

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA
(A COMPONENT UNIT OF COOK COUNTY)**

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

Description of the Office of the State Auditor

The mission of the Office of the State Auditor is to oversee local government finances for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity and accountability in local governmental financial activities.

Through financial, compliance, and special audits, the State Auditor oversees and ensures that local government funds are used for the purposes intended by law and that local governments hold themselves to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The State Auditor performs approximately 150 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 3,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

Audit Practice - conducts financial and legal compliance audits of local governments;

Government Information - collects and analyzes financial information for cities, towns, counties, and special districts;

Legal/Special Investigations - provides legal analysis and counsel to the Office and responds to outside inquiries about Minnesota local government law; as well as investigates allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance in local government;

Pension - monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for approximately 650 public pension funds; and

Tax Increment Financing - promotes compliance and accountability in local governments' use of tax increment financing through financial and compliance audits.

The State Auditor serves on the State Executive Council, State Board of Investment, Land Exchange Board, Public Employees Retirement Association Board, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Rural Finance Authority Board.

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA
(A COMPONENT UNIT OF COOK COUNTY)**

Year Ended December 31, 2017



**Audit Practice Division
Office of the State Auditor
State of Minnesota**

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

ORGANIZATION
DECEMBER 31, 2017

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Commissioners		
President	Howard Hedstrom	December 2019
Vice President	Anton Moody	December 2017
Treasurer	Scott Harrison	December 2017
Secretary	Heidi Doo-Kirk	December 2017
Commissioner	Carol Mork	December 2018
Commissioner	Bev Green	December 2018
Commissioner	Hal Greenwood	December 2020

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REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Commissioners
Cook County and Grand Marais Joint
Economic Development Authority
Grand Marais, Minnesota

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority, a component unit of Cook County, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority'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.

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 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 Authority'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 Authority'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 respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority as of December 31, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the 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 Required Supplementary Information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), 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.

Management has omitted the 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 GASB, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economical, 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 Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority's basic financial statements. The supplementary information listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance 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 basic 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 August 28, 2018, on our consideration of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority'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 solely 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 the effectiveness of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority's 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 Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

August 28, 2018

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 1

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business-Type Activities</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Assets</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 275,750	\$ 113,129	\$ 388,879
Taxes receivable	25,022	-	25,022
Accounts receivable	5,429	10,741	16,170
Internal balances	185,334	(185,334)	-
Due from other governments	106,622	-	106,622
Inventories	-	26,611	26,611
Land held for resale	797,500	-	797,500
Loan receivable	46,000	-	46,000
Capital assets			
Non-depreciable	-	213,685	213,685
Depreciable - net of accumulated depreciation	-	7,197,762	7,197,762
Total Assets	\$ 1,441,657	\$ 7,376,594	\$ 8,818,251
<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>			
Deferred pension outflows	\$ 17,182	\$ 64,637	\$ 81,819
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Accounts payable	\$ 114,464	\$ 4,699	\$ 119,163
Salaries payable	1,194	3,477	4,671
Gift certificates	-	18,437	18,437
Due to other governments	972,500	-	972,500
Unearned revenue	1,000	3,250	4,250
Capital lease payable - current	-	19,175	19,175
Long-term liabilities			
Capital lease payable	-	61,501	61,501
Loans payable	-	2,169,972	2,169,972
Net pension obligation	45,582	171,473	217,055
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,134,740	\$ 2,451,984	\$ 3,586,724
<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>			
Deferred pension inflows	\$ 9,870	\$ 37,128	\$ 46,998
<u>Net Position</u>			
Net investment in capital assets	\$ -	\$ 5,160,798	\$ 5,160,798
Unrestricted	314,229	(208,679)	105,550
Total Net Position	\$ 314,229	\$ 4,952,119	\$ 5,266,348

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

	Expenses	Charges for Services
<u>Functions/Programs</u>		
Governmental activities		
Urban and economic development	\$ 927,610	\$ -
Business-type activities		
Golf course	949,166	660,343
Total	\$ 1,876,776	\$ 660,343
	General Revenues	
	Property taxes	
	Unrestricted investment earnings	
	Miscellaneous	
	Total general revenues	
	Change in net position	
	Net Position - Beginning	
	Net Position - Ending	

EXHIBIT 2

Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position		
Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
\$ 693,566	\$ -	\$ (234,044)	\$ -	\$ (234,044)
-	300,000	-	11,177	11,177
\$ 693,566	\$ 300,000	\$ (234,044)	\$ 11,177	\$ (222,867)
		\$ 390,421	\$ -	\$ 390,421
		-	308	308
		6,721	50,000	56,721
		\$ 397,142	\$ 50,308	\$ 447,450
		\$ 163,098	\$ 61,485	\$ 224,583
		151,131	4,890,634	5,041,765
		\$ 314,229	\$ 4,952,119	\$ 5,266,348

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FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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GOVERNMENTAL FUND

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 3

**BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

<u>Assets</u>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 275,750
Taxes receivable	25,022
Accounts receivable	5,429
Land held for resale	797,500
Due from other funds	185,334
Due from other governments	106,622
Loans receivable	46,000
	46,000
Total Assets	\$ 1,441,657
 <u>Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</u>	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 114,464
Salaries payable	1,194
Unearned revenue	1,000
Due to other governments	972,500
	972,500
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,089,158
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Unavailable revenue - taxes	7,222
Fund Balances	
Unassigned	345,277
	345,277
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ 1,441,657

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 4

**RECONCILIATION OF GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET TO
THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION-GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Fund balance - General Fund (Exhibit 3)	\$ 345,277
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:	
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the governmental funds.	7,222
Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources are created as a result of various differences related to pensions that are not recognized in the governmental funds.	
Deferred outflows related to pensions	17,182
Deferred inflows related to pensions	(9,870)
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.	
Net pension liability	<u>(45,582)</u>
Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit 1)	<u><u>\$ 314,229</u></u>

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 5

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Revenues	
Taxes	\$ 388,315
Intergovernmental	693,549
Miscellaneous	<u>6,721</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,088,585</u>
Expenditures	
Current	
Urban and economic development	
Salaries	\$ 52,158
Legal	72
Professional services	16,580
Rent	3,600
Advertising	4,166
Office	7,161
Insurance	2,962
Telephone and internet	712
Affordable housing	154,160
Other housing expense	26,437
Cedar Grove Business Park	60,442
Airport terminal project	200,000
Superior national project	300,000
Water district project	62,554
Other	<u>19,550</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 910,554</u>
Change in Fund Balance	\$ 178,031
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>167,246</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u><u>\$ 345,277</u></u>

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 6

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE
GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES--GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Net change in fund balance - General Fund (Exhibit 5)	\$	178,031
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

In the funds, under the modified accrual basis, receivables not available for expenditure are deferred. In the statement of activities, those revenues are recognized when earned. The adjustment to revenue between the fund statements and the statement of activities is the increase or decrease in revenue deferred as unavailable.

Deferred inflows of resources - December 31	\$	7,222	
Deferred inflows of resources - January 1		<u>(5,116)</u>	2,106

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

Change in net pension liability	\$	(16,027)	
Change in deferred pension outflows		4,485	
Change in deferred pension inflows		<u>(5,497)</u>	<u>(17,039)</u>

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit 2)	\$	<u>163,098</u>
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PROPRIETARY FUND

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 7

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Assets

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	113,129
Accounts receivable		10,741
Inventories		26,611
		26,611

Total current assets	\$	150,481
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Noncurrent assets

Capital assets		
Not depreciated - land	\$	213,685
Depreciable - net of depreciation		7,197,762
		7,197,762

Total noncurrent assets	\$	7,411,447
--------------------------------	-----------	------------------

Total Assets	\$	7,561,928
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Deferred Outflows of Resources

Deferred pension outflows	\$	64,637
		64,637

Liabilities

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	\$	4,699
Salaries payable		3,477
Gift certificates		18,437
Due to other funds		185,334
Unearned revenue		3,250
Capital lease payable - current		19,175
		19,175

Total current liabilities	\$	234,372
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Noncurrent liabilities

Capital lease payable	\$	61,501
Loans payable		2,169,972
Net pension liability		171,473
		171,473

Total noncurrent liabilities	\$	2,402,946
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Total Liabilities	\$	2,637,318
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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

***EXHIBIT 7
(Continued)***

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred pension inflows	<u>\$ 37,128</u>
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Net Position

Net investment in capital assets	\$ 5,160,798
Unrestricted	<u>(208,679)</u>

Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 4,952,119</u></u>
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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 8

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Operating Revenues	
Sales	
Food and beverage	\$ 94,482
Merchandise	102,967
Less: cost of goods sold	<u>(115,776)</u>
Net sales	<u>\$ 81,673</u>
Charges for services	
Green fees	\$ 515,938
Other	<u>62,732</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 660,343</u>
Operating Expenses	
Salaries and wages	\$ 324,495
Payroll taxes	46,441
Retirement contribution	14,772
Grounds maintenance and supplies	132,429
Clubhouse maintenance and supplies	14,746
Golf cart leases and maintenance	32,349
Insurance	16,699
Utilities	31,257
Telephone	2,979
Office	602
Accounting and audit	4,500
Legal fees	200
Dues and licenses	4,437
Travel	1,232
Marketing	46,131
Bank charges and fees	17,758
Other	1,592
Depreciation	<u>254,591</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 947,210</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (286,867)</u>

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

***EXHIBIT 8
(Continued)***

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	
Interest income	\$ 308
Interest expense	(1,956)
Marketing grant	<u>50,000</u>
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>\$ 48,352</u>
Capital contributions	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
Change in Net Position	\$ 61,485
Net Position - January 1	<u>4,890,634</u>
Net Position - December 31	<u><u>\$ 4,952,119</u></u>

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 9

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Receipts from customers	\$ 785,884
Payments to suppliers	(489,430)
Payments to employees	(320,792)
	<hr/>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>\$ (24,338)</u>
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities	
Marketing grant	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities	
Interest paid on capital lease	\$ (1,956)
Capital asset additions	(178,752)
Capital contributions	300,000
Principal paid on loan payable	(120,412)
Principal paid on capital lease	(7,526)
	<hr/>
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financing activities	<u>\$ (8,646)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Interest on investments	<u>\$ 308</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 17,324
Cash and Cash Equivalents at January 1	<u>95,805</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at December 31	<u><u>\$ 113,129</u></u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	
Operating income (loss)	\$ (286,867)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	
Depreciation expense	254,591
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	7,275
(Increase) decrease in inventories	8,006
(Increase) decrease in deferred pension obligation outflows	20,337
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(13,536)
Increase (decrease) in salaries payable	1,822
Increase (decrease) in unearned revenue	2,490
Increase (decrease) in deferred pension obligation inflows	7,864
Increase (decrease) in pension liability	(26,320)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ (24,338)</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority’s financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Authority are discussed below.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

The Authority was established June 14, 1988, pursuant to 1988 Minn. Laws, ch. 516, having all the powers and duties of an economic development authority under Minn. Stat. §§ 469.090 to 469.1081. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, these financial statements present the Authority (primary government) and its component unit for which the Authority is financially accountable. The Authority is governed by a seven-member Board, of which four members are appointed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners and three members appointed by the Grand Marais City Council. The Board is organized with a chair, vice chair, treasurer, and secretary, elected annually. The Authority is considered to be a component unit of Cook County and is included in Cook County’s annual financial report.

Blended Component Unit

Blended component units are legally separate organizations that are so intertwined with the Authority that they are, in substance, the same as the Authority and, therefore, are reported as if they were part of the Authority. The Authority has one blended component unit.

Component Unit	Component Unit is Included in the Reporting Entity Because	Separate Financial Statements
Resource Development Council of Cook County, Inc. (RDC)	The Authority Commissioners are the governing board of the RDC, and Authority management has operational responsibility for the RDC.	Separate financial statements are not prepared.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Financial Reporting Entity

Blended Component Unit (Continued)

The Resource Development Council of Cook County, Inc., did not report any activity in 2017.

B. Basic Financial Statements

1. Government-Wide Statements

The government-wide financial statements (the statement of net position and the statement of activities) display information about the Authority and its component unit. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges to external parties for support.

In the government-wide statement of net position, both the governmental and business-type activities columns: (a) are presented on a consolidated basis by column; and (b) are reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis that recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The Authority's net position is reported in three parts: (1) net investment in capital assets, (2) restricted net position, and (3) unrestricted net position.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of each function of the Authority's governmental activities and business-type activities are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those clearly identifiable with a specific function or activity. Program revenues include: (1) fees, fines, and charges paid by the recipients of goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or activity; and (2) grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or activity. Revenues not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

B. Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

2. Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the Authority's funds, including its blended component unit. Separate statements for each fund category--governmental and proprietary--are presented. The emphasis of governmental and proprietary fund financial statements is on major individual governmental and enterprise funds, with each displayed as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

The Authority reports the following major governmental fund:

The General Fund is the Authority's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government not accounted for in other funds.

The Authority reports the following major enterprise fund:

The Golf Course Fund is used to account for the operations of the Superior National at Lutsen Golf Course.

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

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

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. The Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority considers all revenues as available if collected within 90 days after the end of the current period, except for taxes,

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

which have a 60-day accrual period. Property and other taxes, licenses, and interest are all considered susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on long-term debt, and claims and judgments, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent that they have matured. Proceeds of long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Proprietary fund operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Nonoperating revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from nonexchange transactions or incidental activities.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Authority's policy to use restricted resources first and then unrestricted resources as needed.

D. Budget

The Authority is required to annually send its nonappropriated budget to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Grand Marais City Council.

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity

1. Deposits and Investments

The Authority's cash consists of petty cash, checking accounts, and savings accounts.

The cash balances of all funds are pooled by the Authority for the purpose of increasing earnings.

Cash and cash equivalents are identified for the purpose of the statement of cash flows for the proprietary fund.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity
(Continued)

2. Receivables and Payables

All outstanding balances between funds are reported as “due to/from other funds.” Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as “internal balances.”

Property taxes are levied as of January 1 on property values assessed as of the same date. The tax levy notice is mailed in March with the first half payment due May 15 and the second half payment due October 15. The Authority approved an annual levy for operating purposes. Property taxes are collected by Cook County and distributed to the Authority three times each year. Unpaid taxes at December 31 become liens on the respective property and are classified in the financial statements as taxes receivable.

No allowance for uncollectible receivables has been provided because such amounts are not expected to be material.

3. Inventories

Inventory consists of golf course merchandise for resale. All inventories are valued at lower of cost or market using the first in/first out method. Inventories are recorded as expenses when consumed.

4. Land Held for Resale

Land held for resale comprises the business lots for sale in the Cedar Grove Business Park. The Authority constructed the Cedar Grove Business Park within the City of Grand Marais to provide land sites for new or existing businesses. The lots are valued at the lower of historical cost or fair market value.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity
(Continued)

5. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include land and improvements, construction in progress, buildings and structures, and furniture and equipment, are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$1,000. Such assets are recorded at historical cost, except for land, which was donated. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value.

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

Land improvements, buildings and structures, and furniture and equipment of the Authority are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Land improvements	30
Buildings and structures	20
Furniture and equipment	1 - 20

6. Unearned Revenue

Governmental funds and government-wide financial statements report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not earned.

7. Compensated Absences

Certain full-time employees of the Authority and the golf course are entitled to vacation and sick leave. Vacation and sick leave for golf course employees must be used in the year it is earned. Unused vacation at year-end is not reported as a liability, and unused sick leave is not compensated.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity
(Continued)

8. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expenditure/expense) until then. Currently, the Authority has one item, deferred pension outflows, that qualifies for reporting in this category. These outflows arise only under the full accrual basis of accounting and consist of pension plan contributions paid subsequent to the measurement date, differences between expected and actual economic experience, changes in actuarial assumptions, and also the pension plan changes in proportionate share and, accordingly, are reported only in the statement of net position.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. Currently, the Authority has two types of deferred inflows. The governmental funds report unavailable revenue from delinquent taxes receivable for amounts that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period. Unavailable revenue arises only under the modified accrual basis of accounting and, accordingly, is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The unavailable revenue amount is deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available. The Authority also has deferred pension inflows. These inflows arise only under the full accrual basis of accounting and consist of differences between expected and actual pension plan economic experience, changes in actuarial assumptions, pension plan changes in proportionate share, and differences between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments and, accordingly, are reported only in the statement of net position.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity
(Continued)

9. Classification of Net Position

Net position in government-wide statements is classified in the following categories:

Net investment in capital assets - the amount of net position representing capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and reduced by outstanding debt, if any, attributed to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of the assets.

Restricted net position - the amount of net position for which external restrictions have been imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position - the amount of net position that does not meet the definition of restricted or invested in capital assets.

10. Classification of Fund Balances

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Authority is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted - amounts for which constraints have been placed on the use of resources either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity

10. Classification of Fund Balances (Continued)

Committed - amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (ordinance or resolution) of the Authority's Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (ordinance or resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts.

Assigned - amounts the Authority intends to use for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed.

Unassigned - the residual classification for the General Fund; it includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other fund balance classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted or committed.

The Authority applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first, followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

11. Pension Plan

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and additions to/deductions from PERA's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by PERA, except that PERA's fiscal year-end is June 30. For this purpose, plan contributions are recognized as of employer payroll paid dates and benefit payments and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Plan investments are reported at fair value.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
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GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity
(Continued)

12. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources; and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability

Excess of Expenses Over Appropriations

The Golf Course Enterprise Fund had expenses in excess of budget for the year ended December 31, 2017:

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Excess</u>
Golf Course Enterprise Fund operating expenses	\$ 947,210	\$ 716,792	\$ 230,418

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

a. Deposits

The Authority is authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.02 and 118A.04 to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in certificates of deposit. The Authority is required by Minn. Stat. § 118A.03 to protect deposits with insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit at the close of the financial institution's banking day, not covered by insurance or bonds.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

a. Deposits (Continued)

Authorized collateral includes treasury bills, notes and bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; general obligations rated “A” or better and revenue obligations rated “AA” or better; irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and certificates of deposit. Minnesota statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a financial institution failure, the Authority’s deposits may not be returned to it. The Authority does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. At December 31, 2017, \$145,367 of the Authority’s deposits were exposed to custodial credit risk.

b. Investments

The Authority may invest in the following types of investments as authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.04 and 118A.05:

- (1) securities which are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress, except mortgage-backed securities defined as “high risk” by Minn. Stat. § 118A.04, subd. 6;
- (2) mutual funds through shares of registered investment companies provided the mutual fund receives certain ratings depending on its investments;

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

b. Investments (Continued)

- (3) general obligations of the State of Minnesota and its municipalities, and in certain state agency and local obligations of Minnesota and other states provided such obligations have certain specified bond ratings by a national bond rating service;
- (4) bankers' acceptances of United States banks;
- (5) commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries rated in the highest quality category by two nationally recognized rating agencies and matures in 270 days or less; and
- (6) with certain restrictions, in repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements, joint powers investment trusts, and guaranteed investment contracts.

At December 31, 2017, the Authority had no investments.

2. Receivables

Receivables as of December 31, 2017, for the Authority's governmental activities are as follows:

	Total Receivables	Amounts Not Scheduled for Collection During the Subsequent Year
Governmental Activities		
Taxes	\$ 25,022	\$ -
Accounts	5,489	-
Loans	46,000	-
Due from other governments	106,622	-
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 183,133	\$ -

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

2. Receivables (Continued)

Loans receivable represents an amount owed from a promissory note issued. On December 6, 2017, the Authority issued a promissory note to One Roof Community Housing in the amount of \$46,000 to pay bills and charges incurred in connection with the West End Quad Pod housing project located in Lutsen, Minnesota. One Roof Community Housing promises to repay the Authority, without interest, on or before July 31, 2018, or earlier on completion of financing.

3. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2017, was as follows:

Governmental Activities

	Beginning Balance	Increase	Decrease	Ending Balance
Capital assets depreciated				
Furniture and equipment	\$ 1,986	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,986
Less: accumulated depreciation for				
Furniture and equipment	1,986	-	-	1,986
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets, Net	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

3. Capital Assets (Continued)

Business-Type Activities

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital assets not depreciated				
Land	\$ 213,685	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 213,685
Construction in progress	<u>5,805,368</u>	<u>168,519</u>	<u>5,973,887</u>	<u>-</u>
Total capital assets not depreciated	<u>\$ 6,019,053</u>	<u>\$ 168,519</u>	<u>\$ 5,973,887</u>	<u>\$ 213,685</u>
Capital assets depreciated				
Land improvements	\$ 4,424,884	\$ 5,973,887	\$ -	\$ 10,398,771
Buildings and structures	372,371	-	-	372,371
Furniture and equipment	<u>1,043,194</u>	<u>64,808</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,108,002</u>
Total capital assets depreciated	<u>\$ 5,840,449</u>	<u>\$ 6,038,695</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,879,144</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation for				
Land improvements	\$ 3,187,841	\$ 201,249	\$ -	\$ 3,389,090
Buildings and structures	372,371	-	-	372,371
Furniture and equipment	<u>866,579</u>	<u>53,342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>919,921</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ 4,426,791</u>	<u>\$ 254,591</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,681,382</u>
Total capital assets depreciated, net	<u>\$ 1,413,658</u>	<u>\$ 5,784,104</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 7,197,762</u>
Business-Type Activities				
Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 7,432,711</u>	<u>\$ 5,952,623</u>	<u>\$ 5,973,887</u>	<u>\$ 7,411,447</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs as follows:

Business-Type Activities	
Golf course	<u>\$ 254,591</u>

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds (Continued)

B. Interfund Receivables and Payables

The composition of the interfund balance as of December 31, 2017, is as follows:

Due To/From Other Funds

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount
General Fund	Golf Course Enterprise Fund	\$ 185,334

The EDA General Fund has loaned money to the Golf Course Fund to help cover start-up costs in certain years at the golf course. The outstanding balance of these loans at December 31, 2017, is \$185,334. The golf course plans to repay the loan to the General Fund during 2018 as revenues become available.

C. Liabilities

1. Leases

Operating Leases

The Authority leases golf carts under non-cancelable operating leases. Total costs for such leases were \$27,877 for the year ended December 31, 2017. These operating leases are expected to continue indefinitely or be replaced by similar leases. The future minimum lease payments for these leases are as follows:

Year Ended December 31	Amount
2018	\$ 27,877
2019	117,877
Total	\$ 145,754

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities

1. Leases (Continued)

Capital Leases

The Authority has two lease agreements that qualify as capital leases for accounting purposes and, therefore, have been recorded at the present value of the future minimum lease payments as of the inception date. The Authority entered into a lease-purchase arrangement with Merchants Bank Equipment Finance to purchase a skid steer loader in 2016. The original lease balance totaled \$39,826 at an interest rate of 3.05 percent. The Authority entered into a lease-purchase arrangement with Merchants Bank Equipment Finance to purchase a Toro Reelmaster mower in 2017. The original lease balance totaled \$61,230 at an interest rate of 3.40 percent. Payments on the capital leases are made from the Golf Course Fund. The future minimum lease obligations and the net present value of these minimum lease payments as of December 31, 2017, were as follows:

Year Ended December 31	Amount
2018	\$ 19,175
2019	19,810
2020	20,465
2021	14,744
2022	6,482
Total	\$ 80,676

2. Governmental Funds/Activities

The Authority took out a loan of \$225,000 in 2012 from Cook County to pay operating costs. The Authority has repaid \$50,000 to Cook County to date, leaving a remaining balance at December 31, 2017, of \$175,000.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities

2. Governmental Funds/Activities (Continued)

The Authority constructed the Cedar Grove Business Park within the City of Grand Marais to provide land sites for new or existing businesses. The project was funded by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Iron Range Resources grants obtained by the City, and a City-issued bond. The City has an agreement with the Authority whereby proceeds from lot sales are to be remitted to the City at the time of the sale to be used to help repay the City-issued bond that financed the improvement. Unsold lots are recorded based on the lower of historical cost or fair value as land held for resale and due to other governments on the balance sheet and statement of net position.

The Authority owes the City of Grand Marais proceeds for land held for resale after lots are sold. The value of the lots as of December 31, 2017, was estimated at \$797,500.

Debt activity for the year ended December 31, 2017, is:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Payments/ Adjustments</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Operating loan	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000
Land held for resale	742,500	-	55,000	797,500
Due to Other Governments	<u>\$ 917,500</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 55,000</u>	<u>\$ 972,500</u>

3. Business-Type Activities

In October 2014, Cook County issued General Obligation Tax Abatement Bonds, Series 2014A, on behalf of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority. The bonds have a face value of \$2,410,000 and will be repaid over a period of 15 years. Proceeds of the bonds were used to help finance improvements to the Superior National at Lutsen Golf Course. The Authority entered into a loan agreement with Cook County and makes loan payments to the County in sufficient amounts for the County to make the required payments on the bonds.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities

3. Business-Type Activities (Continued)

A summary of changes in long-term debt follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Payments/ Adjustments	Ending Balance
Loans payable	\$ 2,290,384	\$ -	\$ (120,412)	\$ 2,169,972

4. Defined Benefit Pension Plan

A. Plan Description

All full-time and certain part-time employees of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority are covered by a defined benefit pension plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). PERA administers the General Employees Retirement Plan, which is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plan. The plan is established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. chs. 353 and 356. PERA's defined benefit pension plan is a tax qualified plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The General Employees Retirement Plan (accounted for in the General Employees Fund) has multiple benefit structures with members belonging to the Coordinated Plan, the Basic Plan, or the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security and Basic Plan and Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund members are not. The Basic Plan was closed to new members in 1967. The Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund was closed to new members during 1978 and merged into the General Employees Retirement Plan in 2015. All new members must participate in the Coordinated Plan, for which benefits vest after five years of credited service. No Authority employees belong to the Basic Plan or Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

4. Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

B. Benefits Provided

PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability benefits to members and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. Benefit provisions are established by state statute and can be modified only by the state legislature. Benefit increases are provided to benefit recipients each January. Increases are related to the funding ratio of the plan. Benefit recipients receive a future annual 1.0 percent post-retirement benefit increase. If the funding ratio reaches 90 percent for two consecutive years, the benefit increase will revert to 2.5 percent. If, after reverting to a 2.5 percent benefit increase, the funding ratio declines to less than 80 percent for one year or less than 85 percent for two consecutive years, the benefit increase will decrease to 1.0 percent.

The benefit provisions stated in the following paragraph of this section are current provisions and apply to active plan participants. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits but are not yet receiving them are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated their public service. Benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service. Two methods are used to compute benefits for General Employees Retirement Plan Coordinated members. Members hired prior to July 1, 1989, receive the higher of a step-rate benefit accrual formula (Method 1) or a level accrual formula (Method 2). Under Method 1, the annuity accrual rate for a Coordinated Plan member is 1.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years of service and 1.7 percent for each remaining year. Under Method 2, the annuity accrual rate is 1.7 percent for Coordinated Plan members for each year of service.

For General Employees Retirement Plan members hired prior to July 1, 1989, a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90, and normal retirement age is 65. For members hired on or after July 1, 1989, normal retirement age is the age for unreduced Social Security benefits capped at 66. Disability benefits are available for vested members and are based on years of service and average high-five salary.

C. Contributions

Pension benefits are funded from member and employer contributions and income from the investment of fund assets. Rates for employer and employee contributions are set by Minn. Stat. ch. 353. These statutes are established and amended by the state legislature. General Employees Retirement Plan Coordinated members were required to contribute 6.50 percent of their annual covered salary in 2017.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

4. Defined Benefit Pension Plan

C. Contributions (Continued)

In 2017, the Authority was required to contribute the following percentage of annual covered salary:

General Employees Retirement Plan Coordinated Plan members	7.50%
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The employee and employer contribution rates did not change from the previous year.

The Authority's contributions for the General Employees Retirement Plan for the year ended December 31, 2017, were \$15,832. The contributions are equal to the contractually required contributions as set by state statute.

D. Pension Costs

At December 31, 2017, the Authority reported a liability of \$217,055 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Retirement Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2017, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Authority's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Authority's contributions received by PERA during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. At June 30, 2017, the Authority's proportion was 0.0034 percent. It was 0.0028 percent measured as of June 30, 2016. The Authority recognized pension expense of \$34,832 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Retirement Plan's pension expense.

The Authority also recognized \$80 as revenue, which results in a reduction of the net pension liability, for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's contribution to the General Employees Retirement Plan, which qualifies as a special funding situation. Legislation requires the State of Minnesota to contribute \$6 million to the General Employees Retirement Plan for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.

The Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 217,055
State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the Authority	<u>2,766</u>
Total	<u>\$ 219,821</u>

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

4. Defined Benefit Pension Plan

D. Pension Costs (Continued)

The Authority reported its proportionate share of the General Employees Retirement Plan's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	\$ 7,153	\$ 11,673
Changes in actuarial assumptions	29,677	21,760
Difference between projected and actual investment earnings	-	4,859
Changes in proportion	36,538	8,706
Contributions paid to PERA subsequent to the measurement date	8,451	-
Total	\$ 81,819	\$ 46,998

The \$8,451 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2018. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ended December 31	Pension Expense Amount
2018	\$ 11,569
2019	17,705
2020	6,309
2021	(9,213)

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

4. Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

E. Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2017, actuarial valuation was determined using the individual entry-age normal actuarial cost method and the following additional actuarial assumptions:

Inflation	2.50 percent per year
Active member payroll growth	3.25 percent per year
Investment rate of return	7.50 percent

Salary increases were based on a service-related table. Mortality rates for active members, retirees, survivors, and disabilitants in the General Employees Retirement Plan were based on RP-2014 tables for males or females, as appropriate, with slight adjustments. The cost of living benefit increases for retirees is assumed to be 1.0 percent through 2044, and 2.5 percent thereafter.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2017, valuation were based on the results of actuarial experience studies. The experience study in the General Employees Retirement Plan was dated June 30, 2015.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is 7.50 percent. The State Board of Investment, which manages the investments of PERA, prepares an analysis of the reasonableness of the long-term expected rate of return on a regular basis using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce an expected long-term rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentages. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic stocks	39%	5.10%
International stocks	19	5.30
Bonds	20	0.75
Alternative assets	20	5.90
Cash	2	0.50

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

4. Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

F. Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.50 percent in 2017, which remained consistent with 2016. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee and employer contributions will be made at the rate specified in statute. Based on that assumption, the fiduciary net position of the General Employees Retirement Plan was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

G. Changes in Actuarial Assumptions

The following changes in actuarial assumptions occurred in 2017:

General Employees Retirement Plan

- The Combined Service Annuity (CSA) loads were changed from 0.8 percent for active members and 60 percent for vested and non-vested deferred members (30 percent for deferred Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund members). The revised CSA loads are now 0.0 percent for active member liability, 15 percent for vested deferred member liability, and 3.0 percent for non-vested deferred member liability.
- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.0 percent per year for all years to 1.0 percent per year through 2044 and 2.5 percent per year thereafter.
- Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund plan provisions change the employer supplemental contribution to \$21,000,000 in calendar years 2017 and 2018 and returns to \$31,000,000 through calendar year 2031. The state's required contribution is \$16,000,000 in PERA's fiscal years 2018 and 2019 and returns to \$6,000,000 annually through calendar year 2031.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

4. Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

H. Pension Liability Sensitivity

The following presents the Authority’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate disclosed in the preceding paragraph, as well as what the Authority’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate 1.0 percentage point lower or 1.0 percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

	Proportionate Share of the General Employees Retirement Plan	
	Discount Rate	Net Pension Liability
1% Decrease	6.50%	\$ 336,667
Current	7.50	217,055
1% Increase	8.50	119,129

I. Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in a separately issued PERA financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained on the internet at www.mnpera.org; by writing to PERA at 60 Empire Drive, Suite 200, St. Paul, Minnesota 55103-2088; or by calling 651-296-7460 or 1-800-652-9026.

5. Risk Management

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; or natural disasters. The Authority purchases commercial insurance for all risks of loss. There were no significant reductions in insurance from the prior year. The amount of settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

6. Subsequent Event

In June 2018, Cook County issued \$1,620,000 Taxable General Obligation Tax Abatement Bonds, Series 2018B. The purpose of the bonds is to assist the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority and One Roof Community Housing to develop a 16-unit workforce housing project to be located in the Town of Lutsen. The County has also entered into an Authority Loan Agreement with the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority for the repayment of the Series 2018B bonds.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT A-1

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 386,290	\$ 386,290	\$ 388,315	\$ 2,025
Intergovernmental	625,000	625,000	693,549	68,549
Miscellaneous	5,520	5,520	6,721	1,201
Total Revenues	\$ 1,016,810	\$ 1,016,810	\$ 1,088,585	\$ 71,775
Expenditures				
Current				
Urban and economic development				
Salaries	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 52,158	\$ 1,842
Legal	2,000	2,000	72	1,928
Professional services	18,000	18,000	16,580	1,420
Rent	3,000	3,000	3,600	(600)
Advertising	3,000	3,000	4,166	(1,166)
Office	12,000	12,000	7,161	4,839
Insurance	5,000	5,000	2,962	2,038
Telephone and internet	-	-	712	(712)
Affordable housing	302,000	302,000	154,160	147,840
Other housing expense	23,750	23,750	26,437	(2,687)
Cedar Grove Business Park	60,000	60,000	60,442	(442)
Airport terminal project	200,000	200,000	200,000	-
Superior national project	300,000	300,000	300,000	-
Water district project	-	-	62,554	(62,554)
Other	34,060	34,060	19,550	14,510
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,016,810	\$ 1,016,810	\$ 910,554	\$ 106,256
Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 178,031	\$ 178,031
Fund Balance - January 1	167,246	167,246	167,246	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 167,246	\$ 167,246	\$ 345,277	\$ 178,031

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT A-2

**SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY
PERA GENERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Measurement Date	Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a)	State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority (b)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and the State's Related Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a + b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (a/c)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2017	0.0034%	\$ 217,055	\$ 2,766	\$ 219,821	\$ 222,000	97.77%	75.90%
2016	0.0028	227,348	3,036	230,384	174,653	130.17	68.91
2015	0.0030	155,476	N/A	155,476	174,824	88.93	78.19

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available. The measurement date for each year is June 30.
N/A - Not Applicable

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT A-3

**SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
PERA GENERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contributions (a)	Actual Contributions in Relation to Statutorily Required Contributions (b)	Contribution (Deficiency) Excess (b - a)	Covered Payroll (c)	Actual Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (b/c)
2017	\$ 15,832	\$ 15,832	\$ -	\$ 211,093	7.50%
2016	15,808	15,808	-	210,773	7.50
2015	12,657	12,657	-	168,760	7.50

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available. The Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority's year-end is December 31.

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

1. Budgetary Information

An annual budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for the General Fund. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end.

On or before July of each year, the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority sends its budget to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Grand Marais City Council. The proposed budget is presented to the County Board and City Council for review. The Board and Council hold public hearings, and a final budget must be prepared and adopted no later than December 31.

The budget is prepared by function and includes a written estimate of the amount of money needed by the Authority from the County and City in order for the Authority to conduct business during the upcoming fiscal year.

2. Defined Benefit Pension Plans - Changes in Significant Plan Provisions, Actuarial Methods, and Assumptions

The following changes were reflected in the valuation performed on behalf of the Public Employees Retirement Association for the fiscal year June 30:

General Employees Retirement Plan

2017

- The Combined Service Annuity (CSA) loads were changed from 0.8 percent for active members and 60 percent for vested and non-vested deferred members (30 percent for deferred Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund members). The revised CSA loads are now 0.0 percent for active member liability, 15 percent for vested deferred member liability, and 3.0 percent for non-vested deferred member liability.
- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.0 percent per year for all years to 1.0 percent per year through 2044 and 2.5 percent per year thereafter.

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

2. Defined Benefit Pension Plans - Changes in Significant Plan Provisions, Actuarial Methods, and Assumptions

General Employees Retirement Plan (Continued)

2016

- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent per year through 2035 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter, to 1.00 percent for all future years.
- The assumed investment rate was changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent. The single discount rate was also changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent.
- Other assumptions were changed pursuant to the experience study dated June 30, 2015. The assumed payroll growth and inflation were decreased by 0.25 percent. Payroll growth was reduced from 3.50 percent to 3.25 percent. Inflation was reduced from 2.75 percent to 2.50 percent.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT B-1

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Operating Revenues			
Sales			
Food, beverage, and merchandise	\$ 200,284	\$ 197,449	\$ (2,835)
Less: cost of goods sold	(97,578)	(115,776)	(18,198)
Net sales	\$ 102,706	\$ 81,673	\$ (21,033)
Charges for services			
Green fees and other charges	583,722	578,670	(5,052)
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 686,428	\$ 660,343	\$ (26,085)
Operating Expenses			
Current			
Culture and recreation			
Salaries and wages	\$ 329,000	\$ 324,495	\$ 4,505
Payroll taxes	51,369	46,441	4,928
Retirement contribution	1,800	14,772	(12,972)
Grounds maintenance and supplies	151,000	132,429	18,571
Clubhouse maintenance and supplies	11,400	14,746	(3,346)
Golf cart leases and maintenance	32,349	32,349	-
Insurance	17,000	16,699	301
Utilities	35,340	31,257	4,083
Telephone	3,000	2,979	21
Office	1,500	602	898
Accounting and audit	4,500	4,500	-
Legal fees	2,000	200	1,800
Dues and licenses	3,500	4,437	(937)
Travel	2,500	1,232	1,268
Marketing	50,000	46,131	3,869
Bank charges and fees	17,334	17,758	(424)
Other	3,200	1,592	1,608
Depreciation	-	254,591	(254,591)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 716,792	\$ 947,210	\$ (230,418)
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (30,364)	\$ (286,867)	\$ (256,503)

**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

***EXHIBIT B-1
(Continued)***

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)			
Interest income	\$ 250	\$ 308	\$ 58
Interest expense	(800)	(1,956)	(1,156)
Marketing grant	50,000	50,000	-
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>\$ 49,450</u>	<u>\$ 48,352</u>	<u>\$ (1,098)</u>
Capital contributions	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 300,000</u>	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 19,086</u>	<u>\$ 61,485</u>	<u>\$ 42,399</u>
Net Position - January 1	<u>4,890,634</u>	<u>4,890,634</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Position - December 31	<u><u>\$ 4,909,720</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 4,952,119</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 42,399</u></u>

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REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

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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*

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Commissioners
Cook County and Grand Marais Joint
Economic Development Authority
Grand Marais, Minnesota

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 the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority, a component unit of Cook County, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated August 28, 2018.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority's internal control over financial reporting 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 Authority's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

However, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Recommendations, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a material weakness and other items that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting 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 over financial reporting such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Authority's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Recommendations as item 2011-001 to be a material weakness and items 1996-001 and 2008-001 to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority'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*.

Minnesota Legal Compliance

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Counties*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, contains seven categories of compliance to be tested in connection with the audit of the Authority's financial statements: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions, and tax increment financing. Our audit considered all of the listed categories, except that we did not test for compliance with the provisions for contracting and bidding because there were no contracts in 2017 and for tax increment financing because the Authority administers no tax increment financing districts.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority failed to comply with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Counties*, except as described in the Schedule of Findings and Recommendations as item 2015-002. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Authority's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority's Response to Findings

The Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority's responses to the internal control and legal compliance findings identified in our audit are described in the Corrective Action Plan. The Authority's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Purpose of This Report

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

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

August 28, 2018

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**COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

**I. FINDINGS RELATED TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

INTERNAL CONTROL

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEMS NOT RESOLVED

Finding Number 1996-001

Segregation of Duties

Criteria: Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control. Adequate segregation of duties is a key internal control in preventing and detecting errors or irregularities. To protect the Authority's assets, proper segregation of the record-keeping, custody, and authorization functions should be in place, and where management decides segregation of duties may not be cost effective, compensating controls should be in place.

Condition: Due to the limited number of personnel, segregation of accounting duties necessary to ensure adequate internal accounting control is not possible.

Context: The size of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority and its staffing limits the internal control that management can design and implement into the organization. Without proper segregation of duties, errors or irregularities may not be detected timely.

Effect: Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the Authority's ability to detect misstatements in a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Cause: This arrangement is not unusual for an organization the size of the Cook County and Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority.

Recommendation: Management should be aware that segregation of duties is not adequate from an internal control point of view. We recommend the Board of Commissioners and management be mindful that limited staffing causes inherent risks in safeguarding the Authority's assets and the proper reporting of its financial activity. We recommend the Board of Commissioners and management continue to implement oversight procedures and monitor those procedures to determine if they are still effective internal controls.

View of Responsible Official: Acknowledged

Finding Number 2008-001

Golf Course Internal Controls

Criteria: A good system of internal control provides for an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to completion.

Condition: The golf pro, at times, will work the cash registers, process daily closing reports, and prepare deposits.

Context: The size of the golf course staff limits the internal control that management can design and implement into the organization.

Effect: These practices increase the risk of improper recording of financial transactions. Without proper segregation of duties, errors or irregularities may not be detected timely.

Cause: The Authority does not have the economic resources needed to hire additional qualified accounting staff in order to segregate duties totally.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Authority and Board review, re-establish, and monitor internal controls of the golf course. Duties should be segregated to the extent possible.

View of Responsible Official: Acknowledged

Finding Number 2011-001

Audit Adjustments

Criteria: A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting 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 of the financial statements on a timely basis. Auditing standards define a material weakness

as a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Authority's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Condition: Material audit adjustments were identified that resulted in significant changes to the Authority's financial statements. These adjustments were reviewed and approved by management and properly reflected in the financial statements.

Context: The inability to detect material misstatements in the financial statements increases the likelihood that the financial statements would not be fairly presented.

Effect: The following material audit adjustments were recorded in the financial statements to correctly state year-end balances:

General Fund

- Due from other governments and intergovernmental revenue increased \$106,622 to recognize grant revenue that was received in the period of availability. Accounts payable and expenditures increased \$106,622 to recognize the payment of grant funds for related expenditures that were incurred in 2017.

Golf Course Enterprise Fund

- Construction in progress increased \$155,000, loans payable decreased \$145,000, and capital contributions increased \$300,000 in the Golf Course Enterprise Fund for contractor costs related to renovations that were paid by Cook County.
- Depreciation expense and accumulated depreciation were increased in the Golf Course Enterprise Fund by \$254,591 to recognize the depreciation for the current year.

Cause: The adjustments resulted from controls not detecting these errors and the Authority not considering the need for controls over the recording of certain accounting transactions.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Authority staff review the trial balances and journal entries in detail to ensure all transactions have been properly recorded to be presented in the financial statements.

View of Responsible Official: Acknowledged

II. OTHER FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM NOT RESOLVED

Finding Number 2015-002

Insufficient Collateral

Criteria: Governmental entities are required by Minn. Stat. § 118A.03, subds. 1 and 3, to obtain collateral to secure deposits to the extent that funds on deposit exceed available federal deposit insurance at the close of the financial institution's banking day. The market value of the collateral should be at least ten percent more than the uninsured and unbonded amount on deposit.

Condition: On December 31, 2017, the Authority had deposits at the North Shore Federal Credit Union that were not adequately covered by collateral.

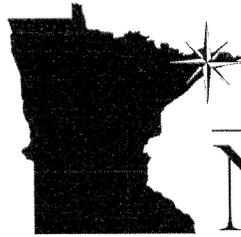
Context: The amount of deposits on hand with North Shore Federal Credit Union at December 31, 2017, exceeded Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance by \$145,367. There was no collateral pledged to secure these excess deposits.

Effect: When the Authority has insufficient collateral with a bank, the Authority may not receive all deposits in the event of a bank default.

Cause: Oversight in identifying and obtaining the required collateral.

Recommendation: We recommend the Authority monitor all deposits to determine there is adequate collateral pledged to secure deposits in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 118A.03.

View of Responsible Official: Acknowledged



**REPRESENTATION OF COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Finding Number: 1996-001

Finding Title: Segregation of Duties

Name of Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Paul Goettl, Accounting Support

Corrective Action Planned:

Work with the EDA Director to ensure that proper accounting segregation takes place, including approval of payments, signatures, deposits, reconciliations, and financial statements.

Anticipated Completion Date:

December 31, 2018

Finding Number: 2008-001

Finding Title: Golf Course Internal Controls

Name of Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Scott Harrison, General Manager, Superior National

Corrective Action Planned:

Continue to work with the management team to monitor and account for activity happening at the golf course.

Anticipated Completion Date:

Completed

Finding Number: 2011-001

Finding Title: Audit Adjustments

Name of Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Paul Goettl, Accounting Support

Corrective Action Planned:

Once the golf course renovation is completed in 2017, there should not be any material misstatement to the financial statements.

Anticipated Completion Date:

December 31, 2018

Finding Number: 2015-002

Finding Title: Insufficient Collateral

Name of Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

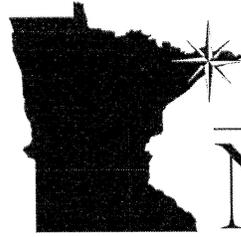
Scott Harrison, Treasurer, EDA

Corrective Action Planned:

We will work with our current financial institution to furnish collateral security, or will open another account at a separate financial institution.

Anticipated Completion Date:

December 31, 2018



**REPRESENTATION OF COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Finding Number: 1996-001

Finding Title: Segregation of Duties

Summary of Condition: Due to the limited number of personnel, segregation of accounting duties necessary to ensure adequate internal accounting control is not possible.

Summary of Corrective Action Previously Reported: The system that has been implemented seems to be working so far. The Board is mindful of the need to be diligent in oversight of the procedures and will try to maintain proper control of finances.

Status: Partially Corrected. The EDA board hired a full-time Director in May, 2016. This should help with approval of monies spent and following the approved budget.

Was corrective action taken significantly different than the action previously reported?

Yes _____ No X

Finding Number: 2008-001

Finding Title: Golf Course Internal Controls

Summary of Condition: The golf pro, at times, will work the cash registers, process daily closing reports, and prepare deposits.

Summary of Corrective Action Previously Reported: The General Manager is actively working with the Management Team to monitor and account for activity happening at the golf course.

Status: Partially Corrected. The General Manager is continuing to work with the Management Team to monitor activity at the Golf Course due to the limited staffing at the Golf Course.

Was corrective action taken significantly different than the action previously reported?
Yes _____ No X

Finding Number: 2011-001

Finding Title: Audit Adjustments

Summary of Condition: Audit adjustments were identified that resulted in significant changes to the Authority's financial statements. These adjustments were reviewed and approved by management and properly reflected in the financial statements.

Summary of Corrective Action Previously Reported: The financial statements and transactions are reviewed monthly at the Authority's Board meeting. The Board of Directors are also informed regularly about the current renovations happening at the golf course. Once the adjusting entries are determined by the audit, and entered into the financial statements for the prior year, those financial statements are again reviewed with the Board.

Status: Not Corrected. Once the golf course renovation is completed in 2017, there should not be any material misstatement to the financial statements.

Was corrective action taken significantly different than the action previously reported?
Yes _____ No X

Finding Number: 2015-002

Finding Title: Insufficient Collateral

Summary of Condition: On December 31, 2016, the Authority had deposits at the North Shore Federal Credit Union that were not adequately covered by collateral.

Summary of Corrective Action Previously Reported: Management will monitor the deposits made to the North Shore Federal Credit Union, and if necessary, to not exceed the federal deposit insurance amount, will deposit a portion of funds at a different financial institution.

Status: Not Corrected. This again will be brought to the Board's attention.

Was corrective action taken significantly different than the action previously reported?
Yes _____ No X