

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
(A Nonprofit Organization)
El Dorado, Arkansas
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
For the Years Ended September 30, 2020 and 2019
and
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
(A Nonprofit Organization)
El Dorado, Arkansas
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
For the Years Ended September 30, 2020 and 2019

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1-2
Statements of Financial Position	3
Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets	4
Statements of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Financial Statements	
Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies	6-7
Note 2 - Deposits with Financial Institutions	8
Note 3 - Restricted Assets	8
Note 4 - Long-Term Debt.....	8-9
Note 5- Capital Assets	10
Note 6- Prior Period Adjustment.....	10
Note 7- Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets	11
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	12-13
Schedule of Findings and Responses	14
Supplementary Information	
General Comments	15

BERRY & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Certified Public Accountants

American Institute of CPAs

Arkansas Society of CPAs

Texas Society of CPAs

Page 1

**To the Board of Directors of
NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
El Dorado, Arkansas**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of New Hope Water Association, Inc. (a non-profit organization) which comprise the statement of financial position as of September 30, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

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.

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 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 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 opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the New Hope Water Association, Inc. as of September 30, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

11225 Huron Lane, Suite 212 • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 501-227-9044 • Fax 501-227-8791

jtberry@berrypasscpa.com

2911 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 300 • Dallas, TX 75219 • 972-437-2919

2088 Main Street, Suite A • Madison, MS 39110 • 601-383-0119

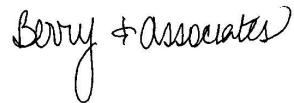
To the Board of Directors of
NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
El Dorado, Arkansas

Report on Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of general comments on page 15 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information 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 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 with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the 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 January 25, 2021 on our consideration of the Association'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 Association's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Berry & Associates, P.A.
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 25, 2021

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
September 30, 2020 and 2019
ASSETS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 295,127	\$ 218,764
Accounts receivable	27,240	32,935
Cash restricted for long term debt reserves	129,135	126,370
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>653,145</u>	<u>707,787</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,104,647</u>	<u>\$ 1,085,856</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,176	\$ 7,471
Sales tax payable	1,583	1,923
Accrued interest payable	10,230	11,298
Customer water meter deposits	35,797	36,324
Current maturities of long-term debt	43,000	40,200
Long term debt, net of current maturities	<u>572,611</u>	<u>615,697</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>668,397</u>	<u>712,913</u>
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	362,750	303,043
With donor restrictions	<u>73,500</u>	<u>69,900</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>436,250</u>	<u>372,943</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,104,647</u>	<u>\$ 1,085,856</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Years Ended September 30, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
UNRESTRICTED REVENUES AND GAINS		
Water program service fees	\$ 245,393	\$ 235,925
Total revenues and gains without donor restrictions	<u>245,393</u>	<u>235,925</u>
EXPENSES		
Water program:		
Operator expense	26,200	30,640
Repairs and maintenance	7,915	5,705
Depreciation	54,642	54,936
Supporting Services:		
Dues and fees	637	2,951
Insurance	3,008	2,507
Supplies	24,152	26,529
Office expenses	2,696	2,568
Accounting fees	5,167	4,991
Telephone and utilities	27,007	43,486
Other expenses	3,183	5,273
Total Operating Expenses	<u>154,607</u>	<u>179,586</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>90,786</u>	<u>56,339</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Interest income	5,549	4,509
Interest expense	<u>(33,028)</u>	<u>(35,479)</u>
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>(27,479)</u>	<u>(30,970)</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	63,307	25,369
PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT	-	<u>(12,530)</u>
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>372,943</u>	<u>347,574</u>
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 436,250</u>	<u>\$ 372,943</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Years Ended September 30, 2020 and 2019

	2020	2019
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Cash received from customers	\$ 251,088	\$ 226,671
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(103,126)	(132,969)
Net cash provided by operating activities:	147,962	93,702
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Change in restricted cash and cash equivalents	(2,765)	(4,499)
Interest income from certificates of deposit	5,549	4,509
Purchase of capital assets	-	(19,383)
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities:	2,784	(19,373)
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities		
Principal payments on long-term debt	(40,286)	(38,248)
Interest paid on long-term debt	(34,097)	(36,135)
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities:	(74,383)	(74,383)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	76,363	(54)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT, OCTOBER 1, 2019	218,764	218,818
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020	\$ 295,127	\$ 218,764
Reconciliation of increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities		
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 90,786	\$ 56,339
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	54,642	54,936
(Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	5,695	(9,254)
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	(2,295)	941
Sales tax payable and meter deposits payable	(866)	(9,260)
Total Adjustments	57,176	37,363
Net cash provided by operating activities:	\$ 147,962	\$ 93,702

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Date of Management's Review

Subsequent events have been evaluated through January 25, 2021, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Reporting entity

New Hope Water Association, Inc., was formed as a nonprofit organization, under the laws of the State of Arkansas. The purpose of the New Hope Water Association, Inc. ("Association") is to acquire, construct, own and operate facilities for the development, storage, and utilization of water for agricultural, domestic, industrial, and community purposes on a mutual basis by residents of a rural area.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Association have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables, and other liabilities.

Basis of Presentation

The Association is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets: with donor restrictions and without donor restrictions.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, New Hope Water Association, Inc. considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt is reported at face value, net of applicable discounts and deferred loss on refunding. Costs related to the issuance of debt are deferred and amortized over the lives of the various debt issues. Losses occurring from advance refunding of debt are deferred and amortized as interest expense over the remaining life of the old bonds, or the life of the new bonds, whichever is shorter.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues and expenses consist of those revenues that result from the ongoing principal operations of the Association. Operating revenues consist primarily of membership fees. Non-operating revenues and expenses consist of those revenues and expenses that are related to financing and investing type of activities and result from non-exchange transactions or ancillary activities. When an expense is incurred for purposes for which there are both net assets without donor restrictions and net assets with donor restriction available, it is the Association's policy to apply those expenses to net assets with without donor restrictions to the extent such are available and then to net assets with donor restrictions.

Reclassification

Certain 2019 items may have been reclassified in order to conform with the 2020 financial statement presentation.

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.):

Capital Assets

The cost of additions and major replacements of retired units of property are capitalized. The Association defines capital assets as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$1,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Cost includes direct labor, outside services, materials and transportation, employee fringe benefits, overhead, and interest on funds borrowed to finance construction. The cost and accumulated depreciation of property sold or retired is deducted from capital assets and any profit or loss resulting from the disposal is credited or charged in the nonoperating section of the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets. The cost of current repairs, maintenance, and minor replacements is charged to expense. Construction in progress primarily relates to upgrades of existing facilities.

Depreciation has been provided over estimated useful lives of the assets using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Buildings	40
Machinery & Equipment	5-7
Office Equipment	5-7
Water Utility Plant	5-40

Income Taxes

The Association is exempt from income taxes. They have been granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c)(12).

Equity Classifications

Net assets comprise the various net earnings from operating income, non-operating revenues and expenses, and capital contributions. Net assets are classified in the following two components:

Net Assets with Donor Restrictions- This component of net assets consists of constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions - This component of net assets consists of net assets not subject to donor-imposed restrictions.

Restricted Assets

Certain proceeds of the Association's revenue, as well as certain resources set aside for the bond repayment and bond agreement requirements, are classified as restricted assets on the Statement of Financial Position, because they are maintained in separate bank accounts and their use is limited by applicable bond covenants. Customer deposits held by the Association are also considered restricted.

Allowance for Bad Debt

The Association has elected to record bad debts using the direct write-off method. Generally accepted accounting principles require that the allowance method be used to recognize bad debts; however, as of September 30, 2020, management had determined that no additional accounts needed to be written off.

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

As required by law, all of the Association's deposits are with approved banks. The deposited are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") or collateralized by securities held by the bank in the Association's name. As of September 30, 2020, deposited funds were adequately insured.

NOTE 3 – RESTRICTED ASSETS:

Restricted assets consist of cash reserves restricted by long-term debt covenants. The long-term debt covenants require minimum reserves for debt service reserves (see Note 4).

The following is a list of the restricted cash at September 30:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Debt Service Reserves	\$ <u>129,135</u>	\$ <u>126,370</u>

NOTE 4 - LONG-TERM DEBT:

Long-term debt at September 30, 2020 and 2019 consists of the following:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, bond payable, due in semi-annual installments of \$13,429, including interest at 5.3% through June 2033 (1)	\$ 250,038	\$ 263,121
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, loan payable, due in annual installments of \$8,017, including interest at 5.0% through July 2030. (1)	61,905	66,593
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, bond payable, due in semi-annual installments of \$19,754, including interest at 5.3% through June 2030 (2)	<u>303,668</u>	<u>326,183</u>
	615,611	655,897
Less Current Portion	<u>(43,000)</u>	<u>(40,200)</u>
Long-Term Debt	<u>\$ 572,611</u>	<u>\$ 615,697</u>

(1) The loan has no restrictive covenants.

(2) The bond has restrictive covenants, including the requirement to begin accumulating a depreciation reserve in monthly installments of \$300. To be fully funded, the reserve must equal \$250,000.

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 4 - LONG-TERM DEBT (cont.):

Maturities of long-term debt in the years subsequent to September 30, 2020 are approximately:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2021	\$ 43,000	\$ 31,961	\$ 74,961
2022	45,200	29,715	74,915
2023	47,400	27,357	74,757
2024	49,800	24,785	74,585
2025	52,300	22,201	74,501
2026-2030	304,273	66,005	370,278
2030-2033	73,638	6,918	80,556
	<u>\$ 615,611</u>	<u>\$ 208,942</u>	<u>\$ 824,553</u>

Long-term liability activity for the years ended September 30, 2020 and 2019 is as follows:

	<u>Balance</u>		<u>Additions</u>		<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Due Within</u>
	<u>9/30/19</u>					<u>9/30/20</u>	<u>One Year</u>
Long Term Debt							
Loans	\$ 66,593	\$ -		\$ (4,687)		\$ 61,905	\$ 5,500
Bonds	<u>589,304</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>(35,598)</u>		<u>553,706</u>	<u>37,500</u>
	<u>\$ 655,897</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ (40,286)</u>		<u>\$ 615,611</u>	<u>\$ 43,000</u>

	<u>Balance</u>		<u>Additions</u>		<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Due Within</u>
	<u>9/30/18</u>					<u>9/30/19</u>	<u>One Year</u>
Long Term Debt							
Loans	\$ 71,057	\$ -		\$ (4,464)		\$ 66,593	\$ 4,500
Bonds	<u>623,088</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>(33,784)</u>		<u>589,304</u>	<u>33,800</u>
	<u>\$ 694,145</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ (38,248)</u>		<u>\$ 655,897</u>	<u>\$ 38,300</u>

The Association has pledged future water customer revenues, net of specified operation expenses, to repay \$615,611 in long-term debt. Proceeds from the loans/bonds were used for building of the Association's water systems. Principal and interest on the loans/bonds are payable through 2033, solely from the water customer net revenues. Principal and interest paid for the year ended September 30, 2020 were \$40,286 and \$34,097, respectively. Principal and interest paid in the year ended September 30, 2019 were \$38,248 and \$36,135, respectively.

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 5 – CAPITAL ASSETS:

A summary of changes in capital assets for the years ended September 30, 2020 and 2019 is as follows:

	<u>9/30/2019</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>9/30/2020</u>
Building	\$ 27,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,384
Land	9,251	-	-	9,251
Machinery & Equipment	13,809	-	-	13,809
Office Equipment	6,152	-	-	6,152
Water Utility Plant	1,864,159	-	-	1,864,159
Total	<u>1,920,754</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>1,920,754</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,212,967)</u>			<u>(1,267,609)</u>
Total Capital Assets	<u>\$ 707,787</u>			<u>\$ 653,145</u>

	<u>9/30/2018</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>9/30/2019</u>
Building	\$ 27,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,384
Land	9,251	-	-	9,251
Machinery & Equipment	13,809	-	-	13,809
Office Equipment	6,152	-	-	6,152
Water Utility Plant	1,844,776	19,383	-	1,864,159
Total	<u>1,901,371</u>	<u>\$ 19,383</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>1,920,754</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,158,032)</u>			<u>(1,212,967)</u>
Total Capital Assets	<u>\$ 743,339</u>			<u>\$ 707,787</u>

NOTE 6 – PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT:

During the year ended September 30, 2020, changes were made to net position to remove all bond issuance costs in accordance with GASB issued Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*. This adjustment reduced net position in the amount of \$12,530.

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 7 – Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets:

The following reflects the Association’s financial assets as of the balance sheet date, reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions within one year of the balance sheet date.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Financial Assets at year end	\$ 451,502	\$ 378,069
Less those unavailable for general expenditures within one year, due to:		
Donor-restricted for long-term debt reserves	<u>129,135</u>	<u>126,370</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditure within one year	\$ <u>322,367</u>	\$ <u>251,699</u>

As part of the Association’s liquidity management, it invests cash in excess of daily requirements in short-term investments, typically certificates of deposit and savings accounts.

BERRY & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Certified Public Accountants

American Institute of CPAs

Arkansas Society of CPAs

Texas Society of CPAs

Page 12

**To the Board of Directors of
NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
El Dorado, Arkansas**

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

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of New Hope Water Association, Inc. (the "Association") (a non-profit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of September 30, 2020, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 25, 2021.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Association'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 Association's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association'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 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 the 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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 2020-001 that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Association'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 *Governmental Auditing Standards*.

*11225 Huron Lane, Suite 212 • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 501-227-9044 • Fax 501-227-8791
jtberry@berryassociatescpa.com
2911 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 300 • Dallas, TX 75219 • 972-437-2919
2088 Main Street, Suite A • Madison, MS 39110 • 601-383-0119*

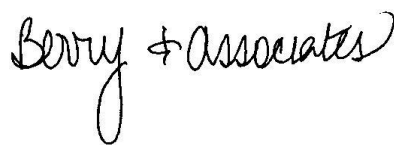
To the Board of Directors of
NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
El Dorado, Arkansas

Association's Response to Findings

The Association's response to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Association's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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.



Berry & Associates
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 25, 2021

NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

2020-001 Internal Control – Segregation of Duties

Criteria: The segregation of duties and responsibilities between different individuals for custody of assets, recordkeeping and those assets and reconciliation of those asset accounts is an important control activity needed to adequately protect the entity's assets and ensure accurate financial reporting.

Condition: Presently the same individual who is responsible for service billing and adjustment, receives customer payments, and posts payments to subsidiary accounts receivable ledger. Also, the same individual who is responsible for general ledger activity including posting and writing checks also reconciles the bank statement. In addition, only limited oversight is provided over this individual in the conduct of their daily functions. This finding was also noted in 2019.

Cause: The Association's limited size and staffing resources have made it difficult for management to provide sufficient staffing to fully segregate incompatible duties in a cost-effective manner.

Effect or Potential Effect: Without sufficient segregation of duties, the risk significantly increases that errors and fraud related to utility billing and collection activities, including misappropriation of assets, could occur and not be detected within a timely basis.

Recommendation: We recommend that management and the board should consider a formal evaluation of their risks associated with this lack of duty segregation over utility cash and receivables. In response to the identified risks, consideration should be given to identifying and implementing controls that could help mitigate the risks associated with lack of segregation of duties, such as providing increased management oversight. For example, the entity might consider soliciting the assistance of an independent volunteer to perform certain functions including to act as compensating procedures where applicable.

View of Responsible Officials: The Association concurs with the recommendation, although, the cost to correct this condition might exceed the benefit, the Association has made certain changes in procedures that will improve the overall lack of segregation of duties and has implemented compensating procedures as applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**NEW HOPE WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
GENERAL COMMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

THE WATER RATE SCHEDULE:

RESIDENTIAL OR LIGHT COMMERCIAL

First 1,000 gallons	\$ 19.00 (minimum charge)
Next 3,000 gallons	\$ 5.95 per 1,000 gallons
All over 7,000 gallons	\$ 4.00 per 1,000 gallons

SCHULER ROAD

First 1,000 gallons	\$ 30.65 (minimum charge)
Next 3,000 gallons	\$ 7.55 per 1,000 gallons
Next 3,000 gallons	\$ 5.50 per 1,000 gallons

INSURANCE SCHEDULE:

<u>POLICY NO.</u>	<u>INSURANCE COMPANY</u>		<u>COVERAGE</u>
1D0690814	EMC Insurance	General Liability	\$ 600,000
		Product Liability	\$ 600,000
		Personal and/or advertising injury Limit	\$ 300,000
1XO-69-09-00		Commercial Property	\$ 244,970
1E0690813		Auto Insurance Hired not owned auto	\$ 300,000
400HN1376		Fidelity Bond	
		John Brown	\$ 10,000
		Johnny Hanry	\$ 10,000
		Preston Hammett	\$ 10,000

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
David Aubrey	President
Greg Jolley	Vice President
Johnny Hanry	Secretary/Treasurer
Phil Williams	Board Member
Laverne Ware	Board Member
Gene Hamaker	Board Member
Hilton Rogers	Board Member