



**Gulf County, Florida
Clerk of the Circuit Court**

**Special-Purpose
Financial Statements
September 30, 2019**

Vance CPA, LLC

Certified Public Accountant
219-B Avenue E • Apalachicola, FL 32320
Tel. (706) 278-1221 • Fax (866) 406-7422

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Independent Auditor’s Report	1
Special-Purpose Financial Statements	
Special-Purpose Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	3
Special-Purpose Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds	4
Special-Purpose Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – General Fund	5
Special-Purpose Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Court Operations Fund	6
Special-Purpose Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, And Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Modernization Trust Fund	7
Special-Purpose Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes In Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Administrative Order 86-12 Fund	8
Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities – Agency Funds	9
Notes to Special-Purpose Financial Statements	10
Combining Financial Statements	
Combining Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities - Agency Funds	24
Compliance Section	
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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	27
Independent Auditors’ Report on Examination of Compliance Requirements in Accordance with Chapter 10.550, <i>Rules of the Auditor General</i>	29
Management Letter	30
Management’s Response to Management Letter	32

Vance CPA, LLC

Certified Public Accountant

219-B Avenue E

Apalachicola, FL 32320

Tel. (706) 278-1221 • Fax (866) 406-7422

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Honorable Rebecca L. Norris
Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gulf County, Florida, Clerk of the Circuit Court, (Clerk), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk's fund 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.

Independent Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions 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 of 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 auditors' 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 in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial 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 each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clerk as of September 30, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position and the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund, modernization trust fund and administrative order 86-12 fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above have been prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39, Florida Statutes and Section 10.557(3), the *Rules of the Auditor General for Local Government Entities*. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information, only for that portion of the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information, of Gulf County, Florida that is attributable to the Clerk. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Gulf County, Florida as of September 30, 2019, and the changes in its financial position for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Other Matters*Required Supplementary Information*

Management has omitted management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Clerk's financial statements. The combining statements, as listed in the table of contents, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The combining statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such 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, the combining statements are 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 April 22, 2020 and on our consideration of the Clerk'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 under the heading "Independent Auditors' Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*". 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 Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Vance CPA LLC
April 22, 2020

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

**SPECIAL-PURPOSE BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Court Operations Fund</u>	<u>Modernization Trust Fund</u>	<u>Administrative Order 86-12 Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 124,693	\$ 74,845	\$ 322,110	\$ 151,681	\$ 673,329
Accounts receivable	379	—	—	—	379
Due from other funds	39,503	—	—	—	39,503
Due from other governments	16,397	14,229	—	—	30,626
Due from BOCC	83,577	—	—	—	83,577
Prepaid expenditures	<u>1,103</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,103</u>
Total Assets	<u>265,652</u>	<u>89,074</u>	<u>322,110</u>	<u>151,681</u>	<u>828,517</u>
Liabilities and fund balances:					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable and and accrued expenses	47,553	16,674	10,599	—	74,826
Due to other funds	1,004	—	—	—	1,004
Due to other governments	59,868	72,400	—	—	132,268
Due to BOCC	<u>157,227</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>157,227</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>265,652</u>	<u>89,074</u>	<u>10,599</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>365,325</u>
Fund Balance:					
Spendable - Restricted	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>311,511</u>	<u>151,681</u>	<u>463,192</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 265,652</u>	<u>\$ 89,074</u>	<u>\$ 322,110</u>	<u>\$ 151,681</u>	<u>\$ 828,517</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

**SPECIAL-PURPOSE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Court Operations Fund</u>	<u>Modernization Trust Fund</u>	<u>Administrative Order 86-12 Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Revenues:					
Charges for services	\$ 120,762	\$ 185,924	\$ 48,088	\$ —	\$ 354,774
Intergovernmental revenue	65,422	313,669	—	—	379,091
Fines and forfeitures	—	66,666	—	—	66,666
Interest and other income	<u>81,422</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>81,952</u>
Total revenue	<u>267,606</u>	<u>566,322</u>	<u>48,402</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>882,483</u>
Expenditures:					
General government					
Personal services	532,252	—	—	—	532,252
Operating expenditures	128,275	—	12,859	—	141,134
Court related					
Personal services	—	495,788	—	—	495,788
Operating expenditures	—	70,534	17,215	—	87,749
Capital outlay	—	—	<u>8,208</u>	—	<u>8,208</u>
Total expenditures	<u>660,527</u>	<u>566,322</u>	<u>38,282</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,265,131</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over (Under) Expenditures	(392,921)	—	10,120	153	(382,648)
Other financing sources (uses)					
Transfers from BOCC	548,898	—	—	—	548,898
Transfers to BOCC	<u>(155,977)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(155,977)</u>
Total other financing Sources (uses)	<u>392,921</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>392,921</u>
Net change in fund balances	—	—	10,120	153	10,273
Fund balances - beginning	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>301,392</u>	<u>151,528</u>	<u>452,920</u>
Fund balance - ending	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 311,511</u>	<u>\$ 151,681</u>	<u>\$ 463,192</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

**SPECIAL-PURPOSE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND**

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

	Budget Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final
	Original	Final		Budget Positive (Negative)
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental revenue	\$ 42,000	\$ 65,350	\$ 65,422	\$ 72
Charges for services	99,600	120,898	120,762	(136)
Interest and other income	12,400	81,390	81,422	32
Total revenues	<u>154,000</u>	<u>267,638</u>	<u>267,606</u>	<u>(32)</u>
Expenditures:				
General Government				
Personal services	561,351	532,461	532,252	209
Operating expenditures	130,747	128,084	128,275	(191)
Capital outlay	10,800	—	—	—
Total expenditures	<u>702,898</u>	<u>660,545</u>	<u>660,527</u>	<u>18</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(548,898)</u>	<u>(392,907)</u>	<u>(392,921)</u>	<u>(14)</u>
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers from BOCC	548,898	548,898	548,898	—
Transfers to BOCC	—	(155,991)	(155,977)	14
Total other financing Sources (uses)	<u>548,898</u>	<u>392,907</u>	<u>392,921</u>	<u>14</u>
Net change in fund balances	—	—	—	—
Fund balances - beginning	—	—	—	—
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

**SPECIAL-PURPOSE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET AND ACTUAL – STATE COURT OPERATIONS FUND**

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

	<u>Budget Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		<u>Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental revenue	\$ 299,508	\$ 313,669	\$ 313,669	\$ —
Fines and forfeitures	64,477	66,883	66,666	(217)
Charges for services	151,246	185,903	185,924	21
Interest and other income	82	55	63	8
Total revenues	<u>515,313</u>	<u>566,510</u>	<u>566,322</u>	<u>(188)</u>
Expenditures:				
General government				
Personal services	488,563	495,953	495,886	67
Operating expenditures	26,750	70,557	70,436	121
Total expenditures	<u>515,313</u>	<u>566,510</u>	<u>566,322</u>	<u>188</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over (under) expenditures	—	—	—	—
Net change in fund balances	—	—	—	—
Fund balances - beginning	—	—	—	—
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

**SPECIAL-PURPOSE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES
BUDGET AND ACTUAL – MODERNIZATION TRUST FUND**

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

	<u>Budget Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		<u>Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$ 41,500	\$ 41,500	\$ 48,088	\$ 6,588
Interest and other income	<u>280</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>34</u>
Total revenues	<u>41,780</u>	<u>41,780</u>	<u>48,402</u>	<u>6,622</u>
Expenditures:				
General Government				
Operating expenditures	75,000	75,000	12,859	62,141
Capital outlay	83,412	83,412	—	83,412
Court-related				
Operating expenditures	43,185	43,185	17,215	25,970
Capital outlay	<u>65,884</u>	<u>65,884</u>	<u>8,208</u>	<u>57,676</u>
Total expenditures	<u>267,481</u>	<u>267,481</u>	<u>38,282</u>	<u>229,199</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(225,701)</u>	<u>(225,701)</u>	<u>10,120</u>	<u>235,821</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>(225,701)</u>	<u>(225,701)</u>	<u>10,120</u>	<u>235,821</u>
Fund balances - beginning	<u>278,155</u>	<u>278,155</u>	<u>301,392</u>	<u>23,237</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 52,454</u>	<u>\$ 52,454</u>	<u>\$ 311,511</u>	<u>\$ 259,057</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

**SPECIAL-PURPOSE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES
BUDGET AND ACTUAL – ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 86-12 FUND**

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

	<u>Budget Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	Variance with Final
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		Budget Positive (Negative)
Revenues:				
Interest and other income	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 154	\$ 4
Total revenues	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>4</u>
Expenditures:				
Court-related				
Operating expenditures	42,000	42,000	—	42,000
Capital outlay	<u>64,074</u>	<u>64,704</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>64,704</u>
Total expenditures	<u>106,074</u>	<u>106,704</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>106,704</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(105,924)</u>	<u>(106,554)</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>106,708</u>
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers to other funds	<u>(32,000)</u>	<u>(32,000)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>32,000</u>
Total other financing Sources (uses)	<u>(32,000)</u>	<u>(32,000)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>32,000</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>(137,924)</u>	<u>(138,554)</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>138,708</u>
Fund balances - beginning	<u>151,232</u>	<u>151,232</u>	<u>151,528</u>	<u>296</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 13,308</u>	<u>\$ 12,678</u>	<u>\$ 151,682</u>	<u>\$ 139,004</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AGENCY FUNDS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 351,755
Accounts receivable (net)	433
Due from other funds	<u>1,004</u>

Total Assets \$ 353,192

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Liabilities	
Accounts payable	7,286
Due to other funds	39,503
Due to other governments	67,662
Due to Board of County Commissioners	8,453
Due to Individuals	<u>230,288</u>

Total Liabilities \$ 353,192

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Gulf County, Florida is an elected Constitutional Officer of Gulf County pursuant to Article VIII, Section (1) of the *Constitution of the State of Florida*. For financial statement and reporting purposes, the Clerk is a separate constitutional officer as provided for by Chapter 218, Florida Statutes. The Clerk is considered to be a part of the primary government of Gulf County, Florida and the financial information is included in Gulf County's county-wide financial statements.

These special-purpose financial statements include only the balance and activity of the Clerk's office. They have been prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39, Florida Statutes and Section 10.557, *Rules of the Auditor General for Local Government Entity Audits*, and are not intended to be a complete presentation of the financial position of the County, or the changes in financial position or where applicable, cash flows, thereof, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Clerk funds operations as a court officer and a budget officer pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapters 28, 218 and 129. As a court officer, the Clerk is funded through an appropriation from the State of Florida. These court appropriations are to be used exclusively for funding court-related operations of the clerk. As a budget officer, the operations as Clerk to the Board are approved and funded by the Board of County Commissioners. The budgeted receipts from the Board are recorded as other financing sources on the Clerk's financial statements and as other financing uses on the Board's financial statements. Excesses of revenues and other financing sources received over expenditures are remitted to the Board at year-end.

The accounting policies of the Clerk conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as applicable to governments.

B. Basis of Presentation – Fund Accounting

Accounts are organized on the basis of fund types, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues and expenditures as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based on the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

These funds utilize a modified accrual basis of accounting. The measurement focus is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources rather than upon net income determination).

The Clerk reports the following major governmental funds:

Governmental Fund Types

General Fund – The general fund is the general operating fund of the Clerk. It is used to account for all financial resources, except for those required to be accounted for in other funds.

State Court Operations Fund – Used to account for state court operations.

Modernization Trust Fund – The modernization trust fund is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

Administrative Order 86-12 Fund – This fund is used to account for additional court costs of traffic infractions to be used for administering traffic violations.

Fiduciary Fund Type

Agency Funds – The agency funds are used to account for assets held by the Clerk as an agent for individuals, private organizations, and other governments. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of changes in financial position.

C. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements and relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting for governmental funds and agency funds. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred, if measurable, except for principal and interest on long-term obligations which is recorded when due.

The Clerk considers receivable collected within 60 days after year end to be available and susceptible to accrual as revenues of the current year. Charges for services and interest earned are susceptible to accrual.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

D. Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the fixed assets and long-term liabilities associated with a fund are determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for on a spending or “financial flow” measurement focus. This means that generally, only current assets and current liabilities are included in the balance sheet. Governmental fund operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they present a summary of sources and uses of “available spendable resources” during a period.

E. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

Expenditures, other than those for certain agency funds, are controlled by appropriations in accordance with the budget requirements set forth in Florida Statutes. Budgets are adopted for governmental and special revenue funds. Budgetary control is exercised at the fund level. Budgetary changes within the fund are made at the discretion of the Clerk. Appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year to the extent they have not been expended. The budgeted revenues and expenditures in the accompanying budgetary comparison statement reflect all approved amendments.

Florida Statutes Chapter 218.35 governs the preparation, adoption, and administration of the Clerk’s annual budget. The Clerk establishes an annual budget for the office which clearly reflects the revenues available to the office and the functions for which the money is to be expended.

The Clerk prepares the budget in three parts:

1. The budget relating to the requirements of the Clerk as the Ex Officio Clerk to the Board, County Auditor, County Recorder, and Custodian or Treasurer of all County funds and other county related duties, and for chapter 29 obligations;
2. The budget relating to the Florida court system, which is filed with the Clerk of Courts Operations Corporation (CCOC) by June 1 preceding the fiscal year of the budget, in the format required by the CCOC. Section 28.36, Florida Statutes, defines the maximum annual budget permitted; and
3. The budget for all other operations of the Clerk.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The annual budgetary data reported for the governmental fund types are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and represent the Clerk's adopted budget, the original appropriation ordinance, and budget amendments approved by the Clerk or as adopted by the Board.

F. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Clerk considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

G. Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased in the governmental fund type are recorded as expenditures (capital outlay) at the time of purchase. Assets acquired by the Clerk are reported as capital assets in the statement of net assets as part of the basic financial statement for Gulf County. The Clerk maintains custodial responsibility for the capital assets used by her office.

H. Liability for Compensated Absences

The Clerk accrues a liability for employees' rights to receive compensation for future absences when certain conditions are met. The Clerk does not, nor is legally required to, accumulate expendable available resources to liquidate this obligation. Accordingly, the liability for the compensated absences is not reported in the governmental fund. However, the current and long-term portion of the liability for compensated absences is reported at the county wide financial statement level.

I. Related Organizations – Common Expenses

Certain expenditures, which are common to the Board and all Constitutional Officers, are reported as expenses of the Board and, therefore, are not budgeted by or allocated to the Clerk. These expenses relating to the Clerk's courthouse facilities are:

- Occupancy costs
- Janitorial services
- Utilities (except telephone)
- Property insurance

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

J. Distribution of Excess Revenues

Florida Statutes require that the Clerk distribute any excess of revenues over expenditures within the general fund to the board within 31 days following the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, the amount of excess revenues distributed to the Board at the end of the year is presented in the accompanying special-purpose financial statements as “other financing uses.”

K. Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund-Type Definitions

The Clerk adopted GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions* (GASB Statement No. 54) effective October 1, 2010. This GASB Statement clarifies governmental fund balance classifications and fund-type definitions. Fund balances are classified either as non-spendable or as spendable. Spendable fund balances are further classified in a hierarchy based on the extent to which there are external and/or internal constraints in how fund balance amounts may be spent.

Non-spendable fund balances include amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Spendable fund balances are classified based on a hierarchy of the Clerk’s ability to control the spending of these fund balances and are reported in the following categories: restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned. The Clerk’s fund balances for the Modernization Trust and Administrative Order 86-12 fall into this category.

The adoption of GASB Statement No. 54 did not have an impact on the Clerk’s general fund financial statements at September 30, 2019, since the Clerk does not maintain fund balances in the general fund. Fund balances maintained in the modernization trust fund and administrative 86-12 fund are restricted pursuant to certain Florida Statutes and have been presented, as restricted fund balances in the fund financial statements in accordance with GASB Statement No. 54.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

L. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make use of estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements, and the reported amount of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from estimates.

M. Subsequent Events

The Clerk of the Court evaluated subsequent events through April 22, 2020, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. The Clerk of the Court did not have any subsequent events requiring disclosure or recording in these financial statements.

NOTE 2 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash Deposits

All Clerk depositories are banks designated by the State Treasurer as qualified public depositories. Chapter 280, Florida Statutes "Florida Security for Public Deposits Act" provides procedures for public depositories to insure monies in banks and savings and loans are collateralized with the Treasurer as an agent for the public entities. All Clerk cash consists of checking accounts and interest-bearing time deposits in a local bank.

Investments

The Clerk held no investments at September 30, 2019.

Interest Rate Risk

At September 30, 2019, the Clerk did not hold any investments that were considered to be an interest rate risk.

Credit Risk

At September 30, 2019 the Clerk did not hold any investments that were considered to be a credit risk.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 2 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS (continued)

Custodial Risk

At September 30, 2019 the Clerk did not hold any deposits or investments that were considered to be a custodial risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk

At September 30, 2019 the Clerk did not hold any deposits or investments that were considered to be a credit risk.

NOTE 3 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

RETIREMENT PLAN

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any State-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

Essentially all regular employees of the Clerk are eligible to enroll as members of the State-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes, Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two costs-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. A comprehensive annual financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statement, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com)

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 3 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

Plan Description

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

- Regular Class – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- Elected County Officers Class – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.
- Senior Management Service Class (SMSC) – Members in senior management level positions.
- Special Risk Class – Members who are special risk employees, such as law enforcement officers, meet the criteria to qualify for this class.

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at 6 years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at 8 years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62 or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55 or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 60 or at any age after 30 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to 4 years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 60 months after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 96 months. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 3 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

Benefits Provided

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the 5 highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the 8 highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3 percent per year. If the member is initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, and has service credit on or after July 1, 2011, there is an individually calculated cost-of-living adjustment. The annual cost-of-living adjustment is a proportion of 3 percent determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3 percent. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of FRS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

Plan Description

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (HIS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established under Section 112.363, Florida Statutes, and may be amended by the Florida Legislature at any time. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of State-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs and is administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement.

Benefits Provided

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of \$5 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of \$30 and a maximum HIS payment of \$150 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a State-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 3 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of HIS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

The Florida State Board of Administration (SBA) administers the defined contribution plan officially titled the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan). The Investment Plan is reported in the SBA's annual financial statements and in the State of Florida Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

As provided in Section 121.4501, Florida Statutes, eligible FRS members may elect to participate in the Investment Plan in lieu of the FRS defined benefit plan. Clerk employees participating in DROP are not eligible to participate in the Investment Plan. Employer and employee contributions, including amounts contributed to individual member's accounts, are defined by law, but the ultimate benefit depends in part on the performance of investment funds. Benefit terms, including contribution requirements, for the Investment Plan are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Investment Plan is funded with the same employer and employee contribution rates that are based on salary and membership class (Regular Class, Elected County Officer, etc.), as the FRS defined benefit plan. Contributions are directed to individual member accounts, and the individual members allocate contributions and account balances among various approved investment choices. Costs of administering plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.04 percent of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

For all membership classes, employees are immediately vested in their own contributions and are vested after 1 year of service for employer contributions and investment earnings. If an accumulated benefit obligation for service credit originally earned under the FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS Pension Plan vesting (including the service credit represented by the transferred funds) to be vested for these funds and the earnings on the funds. Non-vested employer contributions are placed in a suspense account for up to 5 years. If the employee returns to FRS-covered employment within the 5-year period, the employee will regain control over their account. If the employee does not return within the 5-year period, the employee will forfeit the accumulated account balance. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, the information for the amount of forfeitures was unavailable from the SBA; however, management believes that these amounts, if any, would be immaterial to the Clerk.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 3 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

After termination and applying to receive benefits, the member may rollover vested funds to another qualified plan, structure a periodic payment under the Investment Plan, receive a lump-sum distribution, leave the funds invested for future distribution, or any combination of these operations. Disability coverage is provided; the member may either transfer the account balance to the FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan, or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

Participating employer contributions are based upon statewide rates established by the State of Florida. The Clerk's contributions made to the plans during the years ended September 30, 2019, 2018, and 2017 were \$87,695, \$90,704, and \$77,253 respectively, equal to the actuarially determined contribution requirements for each year. Additional information about pension plans can be found in the County's annual financial statements.

Post Employment Benefits Other than Pensions

In accordance with Florida Statutes Section 112.0801, the Clerk participates with Gulf County in offering retiring employees the opportunity to continue participating in the group insurance plan. Retirees who do not choose to continue participation lose eligibility to participate in the future.

Retirees and their eligible dependents shall be offered the same health and hospitalization insurance coverage as is offered to active employees at a premium cost of no more than the premium cost applicable to active employees. The County subsidizes the premium rates paid by the retirees by allowing them to participate in the plan at blended group (implicitly subsidized) premium rates for both active and retired employees. These rates provide an implicit subsidy for retirees because, on an actuarial basis, their current and future claims are expected to result in higher costs to the plan on average than those of active employees. No stand alone report is issued for this plan.

The details of the plan, methodology, and costs are more fully described in the Gulf County Notes to the Financial Statements.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NOTE 6 – RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

The Board obtained commercial insurance against losses for the following types of risk:

- Real and personal property damage
- Public employee's bond
- Workers' compensation
- General and automobile liability

NOTE 7 – ENCUMBRANCES

Encumbrances represent commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods and services. They do not constitute expenditures or liabilities. The commitments will be honored in the subsequent year for those that expire at year end. The Clerk had no outstanding encumbrances at September 30, 2019.

COMBINING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY
 ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
 AGENCY FUNDS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

	<u>Fee Trust Fund</u>	<u>Article V Trust Fund</u>	<u>Juror & Witness</u>	<u>Registry of Court</u>	<u>Tax Deed Holdings</u>
Assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 62,962	\$ 51,913	\$ 4,581	\$ 116,405	\$ 90,284
Accounts receivable (net)	433	—	—	—	—
Due from other funds	<u>1,004</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total assets	<u>64,399</u>	<u>51,913</u>	<u>4,581</u>	<u>116,405</u>	<u>90,284</u>
Liabilities					
Accounts payable	7,286	—	—	—	—
Due to other funds	14,324	20,407	1,501	—	—
Due to other governments	39,603	24,954	3,080	—	—
Due to BOCC	3,186	5,267	—	—	—
Due to individuals	<u>—</u>	<u>1,285</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>116,405</u>	<u>90,284</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 64,399</u>	<u>\$ 51,913</u>	<u>\$ 4,581</u>	<u>\$ 116,405</u>	<u>\$ 90,284</u>

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY
 ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
 AGENCY FUNDS (continued)**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

	<u>Child Support</u>	<u>Bond</u>	<u>Total Agency Fund</u>
Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,296	\$ 22,314	\$ 351,755
Accounts receivable (net)	—	—	433
Due from other funds	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,004</u>
Total assets	<u>3,296</u>	<u>22,314</u>	<u>353,192</u>
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	—	—	7,286
Due to other funds	3,271	—	39,503
Due to other governments	25	—	67,662
Due to BOCC	—	—	8,453
Due to individuals	<u>—</u>	<u>22,314</u>	<u>230,288</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 3,296</u>	<u>\$ 22,314</u>	<u>\$ 353,192</u>

COMPLIANCE SECTION

Vance CPA, LLC

Certified Public Accountant

219-B Avenue E

Apalachicola, FL 32320

Tel. (706) 278-1221 • Fax (866) 406-7422

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Honorable Rebecca L. Norris
Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gulf 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 statements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the ***Gulf County, Florida Clerk of Court*** (the "Clerk"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019, which collectively comprise the Clerk's fund financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated April 22, 2020.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Clerk'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 the Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk'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 the Clerk's financial statements are free of 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*.

Pursuant to provisions of Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*, we reported certain matters to management of the Clerk in a separate management letter and Independent Accountant's Report dated April 22, 2020.

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 Clerk'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.



Vance CPA LLC

April 22, 2020

Vance CPA, LLC

Certified Public Accountant

219-B Avenue E

Apalachicola, FL 32320

Tel. (706) 278-1221 • Fax (866) 406-7422

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 10.550, RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

To the Honorable Rebecca L. Norris
Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gulf County, Florida

We have examined the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Gulf County, Florida's (hereinafter referred to as the "Clerk") compliance with Florida Statute 218.415 in regards to investments, Section 61.181, Florida Statutes, regarding alimony and child support payments, and Florida Statutes 28.35 and 28.36 in regards to certain court-related functions for the year ended September 30, 2019.

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

Our examination was 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 Clerk's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Clerk's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Clerk complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2019.

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

Vance CPA LLC

Vance CPA LLC

April 22, 2020

Vance CPA, LLC

Certified Public Accountant

219-B Avenue E

Apalachicola, FL 32320

Tel. (706) 278-1221 • Fax (866) 406-7422

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT LETTER

To the Honorable Rebecca L. Norris
Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the general fund of the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court of Gulf, County, Florida (hereinafter referred to as the "Clerk"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 22, 2020.

Auditors' Responsibility

We conducted our audit 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 Florida Auditor General.

Other Reports

We have issued our Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*; and Independent Accountants' Report on Examination of Compliance Requirements in Accordance with AICPA Professional Standards, Section 601, regarding compliance requirement in accordance with Chapter 10.550 Rules of Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated April 22, 2020, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. No recommendations were made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in the management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. The Clerk was established by the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1 (d). The Clerk has no component units.

Other Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we address in the management letter any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Section 10.554 (1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we address noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, the Clerk, Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, and applicable management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Vance CPA LLC

Vance CPA LLC
April 22, 2020

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA – CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
MANAGEMENT’S RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT LETTER**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

There are no comments which require management’s written response.