities is not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

The supplementary information contained in Schedule of Investments, Schedule of Capital Assets, Schedule of Long-Term Debt and Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials is presented in compliance with the requirements of the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor and has been compiled from information that is the representation of management. This information was subject to our compilation engagement; however, we have not audited or reviewed the required supplementary information and, accordingly, do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on such information.

The Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements - Governmental and Business-type Activities is intended to comply with the requirements of the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor, and is not intended to be a presentation in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with the provisions of §21-35-31, Miss Code Ann. (1972), we have issued a report dated June 19, 2024 on the results of our agreed-upon procedures.

Kosciusko, Mississippi  
June 19, 2024

*Watkins Ward and Stafford, P.C.*

**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS-**  
**GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business-type Activities</u>
	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Water &amp; Sewer Fund</u>
<b>CASH RECEIPTS:</b>		
Taxes		
General property tax	\$ 37,632	\$ -
Franchise tax	6,564	-
Privilege tax	445	-
Intergovernmental revenue		
State shared revenue		
General municipal aid	83,155	-
Sales tax	28,673	-
Gasoline tax	1,066	-
Fire protection allocation	4,398	-
Nuclear plant	2,628	-
Homestead reimbursement	5,168	-
Federal grants	187,273	-
Charges for services		
Water utility	-	151,360
Other receipts		
General fund revenue	2,445	-
Interest earned	90	14
Miscellaneous	990	-
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>	<u>\$ 360,527</u>	<u>\$ 151,374</u>

See accompanying independent accountants' compilation report.

**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI  
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS-  
GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business-type Activities</u>
	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Water &amp; Sewer Fund</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
General government	\$ 74,889	\$ -
Water Utility	-	107,432
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>\$ 74,889</u>	<u>\$ 107,432</u>

**See accompanying independent accountants' compilation report.**



**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS-**  
**GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business-type Activities</u>
	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Water &amp; Sewer Fund</u>
<b>EXCESS OF CASH RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>\$ 285,638</u>	<u>\$ 43,942</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>		
Transfers	(4,211)	4,211
Change in payroll liability	4,300	(4,256)
Capital outlay	<u>(443,395)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>	<u>(443,306)</u>	<u>(45)</u>
 <b>Excess of cash receipts and other financing sources over disbursements and other financing sources (uses)</b>	 <u>(157,668)</u>	 <u>43,897</u>
<b>CASH BALANCE-BEGINNING</b>	<u>355,835</u>	<u>96,464</u>
<b>CASH BALANCE-ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 198,167</u>	<u>\$ 140,361</u>

See accompanying independent accountants' compilation report.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI  
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

Ownership	Type of Investment	Interest Rate	Acquisition	Maturity	Bank	Amount
General Fund	CD	0.30%	8/6/2020	8/6/2023	Renasant	\$ 21,903
General Fund	CD	0.30%	6/30/2020	6/30/2023	Renasant	20,448
					Total	<u>\$ 42,351</u>

**See accompanying independent accountants' compilation report.**

**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI  
SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

**General Fund:**

	Balance 9/30/2021	Additions & Reclassifications	Retirements & Reclassifications	Balance 9/30/2022
Land	\$ 20,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,500
Building	428,165	-	-	428,165
Equipment	558,602	931	-	559,533
Infrastructure	248,386	442,464	-	690,850
Total General Fund	\$ 1,255,653	443,395	-	\$ 1,699,048

**Proprietary Fund:**

Land	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,100
Equipment	1,342,026	-	-	1,342,026
Total Proprietary Fund	\$ 1,343,126	-	-	\$ 1,343,126

**See accompanying independent accountants' compilation report.**

**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI  
SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

None

**See accompanying independent accountants' compilation report.**

**TOWN OF ETHEL, MISSISSIPPI  
SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>INSURANCE COMPANY</u>	<u>COVERAGE</u>
Mayor	Gwen Sims	Travelers	\$ 50,000
City Clerk	Lina White	Travelers	\$ 50,000
Deputy Clerk	Christina Johnson	Travelers	\$ 50,000
Alderwoman	Kathy Barksdale	Travelers	\$ 10,000
Alderwoman	Patricia Bouley	Travelers	\$ 10,000
Alderwoman	Lydia Fair	Travelers	\$ 10,000
Alderman	Caswell Johnson	Travelers	\$ 10,000
Alderwoman	Ophelia Mitchell	Travelers	\$ 10,000

**See accompanying independent accountants' compilation report.**



**WATKINS, WARD and STAFFORD**  
Professional Limited Liability Company  
Certified Public Accountants

James L. Stafford, CPA  
Harry W. Stevens, CPA  
S. Keith Winfield, CPA  
William B. Stagers, CPA  
Michael W. McCully, CPA  
R. Steve Sinclair, CPA  
Marsha L. McDonald, CPA  
Wanda S. Holley, CPA  
Robin Y. McCormick, CPA/PFS  
J. Randy Scrivner, CPA  
Kimberly S. Caskey, CPA  
Susan M. Lummus, CPA  
Stephen D. Flake, CPA  
John N. Russell, CPA

Anita L. Goodrum, CPA  
Ricky D. Allen, CPA  
Jason D. Brooks, CPA  
Robert E. Cordle, Jr., CPA  
Perry C. Rackley, Jr., CPA  
Jerry L. Gammel, CPA  
Michael C. Knox, CPA  
Clifford P. Stewart, CPA  
Edward A. Maxwell, CPA  
Bradley L. Harrison, CPA  
Justin H. Keller, CPA  
Dana R. Estes, CPA  
April W. Posey, CPA

**REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

The Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen  
Town of Ethel, Mississippi

We have compiled the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements-Governmental and Business-type Activities, Schedule of Investments, Schedule of Capital Assets, Schedule of Long-Term Debt and Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials of the Town of Ethel, Mississippi, for the year ended September 30, 2022, in accordance with Statements of 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 generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

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

With respect to the items tested, the results of those procedures and our compilation of the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements-Governmental and Business-type Activities, Schedule of Investments, Schedule of Capital Assets, Schedule of Long-Term Debt and Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials of the Town of Ethel, Mississippi, for the year ended September 30, 2022, disclosed no instances of noncompliance with state laws and regulations.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management 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.

Kosciusko, Mississippi  
June 19, 2024

*Watkins Ward and Stafford, PLLC*



**WATKINS, WARD and STAFFORD**  
Professional Limited Liability Company  
Certified Public Accountants

James L. Stafford, CPA  
Harry W. Stevens, CPA  
S. Keith Winfield, CPA  
William B. Staggers, CPA  
Michael W. McCully, CPA  
R. Steve Sinclair, CPA  
Marsha L. McDonald, CPA  
Wanda S. Holley, CPA  
Robin Y. McCormick, CPA/PFS  
J. Randy Scrivner, CPA  
Kimberly S. Caskey, CPA  
Susan M. Lummus, CPA  
Stephen D. Flake, CPA  
John N. Russell, CPA

Anita L. Goodrum, CPA  
Ricky D. Allen, CPA  
Jason D. Brooks, CPA  
Robert E. Cordle, Jr., CPA  
Perry C. Rackley, Jr., CPA  
Jerry L. Gammel, CPA  
Michael C. Knox, CPA  
Clifford P. Stewart, CPA  
Edward A. Maxwell, CPA  
Bradley L. Harrison, CPA  
Justin H. Keller, CPA  
Dana R. Estes, CPA  
April W. Posey, CPA

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING  
AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

The Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen  
Town of Ethel, Mississippi

We have applied certain agreed-upon procedures, as discussed below, to the accounting records of the Town of Ethel, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2022, and for the year then ended, as required by the Office of the State Auditor, under the provisions of Section 21-35-31, Miss. Code Ann. (1972). It is understood the report is solely for the use of the governing body of the Town of Ethel, Mississippi and the Office of the State Auditor and should not be used for any other purposes. 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:

Payment Purpose	Receiving Fund	Amount
Gasoline Tax	General Fund	\$ 1,066
General Municipal Aid	General Fund	208
Nuclear Payments in lieu of Taxes	General Fund	2,628
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	General Fund	5,168
Fire Protection Allocation	General Fund	4,398
Other Aid	General Fund	82,947
Sales Tax Allocation	General Fund	28,673
		<u>\$ 125,088</u>

All investments were confirmed directly with respective trustees. All investment transactions during the year were examined for compliance with investments authorized by §21-33-323, Miss. Code Ann. (1972). This total is included in the ending cash balance in the statement of cash receipts and disbursements.

Type	Fund	Value
Certificate of Deposit	General Fund	\$ 21,903
Certificate of Deposit	General Fund	20,448
		<u>\$ 42,351</u>

- 2) We performed the following procedures with respect to taxes on real and personal property



(including motor vehicles) levied during the fiscal year:

- a. Trace levies to governing body minutes;
- b. Traced distribution of taxes collected to proper funds; and
- c. Analyzed increase in taxes for most recent period for compliance with increase limitations of Sections 27-39-320 to 27-39-323, Miss. Code Ann. (1972).

The distribution of taxes to funds was found to be in accordance with prescribed tax levies.

Ad valorem tax collections were found to be within the limitations of §27-39-320 to §27-39-323, Miss. Code Ann. (1972).

There were no ad valorem collections for the retirement of General Obligation Debt.

- 3) We obtained a statement of payments made by the Department of Finance and Administration to the municipality. Payments indicated were traced to deposit in the respective bank accounts and recorded in the general ledger without exception. Payments traced were as follows:

Payment Purpose	Receiving Fund	Amount
Gasoline Tax	General Fund	\$ 1,066
General Municipal Aid	General Fund	208
Nuclear Payments in lieu of Taxes	General Fund	2,628
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	General Fund	5,168
Fire Protection Allocation	General Fund	4,398
Other Aid	General Fund	82,947
Sales Tax Allocation	General Fund	28,673
		<u>\$ 125,088</u>

- 4) 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 Title 31, Chapter 7, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), as applicable.

The sample consisted of the following:

- a. Number of Sample Items 13
- b. Total Dollar Value of Sample \$8,150

We found the municipality's purchasing procedures to be in agreement with the requirements of the above-mentioned sections.

- 5) We determined that the Town of Ethel does not have its own court. All cases are sent to the Justice Court. Therefore, there were no fines to be tested for the year.
- 6) We have read the Municipal Compliance Questionnaire completed by the municipality. The completed survey indicated no instances of noncompliance with state requirements except the

late filing of the questionnaire itself filed in June 2023 instead of thirty days after fiscal year-end.

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, and 3 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 Ethel, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2022.

Kosciusko, Mississippi  
June 19, 2024

*Watkins Ward and Stafford, PLLC*