

**TOWN OF LIBERTY GROVE
DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN**
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The basic financial statements of the Town of Liberty Grove, Wisconsin (the "Town") have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The significant accounting principles and policies utilized by the Town are described below:

1. Reporting Entity

The Town of Liberty Grove, Wisconsin, is a municipal corporation governed by an elected five member board. In accordance with GAAP, the basic financial statements are required to include the Town (the primary government) and any separate component units that have a significant operational or financial relationship with the Town. The component unit discussed below is included in the Town's reporting entity because of the significance of their operational and/or financial relationship with the Town.

2. Component Unit Disclosure

The Town of Liberty Grove Sanitary District #1 (District) is governed by the five member Town Board of Liberty Grove. Although legally separate from the Town, the District is reported as if it was part of the primary government because the Town Board is serving as their governing body. The District provides water and sanitary services to parts of the Town.

3. Joint Ventures

Sister Bay/Liberty Grove Joint Fire Department

The Town of Liberty Grove and the Village of Sister Bay formed a joint fire department in the 1930's to provide for services to its citizens. An intergovernmental agreement was adopted in 2010 to provide for the continuing operation of the joint fire department. The agreement creates a Fire Board composed of three members from the Town of Liberty Grove and two from Sister Bay Boards. All Fire Board members shall be elected officials of the Town and Village. In accordance with the agreement, the costs of these services are shared by the Town and Village on a basis of 2/3 of the cost being paid by the Town and 1/3 of the cost being paid by the Village. These percentages are based on the approximate percentage of the assessed property value of the Town and the Village to the total assessed property of each entity combined. During 2015, the Town remitted \$229,636 to the joint fire department. The Town has an equity interest in the net position of the Sister Bay/Liberty Grove Joint Fire Department. At December 31, 2015 the Town's equity interest was \$1,120,868. Complete financial information for Sister Bay/Liberty Grove Fire Department can be obtained from the department office in Sister Bay.

Joint Public Library Facility

The Town of Liberty Grove and the Village of Sister Bay entered into an agreement on June 12, 2001 for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a building to be used as a joint public library facility. The construction costs and annual building operation and maintenance costs are financed 1/2 by the Town and 1/2 by the Village. The Sister Bay Liberty Grove Library Building Commission is governed by a six member board of commissioners composed of three members from Liberty Grove and 3 members from Sister Bay. During 2015, the Town remitted an operating appropriation of \$30,422 to the joint library facility. The Town accounts for its share of the operations in the general fund. The Town does not have an equity interest in the joint venture. Complete financial statements for the Sister Bay Liberty Grove Library Building Commission can be obtained from the Commission located in Sister Bay, Wisconsin.

The operation of the library is part of the Door County Consolidated Library System in accordance with an agreement with Door County.

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NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

4. Jointly Governed Organization
Door County Tourism Zone

The Town of Liberty Grove is a participant with all other Door County municipalities in a joint venture to create the Door County Tourism Zone as prescribed under Wisconsin Statute 66.0615. The Tourism Zone is responsible for collecting a 5.5% room tax on the gross receipts from retail furnishing of rooms or lodgings over all of the member municipalities. The Tourism Zone pays 66% of the room tax collected to the Door County Visitor Bureau, 30% to the member municipalities and retains 4% for its operations. During 2015, the Town of Liberty Grove received \$85,653 of room tax from the Tourism Zone. Complete financial information for the Door County Tourism Zone Commission can be obtained from their office in Sister Bay.

5. Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the Town. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. *Governmental activities*, which are primarily supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for services.

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

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and proprietary funds. Governmental funds include the general fund. Proprietary funds include the enterprise fund. The Town has no internal service funds.

The Town reports the following major governmental fund:

GENERAL FUND

This is the Town's main operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government.

The Town reports the following major enterprise fund:

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY FUND

This fund accounts for the operations of the Town's water utility and sewer utility.

6. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

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

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NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Town considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Revenues susceptible to accrual include intergovernmental grants, intergovernmental charges for services, public charges for services and interest. Other revenues such as licenses and permits, other fines and forfeits and miscellaneous revenues are recognized when received in cash or when measurable and available.

As a general rule the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are payments-in-lieu of taxes and other charges between the Town's water and wastewater functions and various other functions of the Town. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, and fees and fines, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions. Internally dedicated resources are reported as *general revenues* rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the Town's enterprise funds are charges to customers for services. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

7. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Fund Balance

a. Cash and Investments

Cash and investments are combined in the financial statements. Cash deposits consist of demand and time deposits with financial institutions and are carried at cost. Investments are stated at fair value. Fair value is the amount at which a financial instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. For purposes of the statement of cash flows, all cash deposits and highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) with a maturity of three months or less from date of acquisition are considered to be cash equivalents.

b. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable of proprietary funds is recorded at gross amount with uncollectible amounts recognized under the direct write-off method. No allowance for uncollectible accounts has been provided since it is believed that the amount of such allowance would not be material to the basic financial statements.

c. Inventories

Inventories are recorded at cost, which approximates market, using the first-in, first-out method. Inventories consist of expendable supplies held for consumption. The cost is recorded as an expenditure at the time individual inventory items are consumed rather than when purchased.

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NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Inventories of governmental funds in the fund financial statements are offset by nonspendable fund balance to indicate that they do not represent spendable available financial resources.

d. Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors that will benefit periods beyond the end of the current fiscal year are recorded as prepaid items.

Prepaid items of governmental funds in the fund financial statements are offset by nonspendable fund balance amounts to indicate that they do not represent spendable available financial resources.

e. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets, are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities column in the government-wide financial statements. The Town does not have a formal capitalization policy. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Capital assets of the water and sewer utility are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

	Governmental	Business-type
	Activities	Activities
	Years	
<u>Assets</u>		
Buildings	25 - 40	25 - 40
Improvements other than buildings	25 - 50	25 - 100
Machinery and equipment	10 - 20	3 - 10
Infrastructure	25 - 50	18 - 135

f. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Town currently does not have any items that qualify for reporting in this category.

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NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Town has one type of item that qualifies for reporting in this category, property taxes. This amount will be recognized as an inflow of resources in the subsequent year for which it was levied. The Town also has an additional type of item, which arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting, which qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item, unavailable revenue, is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from one source, tower investment receivable. The amount is deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amount becomes available.

g. Long-term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and proprietary fund in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund statement of net position. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Debt issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as expenses in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

h. Fund Equity

GOVERNMENTAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fund balance of governmental funds is reported in various categories based on the nature of any limitations requiring the use of resources for specific purposes. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

- Nonspendable fund balance - Amounts that are not in spendable form (such as inventory, prepaid items, or long-term receivables) or are legally or contractually required to remain intact.
- Restricted fund balance - Amounts that are constrained for specific purposes by external parties (such as grantor or bondholders), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.
- Committed fund balance - Amounts that are constrained for specific purposes by action of the Town Board. These constraints can only be removed or changed by the Town Board using the same action that was used to create them.
- Assigned fund balance - Amounts that are constrained for specific purposes by action of Town management. The Town Board has not authorized an employee to assign fund balance.
- Unassigned fund balance - Amounts that are available for any purpose.

The Town has not adopted a fund balance spend-down policy regarding the order in which fund balance will be utilized. When a policy does not specify the spend-down policy, GASB Statement No. 54 indicates that restricted funds would be spent first, followed by committed funds, and then assigned funds. Unassigned funds would be spent last.

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NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND PROPRIETARY FUND STATEMENTS**

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- Net investment in capital assets - Amount of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and capital related deferred outflows of resources less outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets and any capital related deferred inflows of resources.
- Restricted net position - Amount of net position that is subject to restrictions that are imposed by 1) external groups, such as creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments or 2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- Unrestricted net position - Net position that is neither classified as restricted nor as net investment in capital assets.

8. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE B - STEWARDSHIP AND COMPLIANCE**Budgets and Budgetary Accounting**

The Town follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the basic financial statements:

1. During November, the Town Clerk and Administrator submit a proposed operating budget for the calendar year commencing the following January 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. After submission to the governing body, public hearings are held to obtain taxpayer comments. Following the public hearings, the proposed budget, including authorized additions and deletions, is legally enacted by Town Board action.
2. Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for the general fund. Budget is defined as the originally approved budget plus or minus approved amendments. Individual amendments throughout the year were not material in relation to the original budget. Budget appropriations not expended during the year are closed to fund balance unless authorized by the governing body to be forwarded into the succeeding year's budget.
3. During the year, formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device for the general fund.
4. Expenditures may not exceed appropriations at the function level for the Town. Amendments to the budget during the year are authorized by the Town Board.
5. Encumbrance accounting is not formally used by the Town.

The Town did not have any material violation of legal or contractual provisions for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

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NOTE C - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS

1. Cash and Investments

The Town maintains various cash and investment accounts. Invested cash consists of deposits and investments that are restricted by Wisconsin Statutes to the following:

Time deposits; repurchase agreements; securities issued by federal, state and local governmental entities; statutorily authorized commercial paper and corporate securities; and the Wisconsin local government investment pool.

The carrying amount of the Town's cash and investments totaled \$3,630,827 on December 31, 2015 and consisted entirely of deposits with financial institutions.

Reconciliation to the basic financial statements:

Government-wide Statement of Net Position

Cash and investments	\$ 3,604,053
Restricted cash and investments	26,774
	\$ 3,630,827

Deposits and investments of the Town are subject to various risks. The following is a discussion of the specific risks and the Town's policy related to the risk.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for *deposits* is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, a government will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The custodial credit risk for *investments* is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty (e.g., broker-dealer) to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of another party. Wisconsin statutes require repurchase agreements to be fully collateralized by bonds or securities issued or guaranteed by the federal government or its instrumentalities. The Town does not have an additional custodial credit risk policy.

Deposits with financial institutions within the State of Wisconsin are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in the amount of \$250,000 for the combined amount of all time and savings deposits and \$250,000 for interest-bearing and noninterest-bearing demand deposits per official custodian per insured depository institution. Deposits with financial institutions located outside the State of Wisconsin are insured by the FDIC in the amount of \$250,000 for the combined amount of all deposit accounts per official custodian per depository institution. Also, the State of Wisconsin has a State Guarantee Fund which provides a maximum of \$400,000 per public depository above the amount provided by an agency of the U.S. Government. However, due to the relatively small size of the State Guarantee Fund in relation to the Fund's total coverage, total recovery of insured losses may not be available.

As of December 31, 2015, \$2,323,330 of the Town's deposits with financial institutions were in excess of federal and state depository insurance limits and uncollateralized. Uninsured deposits consist entirely of advance tax collections that will be remitted to other local governments in January of 2016.

TOWN OF LIBERTY GROVE
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NOTE C - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)

2. Property Taxes

Property taxes consist of taxes on real estate and personal property. They are levied during December of the prior year and become an enforceable lien on property the following January 1. Property taxes are payable in various options depending on the type and amount. Personal property taxes are payable on or before January 31 in full. Real estate taxes are payable in full by January 31 or in two equal installments on or before January 31 and July 31. Real estate taxes not paid by January 31 are purchased by the County as part of the February tax settlement. Delinquent personal property taxes remain the collection responsibility of the Town.

The Town bills and collects its own property taxes and also levies and collects taxes for the Gibraltar School District, Door County, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and the State of Wisconsin. The Town contracts with Door County to perform the tax collection function.

3. Restricted Assets

Restricted assets on December 31, 2015 totaled \$26,774 and consisted of cash and investments collected from water utility impact fees.

4. Tower Investment Receivable

During 2015, the Town entered into an agreement with a private entity to lease Town property on which a wireless tower will be constructed. Under terms of the agreement, the Town will receive monthly lease rental payments in various amounts dependent upon certain conditions.

As part of the lease agreement, the Town has provided \$14,000 toward the cost of tower construction. The Town will own a portion of the tower equal to its initial investment of \$14,000 until the private entity reaches specified numbers of subscribers. Upon reaching the first level of subscribers, the Town will be repaid \$7,000 of its investment. The remaining \$7,000 will be repaid upon reaching the second level of subscribers.

The Town has recorded its \$14,000 investment in this project as a receivable in the Statement of Net Position and the Balance Sheet.