



COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

The Board of County Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. All agenda items are due in the Board's office one week prior to the meeting date.

Today's Date: 5/25/2017 Meeting Date: 6/1/2017

Name: Ben Scott Department: BCC Administration

Division Manager's Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Scott".

1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:

Richard Powell
Presentation of 2015-2016 Audit

2. Recommended Motion/Action:

There is no recommended motion or action.

3. Fiscal impact on current budget.

This item has no effect on the current budget.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016



Powell & Jones
Certified Public Accountants

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**To the Board of County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Columbia County, Florida**

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia County, Florida, as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements which collectively comprise Columbia County, Florida's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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 fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, 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 statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate under 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 statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia County, Florida as of September 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

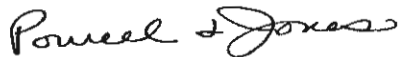
Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 11 through 18, budgetary comparison information on pages 68 through 75 and pension schedules on pages 76 through 77, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Columbia County, Florida's financial statements as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by *Chapter 10.550 Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General*; and is not a required part of the financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The combining nonmajor fund financial statements, listed in the table of contents, are also presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. This information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, this information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 16, 2017 on our consideration of Columbia County, Florida's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, in considering the Columbia County, Florida's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

POWELL & JONES
Certified Public Accountants
March 16, 2017

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2016**

	Special Revenue Funds						Capital Projects Funds		Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	County Transpor- tation Trust	Municipal Services	Clerk of Courts Operating	Sheriff Operating	Economic Development	County Facilities	Road Improvement		
ASSETS										
Cash	\$ 1,789,883	\$ 849,612	\$ 398,941	\$ 92,306	\$ 1,343,985	\$ 63,589	\$ 6,090,546	\$ 5,333,065	\$ 5,987,507	\$ 21,949,444
Accounts receivable	2,222	-	26,761	-	25,118	-	-	-	8,557	64,658
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	-	57,348	-	-	-	57,348
Due from other funds	2,059,380	-	935,637	164,136	26,318	-	-	-	967,482	4,152,953
Due from other governmental units	1,526,534	550,862	41,058	20,387	31,573	-	-	2,625,122	217,740	5,013,276
Inventories	-	85,233	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,233
Prepaid expenses	1,960	-	-	-	43,848	-	-	-	4,918	50,726
Investments	10,336,390	3,487,750	2,956,943	-	-	393,776	-	1,753,933	1,207,380	20,136,172
Other current assets	6,937	1,913	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	-	10,850
Total assets	\$ 15,723,306	\$ 4,975,370	\$ 4,361,340	\$ 276,829	\$ 1,470,842	\$ 516,723	\$ 6,090,546	\$ 9,712,120	\$ 8,393,584	\$ 51,520,660
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES										
LIABILITIES										
Accounts payable	\$ 373,741	\$ 420,569	\$ 242,142	\$ 2,486	\$ 115,435	\$ 2,513	\$ 17,387	\$ 333,700	\$ 103,165	\$ 1,611,138
Due to other funds	-	-	-	98,896	842,839	-	-	-	411,341	1,353,076
Due to other governmental units	-	-	-	21,433	-	-	-	170,000	21,919	213,352
Accrued wages	53,503	-	8,646	-	-	1,856	-	-	10,796	74,801
Accrued payroll liabilities	67,893	40,001	2,181	14,834	505,520	-	-	-	19,367	649,796
Deposits	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
Unearned revenues	-	-	19,855	139,180	-	-	-	-	-	159,035
Other current liabilities	-	-	335	-	7,048	-	-	-	-	7,383
Total liabilities	495,137	460,570	273,159	276,829	1,470,842	4,369	19,887	503,700	566,588	4,071,081
Fund balances										
Nonspendable:										
Inventories	-	85,233	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,233
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	-	57,348	-	-	-	57,348
Advance	971,030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	971,030
Other	1,960	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	4,918	8,878
Restricted	1,043,508	4,429,567	4,088,161	-	-	-	-	-	7,383,050	16,944,306
Committed	944,429	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,976	979,405
Assigned	773,662	-	-	-	-	453,006	6,070,659	9,208,420	404,062	16,909,799
Unassigned	11,493,580	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,493,580
Total fund balances	15,228,169	4,514,800	4,088,191	-	-	512,354	6,070,659	9,208,420	7,826,996	47,449,579
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 15,723,306	\$ 4,975,370	\$ 4,361,340	\$ 276,829	\$ 1,470,842	\$ 516,723	\$ 6,090,546	\$ 9,712,120	\$ 8,393,584	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and are therefore not reported in the funds:

Long-term debt transactions are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:

Interest payable

Bonds payable

Capital leases

Accrued compensated absences

County's proportionate share of FRS net pension liability and related deferred outflow/inflows

Net position of governmental activities

119,748,531

(17,540)

(10,062,567)

(1,610,194)

(2,199,466)

(19,323,544)

\$ 133,378,799

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

	Special Revenue Funds						Capital Projects Funds		Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	County Transportation Trust	Municipal Services	Clerk of Courts Operating	Sheriff Operating	Economic Development	County Facilities	Road Improvement		
REVENUES										
Taxes	\$ 23,448,582	\$ 4,218,074	\$ 505,156	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,012,135	\$ 31,183,947
Licenses and permits, special assessments	19,238	-	9,500,891	-	-	-	-	-	18,433	9,538,562
Intergovernmental	6,409,033	4,697,535	272,183	118,337	69,329	1,070,000	-	4,379,217	731,021	17,746,655
Charges for services	2,079,148	5,524	15,895	1,137,479	227,107	-	27,325	-	2,470,267	5,962,745
Fines and forfeitures	106,242	-	-	497,067	-	-	-	-	272,385	875,694
Interest	71,114	27,870	25,963	-	1,372	9,363	-	22,424	13,570	171,676
Miscellaneous	386,009	195,487	33,026	-	182,120	13,765	-	-	100,967	891,374
Total revenues	32,519,366	9,144,490	10,353,114	1,752,883	459,928	1,093,128	27,325	4,401,641	6,618,778	66,370,653
EXPENDITURES										
Current expenditures										
General government	4,529,567	-	347,584	683,496	-	-	122,121	-	3,749,818	9,432,586
Public safety	3,076,574	-	5,558,788	-	12,830,333	-	10,679	-	137,884	21,614,258
Physical environment	1,182,912	7,467	3,531,636	-	-	-	7,907	-	-	4,729,922
Transportation	-	7,083,484	-	-	-	-	350	2,044,334	157,900	9,286,068
Economic environment	187,694	-	11,531	-	-	350,063	-	-	1,068,196	1,597,484
Human services	2,544,961	-	-	-	-	-	70,000	-	-	2,614,961
Culture/recreation	1,298,378	-	-	-	-	-	90,343	-	785,639	2,174,360
Court-related	-	-	-	1,398,094	-	-	-	-	698,166	2,096,260
Capital outlay										
General government	217,896	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	133,440	351,336
Public safety	115,753	-	29,452	-	208,478	-	282,312	-	96,262	732,257
Physical environment	88,532	-	-	-	-	-	52,794	-	-	141,326
Transportation	-	551,489	-	-	-	-	39,141	3,593,431	739,207	4,923,268
Culture/recreation	60,557	-	-	-	-	-	35,668	-	-	96,225
Court-related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,814	15,814
Debt services										
Principal	-	152,417	3,547,118	-	-	451,514	-	-	3,273,777	7,424,826
Interest	-	54,119	89,347	-	-	38,294	-	-	59,717	241,467
Total expenditures	13,282,824	7,848,976	13,115,456	2,081,590	13,038,811	839,861	711,315	5,637,765	10,915,820	67,472,418
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	19,236,542	1,295,514	(2,762,342)	(328,707)	(12,578,883)	253,267	(683,990)	(1,238,124)	(4,297,042)	(1,101,765)
Other financing sources (uses)										
Loan proceeds	-	-	3,315,370	-	-	-	-	-	8,000,000	9,315,370
Sale of fixed assets	-	16,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	277,062	293,562
Interfund transfers in	788,581	-	-	328,707	12,578,883	-	7,384,746	4,063,663	18,663,589	43,808,169
Interfund transfers out	(18,310,522)	(2,700,000)	(2,000,000)	-	-	(1,315,000)	(838,800)	-	(17,546,847)	(42,509,169)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(17,521,941)	(2,683,500)	1,315,370	328,707	12,578,883	(1,315,000)	6,747,946	4,063,663	7,393,804	10,907,932
Net change in fund balances	1,714,601	(1,387,986)	(1,446,972)	-	-	(1,061,733)	6,063,956	2,827,539	3,096,762	9,806,167
Fund balances beginning of year	13,513,568	5,902,786	5,535,153	-	-	1,574,087	6,703	6,380,881	4,730,234	37,643,412
Fund balances end of year	\$ 15,228,169	\$ 4,514,800	\$ 4,088,181	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 512,354	\$ 6,070,659	\$ 9,208,420	\$ 7,826,996	\$ 47,449,579
See notes to financial statements.										

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
September 30, 2016

	Landfill Enterprise	Utilities	Total
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	\$ 880	\$ 712,221	\$ 713,101
Accounts receivable net of allowance for uncollectible accounts	425,116	8,939	434,055
Due from other governmental units	90,909	-	90,909
Investments	3,062,617	-	3,062,617
Total current assets	3,579,522	721,160	4,300,682
Noncurrent Assets			
Restricted assets			
Cash	98,344	-	98,344
Investments	7,287,384	-	7,287,384
Total restricted assets	7,385,728	-	7,385,728
Fixed assets			
Land	887,973	1,104,874	1,992,847
Buildings	508,514	131,200	639,714
Improvements other than buildings	12,175,435	4,024,312	16,199,747
Equipment	3,436,576	63,711	3,500,287
Construction in progress	60,632	167,620	228,252
Allowance for depreciation	(9,249,214)	(1,257,458)	(10,506,672)
Total fixed assets	7,819,916	4,234,259	12,054,175
Total noncurrent assets	15,205,644	4,234,259	19,439,903
Total assets	18,785,166	4,955,419	23,740,585
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Florida Retirement System pension related	262,534	-	262,534
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	98,649	4,965	103,614
Accrued wages	7,818	-	7,818
Due to other funds	-	1,453,869	1,453,869
Interest payable	-	5,726	5,726
Accrued compensated absences	30,000	-	30,000
Deposits	17,322	8,570	25,892
Note payable, short-term portion	-	107,009	107,009
Current portion County's share FRS net pension liability	35,378	-	35,378
Total current liabilities	189,167	1,580,139	1,769,306
Current Liabilities Payable from Restricted Assets			
Landfill postclosure costs	204,520	-	204,520
Total current liabilities payable from restricted assets	204,520	-	204,520

(Continued)

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
September 30, 2016**

	<u>Landfill Enterprise</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Total</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Share of Florida State Retirement pension liability	\$ 362,481	\$ -	\$ 362,481
Loan payable Department of Environmental Protection	-	1,077,834	1,077,834
Estimated landfill closure liability	9,580,647	-	9,580,647
Accrued compensated absences	5,029	-	5,029
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>9,948,157</u>	<u>1,077,834</u>	<u>11,025,991</u>
Total liabilities	<u>10,341,844</u>	<u>2,657,973</u>	<u>12,999,817</u>
 DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Florida Retirement System pension related	<u>102,229</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,229</u>
 NET POSITION			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	7,819,916	3,049,416	10,869,332
Unrestricted	783,711	(751,970)	31,741
Total net position	<u>\$ 8,603,627</u>	<u>\$ 2,297,446</u>	<u>\$ 10,901,073</u>

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

PROPRIETARY FUNDS

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

	<u>Landfill Enterprise</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Totals</u>
OPERATING REVENUES			
Licenses and permits	\$ -	\$ 5,097	\$ 5,097
Charges for services			
Physical environment			
Garbage/solid waste revenue	3,130,842	-	3,130,842
Water and wastewater revenue	4,312	69,265	73,577
Total operating revenues	<u>3,135,154</u>	<u>74,362</u>	<u>3,209,516</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Landfill and water/wastewater utilities			
Personnel services	708,903	-	708,903
Operating expenses	1,342,786	72,396	1,415,182
Depreciation	567,877	209,993	777,870
Total landfill and water/wastewater utilities	<u>2,619,566</u>	<u>282,389</u>	<u>2,901,955</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>2,619,566</u>	<u>282,389</u>	<u>2,901,955</u>
Operating Income (loss)	<u>515,588</u>	<u>(208,027)</u>	<u>307,561</u>
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)			
State grants			
Physical environment			
State grants	92,909	-	92,909
Gain (loss) on disposal of capital assets	84,228	-	84,228
Interest earnings	103,939	1,640	105,579
Debt service costs			
Interest	-	(30,345)	(30,345)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	<u>281,076</u>	<u>(28,705)</u>	<u>252,371</u>
Change in net position before operating transfers	<u>796,664</u>	<u>(236,732)</u>	<u>559,932</u>
Operating transfers out	<u>(1,814,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,814,000)</u>
Operating transfers in	<u>-</u>	<u>515,000</u>	<u>515,000</u>
Change in net position after operating transfers	<u>(1,017,336)</u>	<u>278,268</u>	<u>(739,068)</u>
Net position at beginning of year	<u>9,620,963</u>	<u>2,019,178</u>	<u>11,640,141</u>
Net position at end of year	<u>\$ 8,603,627</u>	<u>\$ 2,297,446</u>	<u>\$ 10,901,073</u>
See notes to financial statements.			

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS**

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

	<u>Landfill Enterprise</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Cash flows received from customers	\$ 3,112,266	\$ 75,539	\$ 3,187,805
Cash paid to employees	(476,504)	-	(476,504)
Cash paid for employee benefits	(199,087)	-	(199,087)
Cash paid to vendors	(1,124,978)	(241,599)	(1,366,577)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	<u>1,311,697</u>	<u>(166,060)</u>	<u>1,145,637</u>
Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activities			
State grants received	19,673	170,882	190,555
Transfers in/(out) from/to other funds	(1,814,000)	515,000	(1,299,000)
Net cash provided (used) by noncapital financing activities	<u>(1,794,327)</u>	<u>685,882</u>	<u>(1,108,445)</u>
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities			
Payments to acquire or construct capital assets	(561,027)	(171,744)	(732,771)
Sale of surplus equipment	84,228	-	84,228
Principal paid on bonds	-	(104,604)	(104,604)
Interest paid on capital debt	-	(30,879)	(30,879)
Net cash used for capital and related financing activities	<u>(476,799)</u>	<u>(307,227)</u>	<u>(784,026)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Interest received	103,939	1,640	105,579
Decrease in investments	23,062	-	23,062
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>127,001</u>	<u>1,640</u>	<u>128,641</u>
 Net increase (decrease) in cash	 (832,428)	 214,235	 (618,193)
 Cash at beginning of year	 <u>931,652</u>	 <u>497,986</u>	 <u>1,429,638</u>
Cash at end of year	<u>\$ 99,224</u>	<u>\$ 712,221</u>	<u>\$ 811,445</u>
 Shown in the financial statements as:			
Current assets			
Cash	\$ 880	\$ 712,221	\$ 713,101
Noncurrent assets			
Restricted assets	98,344	-	98,344
	<u>\$ 99,224</u>	<u>\$ 712,221</u>	<u>\$ 811,445</u>

(Continued)

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS**

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

	<u>Landfill Enterprise</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Total</u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities			
Operating income (loss)	\$ 515,588	\$ (208,027)	\$ 307,561
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:			
Depreciation	567,877	209,993	777,870
(Increase) decrease in assets:			
Accounts receivable	(23,638)	550	(23,088)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:			
Accounts payable	10,971	(169,203)	(158,232)
Due to other funds			
Accrued wages	5,710	-	5,710
Accrued compensated absences	4,365	-	4,365
Deposits	750	627	1,377
Net pension liability	23,237	-	23,237
Landfill closure liability	206,837	-	206,837
Total adjustments	796,109	41,967	838,076
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	\$ 1,311,697	\$ (166,060)	\$ 1,145,637

See notes to financial statements.

NOTE 5. PROPERTY TAX REVENUES

Taxable values for all property are established as of January 1, which is the date of lien, for the fiscal year starting October 1. Property tax revenues recognized for the 2015-2016 fiscal year were levied in October 2015. All taxes are due and payable on November 1 or as soon as the assessment roll is certified and delivered to the Tax Collector. Discounts are allowed for early payment at the rate of 4% in November, 3% in December, 2% in January, and 1% in February. Taxes paid in March are without discount. All unpaid taxes become delinquent as of April 1. Virtually all unpaid taxes are collected via the sale of tax certificates on or prior to June 1; therefore, there were no material taxes receivable at fiscal year end.

NOTE 6. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended September 30, 2016, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Donations	Additions	Reclassifications/ Adjustments	Deletions	Balance
Governmental activities:						
Capital assets:						
Land	\$ 9,867,861	\$50,200	\$ 292,788	\$ -	\$(1,397,918)	\$ 8,812,931
Land interests	1,609,985	-	-	-	-	1,609,985
Buildings	50,065,706	-	52,493	-	(1,130,420)	48,987,779
Improvements other than buildings	9,277,390	-	144,787	-	-	9,422,177
Road improvements	150,351,936	-	1,763,650	12,856,672	-	164,972,258
Construction in progress	17,924,298	-	2,879,387	(12,816,354)	-	7,987,331
Equipment	25,057,111	-	1,049,384	(49,725)	(734,627)	25,322,143
Total capital assets	264,154,287	50,200	6,182,489	(9,407)	(3,262,965)	267,114,604
Less accumulated depreciation	(137,692,936)	-	(10,407,233)	-	734,096	(147,366,073)
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 126,461,351	\$50,200	\$ (4,224,744)	\$ (9,407)	\$(2,528,869)	\$ 119,748,531
Business-type activities:						
Land	\$ 1,992,847	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,992,847
Equipment	3,271,079	-	500,396	49,725	(320,913)	3,500,287
Buildings	639,714	-	-	-	-	639,714
Improvements	16,199,747	-	-	-	-	16,199,747
Construction in progress	3,189	-	225,063	-	-	228,252
Total capital assets	22,106,576	-	725,459	49,725	(320,913)	22,560,847
Less accumulated depreciation	(10,007,303)	-	(777,871)	(42,411)	320,913	(10,506,672)
Business-type activities capital assets, net	\$ 12,099,273	\$ -	\$ (52,412)	\$ 7,314	\$ -	\$ 12,054,175

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the Board as follows:

Governmental activities:	
General government	\$ 728,082
Public safety	1,609,964
Physical environment	71,066
Transportation	7,516,684
Economic environment	90,705
Human services	53,420
Culture/recreation	337,312
Total depreciation expense - governmental activities	\$10,407,233
Business -type activities:	
Landfill enterprise	567,877
Utilities enterprise	209,993
Total depreciation expense - business-type activities	\$ 777,870

D. Changes in Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended September 30, 2016, was as follows:

	Prior Year Balance	Additions	Deletions	Current Year Ending Balance	Due Within One Year	Accrued Interest Payable
Governmental activities:						
Revenue bonds:						
Columbia Bank - Series 2008B	\$ 1,432,953	\$ -	\$ (451,514)	\$ 981,439	\$ 465,204	\$ 807
Ameris/Prosperity Bank - Series 2008A-1	3,454,876	-	(3,454,876)	-	-	-
Bascom Norris - Gas Tax 2013	3,131,777	-	(3,131,777)	-	-	-
Hancock Bank Gas Tax Revenue Series 2016	-	6,000,000	(142,000)	5,858,000	421,000	-
First Federal Bank Capital Improvement Series 2016	-	3,315,370	(92,243)	3,223,127	286,673	-
	<u>8,019,606</u>	<u>9,315,370</u>	<u>(7,272,409)</u>	<u>10,062,567</u>	<u>1,172,877</u>	<u>807</u>
Capital Leases Payable:						
Ring Investments M9C00251	146,627	-	(12,647)	133,981	133,981	760
Ring Investments M9C00252	146,627	-	(12,647)	133,981	133,981	760
Ring Investments M9C00254	146,627	-	(12,647)	133,981	133,981	760
Ring Investments M9C00285	158,845	-	(12,249)	146,597	12,616	1,771
Ring Investments M9C00286	158,845	-	(12,249)	146,597	12,616	1,771
Ring Investments M9C00316	158,845	-	(12,249)	146,597	12,616	1,771
Ring Investments M9C00323	158,845	-	(12,249)	146,597	12,616	1,771
Ring Investments M9C00418	171,837	-	(16,371)	155,467	16,891	1,842
Ring Investments M9C00417	171,837	-	(16,371)	155,467	16,891	1,842
Ring Investments M9C00419	171,837	-	(16,371)	155,467	16,891	1,842
Ring Investments M9C00428	171,837	-	(16,371)	155,467	16,891	1,842
	<u>1,762,611</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(152,417)</u>	<u>1,610,194</u>	<u>519,971</u>	<u>16,733</u>
Other Liabilities:						
Compensated Absences	2,166,812	32,652	-	2,199,464	329,920	-
Net pension liability	19,277,420	19,416,035	(5,209,155)	33,484,300	3,006,488	-
	<u>\$ 31,226,449</u>	<u>\$ 28,764,057</u>	<u>\$ (12,633,981)</u>	<u>\$ 47,356,525</u>	<u>\$ 5,029,256</u>	<u>\$ 17,540</u>
BUSINESS ACTIVITIES						
Loan agreements payable:						
Department of Environmental Regulation	1,289,447	-	(104,604)	1,184,843	107,009	6,260
Other Liabilities						
Compensated Absences	30,664	43,606	(39,241)	35,029	30,000	-
Estimated liability for landfill closure	9,578,330	206,837	-	9,785,167	204,520	-
Net pension liability	228,216	228,257	(58,614)	397,859	35,378	-
	<u>\$ 11,126,657</u>	<u>\$ 478,700</u>	<u>\$ (202,459)</u>	<u>\$ 11,402,898</u>	<u>\$ 375,593</u>	<u>\$ 6,260</u>

NOTE 11. LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POSTCLOSURE COSTS

State and federal laws and regulations require the County to place a final cover on its landfill site when it stops accepting waste and to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for thirty years after closure.

Although closure and postclosure care costs will be paid only near or after the date that the landfill stops accepting waste, the County reports a portion of these closure and postclosure care costs as an operating expense in each period based on landfill capacity used as of each balance sheet date.

\$9,785,167 is reported as landfill closure and postclosure care liability at September 30, 2016, represents the cumulative amount reported to date based on the use of 10.8 years of the estimated capacity of the landfill. The County will recognize the remaining estimated cost of closure and postclosure care as the remaining estimated capacity is filled. These amounts are based on what it would cost to perform all closure and annual postclosure care in 2016. The County expects to close this landfill cell in the year 2018. Actual cost may be higher because of inflation, changes in technology, or changes in regulations.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Board of County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Columbia County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia County, Florida, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Columbia County, Florida's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 16, 2017.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Columbia County, Florida's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Columbia County, Florida's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Columbia County, Florida's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

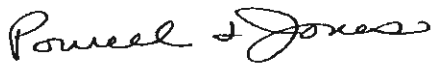
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Columbia County, Florida's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we noted certain matters that we reported to the management of Columbia County in a letter dated March 16, 2017 on page 97.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Powell & Jones", written in dark ink.

POWELL & JONES

Certified Public Accountants

March 16, 2017

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS THAT COULD
HAVE A DIRECT AND MATERIAL EFFECT ON EACH MAJOR STATE PROJECT AND ON
INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 10.550, RULES
OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

**To the Board of County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Columbia County, Florida**

Report on Compliance for Each Major State Project

We have audited the compliance of Columbia County, Florida with the types of compliance requirements described in the State of Florida, Department of Financial Services State Projects Compliance Supplement, that could have a direct and material effect on its major State project for the year ended September 30, 2016. Columbia County, Florida's major State project is identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings.

Management's Responsibility

Columbia County, Florida's management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to its major State project.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on Columbia County, Florida's compliance for each major State Project based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General. Those standards and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General, require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether non-compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major State project occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about Columbia County, Florida's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major State Project. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of Columbia County, Florida's compliance.

Opinion on Each Major State Project

In our opinion, Columbia County, Florida complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major State projects for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016.

Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed no instances of noncompliance, which are required to be reported in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General.

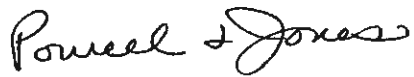
Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of Columbia County, Florida is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered Columbia County, Florida's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major State project to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major State Project and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Columbia County, Florida's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a State project on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a State project will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a State Project that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Pursuant to Chapter 119, *Florida Statutes*, this report is a public record and its distribution is not limited. Auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to indicate that this report is intended solely for the information and use of Columbia County, Florida's management, State awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

POWELL & JONES
Certified Public Accountants
March 16, 2017

COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
For The Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

State Grantor/Pass Through Grantor Program Title	CSFA#	GRANT #	PROGRAM OR AWARD AMOUNT	REPORTED IN PRIOR YEARS	REVENUES RECOGNIZED	EXPENDITURES	ACCRUED / (UNEARNED) 9/30/2016
STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE							
<i>Executive Office of the Governor</i>							
Emergency Management Programs	31.063	17-BG-83-03-22-01-019	105,806	-	-	22,094	30,132
Emergency Management Programs	31.063	16-BG-83-03-22-01-012	105,806	-	96,066	73,523	-
Total Executive Office of the Governor			211,612	-	96,066	95,617	30,132
<i>Department of Environmental Protection</i>							
Small County Solid Waste Grant Agreement	37.012	SC604	90,909	-	90,909	90,909	90,909
Florida Springs Grant Program	37.052	S0924	2,250,000	-	-	-	-
Statewide Surface Water Restoration and Wastewater Projects	37.039	LP6025	1,200,000	717,334	-	-	-
Statewide Surface Water Restoration and Wastewater Projects	37.039	S0924	750,000	-	-	90,607	-
Total Department of Environmental Protection			4,290,909	717,334	90,909	181,516	90,909
<i>Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</i>							
Arthropod Mosquito Control State Aid	42.003	FDACS Contract #021311	100,218	31,540	41,294	41,294	9,754
<i>Department of Economic Opportunity pass through Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corp.</i>							
Visit Florida	40.006	N/A	7,500	-	7,500	7,500	-
<i>Department of Economic Opportunity pass through Florida's Suwannee River Valley Marketing Group</i>							
Rural Community Development and Infrastructure	40.007	D0093	50,000	-	-	11,336	-
<i>Department of Economic Opportunity Division of Community Development</i>							
Division of Community Development	40.038	P0172	17,500	-	16,274	16,274	-
Total Department of Economic Opportunity			75,000	-	23,774	35,110	-
<i>Florida Housing Finance Corporation State Housing Initiatives Program</i>							
SHIP Funds 2016	40.901	FY2015-2016	362,277	-	362,277	362,277	-
SHIP program income	40.901	FY2015-2016	-	-	9,000	9,000	-
			362,277	-	371,277	371,277	-
<i>Department of State</i>							
State Aid to Libraries Operating/Equalization Grant	45.030	16-ST-09	189,680	-	189,680	189,680	-

Continued

COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
For The Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

State Grantor/Pass Through Grantor Program Title	CSFA#	GRANT #	PROGRAM OR AWARD AMOUNT	REPORTED IN PRIOR YEARS	REVENUES RECOGNIZED	EXPENDITURES	ACCRUED / (UNEARNED) 9/30/2016
Florida Department of Transportation							
Small County Outreach Program - Bell Road	55.009	430720-1-58-01	908,639	-	157,986	108,991	157,986
Small County Outreach Program - Herlong St	55.009	430696-1.2-58-01	2,141,907	424,645	1,717,262	1,490,619	-
Small County Outreach Program - Real Rd	55.009	434622-1-58-01	812,942	27,850	39,833	17,263	-
Small County Outreach Program - Callahan Ave	55.009	437006-1-54-01	905,827	-	46,276	60,306	46,276
Small County Outreach Program - Suwannee Valley	55.009	432777-1-54-01	1,530,000	-	1,449,230	1,449,230	1,449,230
Small County Outreach Program - Croft Bridge	55.009	439056-1-54-01	125,000	-	8,675	18,875	8,675
			6,424,315	452,495	3,419,262	3,145,284	1,662,167
County Incentive Grant - Bell Road	55.008	430720-1-58-01	257,197	-	-	-	-
Small County Road Assistance Program - Sister's Welcome	55.016	432599-1-54-01	960,000	-	960,000	960,000	960,000
Total Florida Department of Transportation			7,641,512	452,495	4,379,262	4,105,284	2,622,167
Department of Health							
Emergency Medical Services County Awards Grant	64.005	C4012	38,445	11,684	6,906	6,906	(19,855)
Department of Management Services							
Rural County Grant - 911 Maintenance	72.001	16-04-05	40,132	-	40,132	40,132	40,132
Rural County Grant - 911 System Maintenance	72.001	15-10-4	26,323	-	26,323	26,323	-
			66,455	-	66,455	66,455	40,132
State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission							
Florida Boating Improvement Program - Cone Bridge	77.006	12251	174,932	-	171,931	16,710	-
Florida Boating Improvement Program - Bible Camp	77.006	12250	352,345	-	352,345	56,185	-
			527,277	-	524,276	72,895	-
Total state financial assistance			\$ 13,503,385	\$ 1,213,053	\$ 5,789,899	\$ 5,166,034	\$ 2,773,239

See notes to Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting	
• Material weakness identified?	No
• Significant deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	None reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements	No

State Financial Assistance

Internal control over major projects:

• Material weakness identified?	No
• Significant deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	None reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major projects:	Unmodified
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Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Rule 10.656, <i>Rules of the Auditor General</i> ?	No
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Identification of Major Programs:

CSFA Number

Name of State Programs

55.009

Department of Transportation

55.016

Small County Outreach Program

Small County Road Assistance Program

40.901

Florida Housing Finance Corporation

State Housing Initiatives Program

37.012

Department of Environmental Protection

Small County Solid Waste Grant

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	\$300,000
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Financial Statement Findings

None

State Financial Assistance Findings and Questioned Costs

None

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Honorable Board of
County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Columbia County, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of Columbia County, Florida, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2016, and have issued our report thereon dated March 16, 2017.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements that Could have a Direct and Material Effect on Each Major State Project and on Internal Control over Compliance in Accordance with Chapter 10.550 *Rules of the Auditor General*, and Schedule of Findings. Disclosures in those reports and schedule, which are dated March 16, 2017, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter. Additionally, our audit was conducted in accordance with Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*, which govern the conduct of local governmental entity audits performed in the State of Florida and require that the following items be addressed in this letter.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

2014-1

Grant Administration – From our audit of the various grant programs administered by Board departments, we found several instances where grant reimbursement requests were not submitted timely as provided in the individual grant agreements. This situation created both lost interest earnings opportunities for the County, as well as provided the possibility for a loss of funds due to expiration of grant periods. To avoid such occurrences in the future, we recommended that the Board establish a centralized system to monitor grant financial activities, including reimbursement processes.

During the prior year the County developed and implemented grant management software, that if properly utilized would disclose such audit issues in grant project management. However, we found that the above projects and other grant funded road improvement projects were not managed within this software and resulted in delayed grant reimbursements.

To correct these deficiencies in grant management we recommended that all grant projects be administered within the grant management software and billings for grant reimbursements be made on a timely basis.

In the current year we noted that the County had not fully utilized the grant management system.

2015-1

Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant Program Match – The State Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant Program (EMPA) requires a specified local County match of approximately 27 percent. From our review of this grant we found that the grant matching expenditures were not documented in the budget and financial records, but rather were compiled separately. To more fully document this match, we recommended that the matching expenditures be included in the budget and recorded in the financial records on an ongoing basis.

This finding was corrected in the current year.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS

2016-1

State Road Grants

In the current year, we found charges to a road grant that was not in agreement with the scope of work stated in the grant agreement. The State of Florida is aware of these charges and has agreed not to seek reimbursement for the unrelated expenditures. We recommend that the County request budget amendments from the State prior to charging grant funds for road work that is not in the scope of work delineated in grant agreements.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the prior year.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the current year.

PROPERTY APPRAISER

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the prior year.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the current year.

SHERIFF

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the prior year.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the current year.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the prior year.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the current year.

TAX COLLECTOR

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the prior year.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS

There were no reportable findings in the current year.

AUDITOR GENERAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

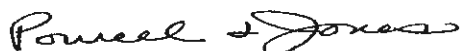
Annual Local Government Financial Report - The Financial Report filed with the Department of Financial Services pursuant to Section 218.32(l)(a), *Florida Statutes*, is in agreement with the accompanying financial statements of Columbia County, Florida, for the year ended September 30, 2016.

Financial Emergency Status - We determined that the County had not met any of conditions described in Section 218.503(1), *Florida Statutes*, that might result in a financial emergency.

Financial Condition Assessment - As required by the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Sections 10.544(7)(c) and 10.556(7), we applied financial condition assessment procedures. It is management's responsibility to monitor the entity's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information they provided.

Our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.550.

CONCLUSION - We have reviewed information regarding our audit with appropriate County officials and management and have provided them with appropriate documentation as requested. We very much enjoyed the challenges and experiences associated with this audit of the County. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the Board of County Commissioners and other County Officials and employees. We also appreciate the helpful assistance and courtesy afforded us by all County employees.



POWELL & JONES

Certified Public Accountants

March 16, 2017

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

To the Board of County Commissioners
Columbia County, Florida

We have examined the Columbia County, Florida's (the County) compliance with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2016. We have also examined the Clerk of the Circuit Court's (Clerk's) compliance with Section 28.35, *Florida Statutes* as to the following during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016:

- a. The budget certified by the Florida Clerk of Courts Operations Corporation.
- b. The performance standards developed and certified to Section 28.35 *Florida Statutes*.

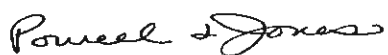
We also examined the County's compliance with Section 365.172(10) *Florida Statutes* and requirements specified by the E911 board grant and special disbursement programs. These laws require that E911 fee revenues, interest and E911 grant funding be used to pay for authorized expenditures as specified in the *Statutes*.

Management is responsible for the County's and Clerk's respective compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's and the Clerk's compliance based on our examinations.

Our examinations were conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the County's and the Clerk's compliance with those respective requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examinations provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examinations do not provide a legal determination on the County's and the Clerk's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, Columbia County, Florida and the Columbia County Clerk of the Circuit Court complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2016.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of Columbia County, Florida, the Clerk, and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



POWELL & JONES
Certified Public Accountants
March 16, 2017