HIGHLANDS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors
Highlands Community Development District
Hillsborough County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida ("District") as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the District as of September 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The District's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control–related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

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

Other Information Included in the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the other information included in the financial report. The other information comprises the information for compliance with FL Statute 218.39 (3) (c) but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 21, 2025, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, 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 District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Grau & Associates

April 21, 2025

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Our discussion and analysis of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida ("District") provides a narrative overview of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. Please read it in conjunction with the District's Independent Auditor's Report, basic financial statements, accompanying notes and supplementary information to the basic financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The assets of the District exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year resulting in a net position balance of $8,967,419.

- The change in the District's total net position in comparison with the prior fiscal year was $979,186, an increase. The key components of the District's net position and change in net position are reflected in the table in the government-wide financial analysis section.

- At September 30, 2024, the District's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of $3,786,776, an increase of $405,163 in comparison with the prior fiscal year. The total fund balance is restricted for debt service and capital projects, non-spendable for prepaid items and deposits and the remainder is unassigned fund balance which is available for spending at the District's discretion.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as the introduction to the District's basic financial statements. The District's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: **1)** government-wide financial statements, **2)** fund financial statements, and **3)** notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

1) Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the District's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net position presents information on all the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources with the residual amount being reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the District is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

The government-wide financial statements include all governmental activities that are principally supported by special assessment revenues. The District does not have any business-type activities. The governmental activities of the District include the general government (management), physical environment, and culture/recreation functions.

2) Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The District has one fund category: governmental funds.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

2) Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a District's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the District's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The District maintains three governmental funds for external reporting. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the general fund, debt service fund, and capital projects fund, all of which are considered major funds.

The District adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund. A budgetary comparison schedule has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with the budget.

3) Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of an entity's financial position. In the case of the District, assets exceeded liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

Key components of the District's net position are reflected in the following table:

NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30,

	2024	2023
Current and other assets	$ 3,815,873	$ 3,521,482
Capital assets, net of depreciation	28,939,248	29,140,248
Total assets	32,755,121	32,661,730
Current liabilities	471,065	615,362
Long-term liabilities	23,316,637	24,058,135
Total liabilities	23,787,702	24,673,497
Net position		
Net investment in capital assets	6,288,415	5,722,747
Restricted	1,973,346	1,758,603
Unrestricted	705,658	506,883
Total net position	$ 8,967,419	$ 7,988,233

The District's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, land improvements, and infrastructure) less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. These assets are used to provide services to residents; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (Continued)

The restricted portion of the District's net position represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position may be used to meet the District's other obligations.

The District's net position increased during the most recent fiscal year. The majority of the increase represents the extent to which ongoing program revenues exceeded the cost of operations and depreciation expense.

Key elements of the change in net position are reflected in the following table:

CHANGES IN NET POSITION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,

	2024	2023
Revenues:		
Program revenues		
Charges for services	$ 3,566,897	$ 3,178,455
General revenues		
Investment earnings	39,797	5,050
Miscellaneous revenue	19,341	21,802
Total revenues	3,626,035	3,205,307
Expenses:		
General government	174,606	159,758
Physical environment	863,797	897,109
Culture/recreation	409,200	435,070
Interest and other charges	1,199,246	1,272,133
Total expenses	2,646,849	2,764,070
Change in net position	979,186	441,237
Net position - beginning	7,988,233	7,546,996
Net position - ending	$ 8,967,419	$ 7,988,233

As noted above and in the statement of activities, the cost of all governmental activities during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 was $2,646,849. The costs of the District's activities were primarily funded by program revenues. Program revenues are comprised primarily of assessments. The remainder of the current fiscal year revenue includes interest revenue, and miscellaneous income. In total, expenses, including depreciation, decreased from the prior fiscal year. The decrease in current fiscal year expenses is primarily the result of decrease in interest and maintenance expenses.

GENERAL BUDGETING HIGHLIGHTS

An operating budget was adopted and maintained by the governing board for the District pursuant to the requirements of Florida Statutes. The budget is adopted using the same basis of accounting that is used in preparation of the fund financial statements. The legal level of budgetary control, the level at which expenditures may not exceed budget, is in the aggregate. Any budget amendments that increase the aggregate budgeted appropriations must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Actual general fund expenditures did not exceed appropriations for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

At September 30, 2024, the District had $33,725,692 invested in capital assets for its governmental activities. In the government-wide financial statements accumulated depreciation of $4,786,444 has been taken, which resulted in a net book value of $28,939,248. More detailed information about the District's capital assets is presented in the notes of the financial statements.

Capital Debt

At September 30, 2024, the District had $23,215,000 Bonds outstanding and $3,299 Notes payable for its governmental activities. More detailed information about the District's capital debt is presented in the notes of the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEARS BUDGET

The District does not anticipate any major projects or significant changes to its infrastructure maintenance program for the subsequent fiscal year. In addition, it is anticipated that the general operations of the District will remain fairly constant.

CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, landowners, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the financial resources it manages and the stewardship of the facilities it maintains. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Highlands Community Development District's Finance Department at 2005 Pan Am Circle, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33607.

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 714,876
Assessments receivable	27,661
Prepaids and deposits	56,706
Restricted assets:	
Investments	3,016,630
Capital assets:	
Nondepreciable	25,078,940
Depreciable, net	3,860,308
Total assets	32,755,121
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	29,097
Accrued interest payable	441,968
Financed purchase payable	3,299
Non-current liabilities:	
Due within one year	745,000
Due in more than one year	22,568,338
Total liabilities	23,787,702
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	6,288,415
Restricted for debt service	1,973,346
Unrestricted	705,658
Total net position	$ 8,967,419

See notes to the financial statements

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues: Charges for Services	Program Revenues: Operating Grants and Contributions	Program Revenues: Capital Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position: Governmental Activities
Primary government:					
Governmental activities:					
General government	$ 174,606	$ 174,606	$ -	$ -	$ -
Physical environment	863,797	863,797	-	31,913	31,913
Culture/recreation	409,200	348,607	-	-	(60,593)
Interest and other charges	1,199,246	2,015,474	132,500	-	948,728
Total governmental activities	2,646,849	3,402,484	132,500	31,913	920,048
General revenues:					
Investment earnings					39,797
Miscellaneous revenue					19,341
Total general revenues					59,138
Change in net position					979,186
Net position - beginning					7,988,233
Net position - ending					$ 8,967,419

See notes to the financial statements

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Major Funds			Total
	General	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 714,876	$ -	$ -	$ 714,876
Investments	-	2,354,125	662,505	3,016,630
Assessments receivable	11,272	16,389	-	27,661
Due from other funds	-	44,800	-	44,800
Prepaids and deposits	56,706	-	-	56,706
Total assets	$ 782,854	$ 2,415,314	$ 662,505	$ 3,860,673
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 29,097	$ -	$ -	$ 29,097
Due to other funds	44,800	-	-	44,800
Total liabilities	73,897	-	-	73,897
Fund balances:				
Nonspendable:				
Prepaids	56,706	-	-	56,706
Restricted for:				
Debt service	-	2,415,314	-	2,415,314
Capital projects	-	-	662,505	662,505
Unassigned	652,251	-	-	652,251
Total fund balances	708,957	2,415,314	662,505	3,786,776
Total liabilities and fund balances	$ 782,854	$ 2,415,314	$ 662,505	$ 3,860,673

See notes to the financial statements

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Fund balance - governmental funds		$ 3,786,776
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as assets in the governmental funds. The statement of net position includes those capital assets, net of any accumulated depreciation, in the net position of the government as a whole.		
Cost of capital assets	33,725,692	
Accumulated depreciation	(4,786,444)	28,939,248
Liabilities not due and payable from current available resources are not reported as liabilities in the governmental fund statements. All liabilities, both current and long-term, are reported in the government-wide financial statements.		
Accrued interest payable	(441,968)	
Bonds payable	(23,316,637)	(23,758,605)
Net position of governmental activities		$ 8,967,419

See notes to the financial statements

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Major Funds			Total
	General	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Assessments	$ 1,387,010	$ 2,015,474	$ -	$ 3,402,484
Interest	39,797	132,500	31,913	204,210
Miscellaneous revenue	19,341	-	-	19,341
Total revenues	1,446,148	2,147,974	31,913	3,626,035
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	174,606	-	-	174,606
Physical environment	689,610	-	-	689,610
Culture/recreation	382,387	-		382,387
Debt Service:				
Principal	4,655	725,000	-	729,655
Interest	770	1,243,844	-	1,244,614
Total expenditures	1,252,028	1,968,844	-	3,220,872
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	194,120	179,130	31,913	405,163
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in (out)	-	2,088	(2,088)	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	2,088	(2,088)	-
Net change in fund balances	194,120	181,218	29,825	405,163
Fund balances - beginning	514,837	2,234,096	632,680	3,381,613
Fund balances - ending	$ 708,957	$ 2,415,314	$ 662,505	$ 3,786,776

See notes to the financial statements

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	$ 405,163
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Depreciation on capital assets is not recognized in the governmental fund financial statements but is reported as an expense in the statement of activities.	(201,000)
Repayment of long-term liabilities are reported as expenditures in the governmental fund statements but such repayments reduce liabilities in the statement of net position and are eliminated in the statement of activities.	729,655
Governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities.	
Amortization of original issue discount	(3,869)
Amortization of original issue premium	15,712
The change in accrued interest on long-term liabilities between the current and prior fiscal year is recorded in the statement of activities but not in the fund financial statements.	33,525
Change in net position of governmental activities	$ 979,186

See notes to the financial statements

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 – NATURE OF ORGANIZATION AND REPORTING ENTITY

Highlands Community Development District ("District") was created on October 7, 2003, by the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida, Ordinance 03-28 pursuant to the Uniform Community Development District Act of 1980, otherwise known as Chapter 190, Florida Statutes. The Act provides among other things, the power to manage basic services for community development, power to borrow money and issue bonds, and to levy and assess non-ad valorem assessments for the financing and delivery of capital infrastructure.

The District was established for the purposes of financing and managing the acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of a portion of the infrastructure necessary for community development within the District.

The District is governed by the Board of Supervisors ("Board"), which is composed of five members. The Supervisors are elected on an at large basis by qualified electors residing within the District. The Board of Supervisors of the District exercises all powers granted to the District pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes.

The Board has the responsibility for:
1. Assessing and levying assessments.
2. Approving budgets.
3. Exercising control over facilities and properties.
4. Controlling the use of funds generated by the District.
5. Approving the hiring and firing of key personnel.
6. Financing improvements.

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) Statements. Under the provisions of those standards, the financial reporting entity consists of the primary government, organizations for which the District is considered to be financially accountable, and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the District are such that, if excluded, the financial statements of the District would be considered incomplete or misleading. There are no entities considered to be component units of the District; therefore, the financial statements include only the operations of the District.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements
The basic financial statements include both government-wide and fund financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function or segment; operating-type special assessments for maintenance and debt service are treated as charges for services and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement* focus and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Assessments are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are to be 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. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

Assessments

Assessments are non-ad valorem assessments on benefited lands within the District. Assessments are levied to pay for the operations and maintenance of the District. The fiscal year for which annual assessments are levied begins on October 1 with discounts available for payments through February 28 and become delinquent on April 1. The District's annual assessments for operations and debt service are billed and collected by the County Tax Assessor/Collector. The amounts remitted to the District are net of applicable discounts or fees and include interest on monies held from the day of collection to the day of distribution.

Assessments and interest associated with the current fiscal period are considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. The portion of assessments receivable due within the current fiscal period is considered to be susceptible to accrual as revenue of the current period.

The District reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund

The general fund is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Debt Service Fund

The debt service fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for the annual payment of principal and interest on long-term debt.

Capital Projects Fund

This fund accounts for the financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major infrastructure within the District.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

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

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Assets, Liabilities and Net Position or Equity

Restricted Assets
These assets represent cash and investments set aside pursuant to Bond covenants or other contractual restrictions.

Deposits and Investments
The District's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand and demand deposits.

The District has elected to proceed under the Alternative Investment Guidelines as set forth in Section 218.415 (17) Florida Statutes. The District may invest any surplus public funds in the following:

a) The Local Government Surplus Trust Funds, or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act;
b) Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency;
c) Interest bearing time deposits or savings accounts in qualified public depositories;
d) Direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury.

Securities listed in paragraphs c and d shall be invested to provide sufficient liquidity to pay obligations as they come due. In addition, surplus funds may be deposited into certificates of deposit which are insured and any unspent Bond proceeds are required to be held in investments as specified in the Bond Indenture.

The District records all interest revenue related to investment activities in the respective funds. Investments are measured at amortized cost or reported at fair value as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

Prepaid Items
Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

Capital Assets
Capital assets which include property, plant and equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, sidewalks and similar items) are reported in the government activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than $5,000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Property, plant and equipment of the District are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Assets	Years
Infrastructure	10-40
Building and improvement	25
Equipment	3-10

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Assets, Liabilities and Net Position or Equity (Continued)

Capital Assets (Continued)
In the governmental fund financial statements, amounts incurred for the acquisition of capital assets are reported as fund expenditures. Depreciation expense is not reported in the governmental fund financial statements.

Unearned Revenue
Governmental funds report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

Long-Term Obligations
In the government-wide financial statements long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the statement of net position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized ratably over the life of the Bonds. Bonds payable are reported net of applicable premiums or discounts. Bond issuance costs are expensed when incurred.

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

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources
In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

Fund Equity/Net Position
In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report non spendable and restricted fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Assignments of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

The District can establish limitations on the use of fund balance as follows:

Committed fund balance – Amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action (resolution) of the Board of Supervisors. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by the Board of Supervisors taking the same formal action (resolution) that imposed the constraint originally. Resources accumulated pursuant to stabilization arrangements sometimes are reported in this category.

Assigned fund balance – Includes spendable fund balance amounts established by the Board of Supervisors that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are neither considered restricted nor committed. The Board may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover differences in estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget. Assignments are generally temporary and normally the same formal action need not be taken to remove the assignment.

The District first uses committed fund balance, followed by assigned fund balance and then unassigned fund balance when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Assets, Liabilities and Net Position or Equity (Continued)

Fund Equity/Net Position (Continued)
Net position is the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources less liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net position in the government-wide financial statements are categorized as net investment in capital assets, restricted or unrestricted. Net investment in capital assets represents net position related to infrastructure and property, plant and equipment. Restricted net position represents the assets restricted by the District's Bond covenants or other contractual restrictions. Unrestricted net position consists of the net position not meeting the definition of either of the other two components.

Other Disclosures

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

NOTE 3 – BUDGETARY INFORMATION

The District is required to establish a budgetary system and an approved Annual Budget. Annual Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for the general fund. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end.

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

a) Each year the District Manager submits to the District Board a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following October 1.
b) Public hearings are conducted to obtain public comments.
c) Prior to October 1, the budget is legally adopted by the District Board.
d) All budget changes must be approved by the District Board.
e) The budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.
f) Unused appropriation for annually budgeted funds lapse at the end of the year.

NOTE 4 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Deposits
The District's cash balances were entirely covered by federal depository insurance or by a collateral pool pledged to the State Treasurer. Florida Statutes Chapter 280, "Florida Security for Public Deposits Act", requires all qualified depositories to deposit with the Treasurer or another banking institution eligible collateral equal to various percentages of the average daily balance for each month of all public deposits in excess of any applicable deposit insurance held. The percentage of eligible collateral (generally, U.S. Governmental and agency securities, state or local government debt, or corporate bonds) to public deposits is dependent upon the depository's financial history and its compliance with Chapter 280. In the event of a failure of a qualified public depository, the remaining public depositories would be responsible for covering any resulting losses.

NOTE 4 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Investments

The District's investments were held as follows at September 30, 2024:

	Amortized Cost	Credit Risk	Maturities
First American Government Obligation Fund CL Y	$ 2,125,779	S&P AAAm	Weighted average of the fund portfolio: 31 days
First American Treasury Obligation Fund CL Y	890,851	S&P AAAm	Weighted average of the fund portfolio: 31 days
	$ 3,016,630		

Credit risk – For investments, credit risk is generally the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. Investment ratings by investment type are included in the preceding summary of investments.

Concentration risk – The District places no limit on the amount the District may invest in any one issuer.

Interest rate risk – The District does not have a formal policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

However, the Bond Indenture limits the type of investments held using unspent proceeds.

Fair Value Measurement – When applicable, the District measures and records its investments using fair value measurement guidelines established in accordance with GASB Statements. The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques.

These guidelines recognize a three-tiered fair value hierarchy, in order of highest priority, as follows:

- *Level 1:* Investments whose values are based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical investments in active markets that the District has the ability to access;
- *Level 2:* Investments whose inputs - other than quoted market prices - are observable either directly or indirectly; and,
- *Level 3:* Investments whose inputs are unobservable.

The fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the entire fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used should maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Money market investments that have a maturity at the time of purchase of one year or less and are held by governments other than external investment pools should be measured at amortized cost. Accordingly, the District's investments have been reported at amortized cost above.

NOTE 5 – INTERFUND RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

Interfund receivables and payables at September 30, 2024 were as follows:

Fund	Receivable	Payable
General	$ -	$ 44,800
Debt service	44,800	-
Total	$ 44,800	$ 44,800

The outstanding balances between funds result primarily from the time lag between the dates that transactions are recorded in the accounting system and payments between funds are made. In the case of the District, the balances between the general fund and debt service fund relate to assessments collected in the general fund that have not yet been transferred to the debt service fund.

NOTE 6 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land and land improvements	$ 7,604,176	$ -	$ -	$ 7,604,176
Construciton in progress	17,474,764	-	-	17,474,764
Total capital assets, not being depreciated	25,078,940	-	-	25,078,940
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Infrastructure	7,392,727	-	-	7,392,727
Buildings and improvements	1,096,614	-	-	1,096,614
Equipment	157,411	-	-	157,411
Total capital assets, being depreciated	8,646,752	-	-	8,646,752
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Infrastructure	3,917,123	130,909	-	4,048,032
Buildings and improvements	614,023	43,278	-	657,301
Equipment	54,298	26,813	-	81,111
Total accumulated depreciation	4,585,444	201,000	-	4,786,444
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	4,061,308	(201,000)	-	3,860,308
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, net	$ 29,140,248	$ (201,000)	$ -	$ 28,939,248

Depreciation expense was charged to function/programs as follows:

Maintenance and operations	$ 174,187
Culture/recreation	26,813
Total depreciation expense, governmental activities	$ 201,000

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Series 2013

On January 15, 2013, the District issued $2,860,000 of Special Assessment Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 consisting of $475,000 Term Bonds Series 2013A due on November 1, 2023 with a fixed interest rate of 5.5%, $825,000 Term Bonds Series 2013A due on November 1, 2033 with a fixed interest rate of 6.25%, and $1,560,000 Term Bonds Series 2013A due on May 1, 2012 with a fixed interest rate of 6.75%. The Bonds were issued to finance the acquisition and construction of Phase 2B improvements for the benefit of the lands therein. Interest is to be paid semiannually on each May 1 and November 1. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing November 1, 2014 through November 1, 2043.

The Series 2013 Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the District prior to their maturity, in whole or in part, at any time after November 1, 2033 at a redemption price equal to the principal amount of the Series 2013 Bonds to be redeemed, together with accrued interest to the date of redemption. The Series 2013 Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Register if certain events occurred as outlined in the Bond Indenture.

Series 2014

On January 21, 2014, the District issued $2,305,000 of Special Assessment Revenue Bonds, Series 2014 consisting of $505,000 Term Bonds Series 2014 due on November 1, 2027 with a fixed interest rate of 6.25% and $1,800,000 Term Bonds Series 2014 due on November 1, 2044 with a fixed interest rate of 7.25%. The Bonds were issued to finance the acquisition and construction of Phase 2A improvements for the benefit of the lands therein. Interest is to be paid semiannually on each May 1 and November 1. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing November 1, 2015 through November 1, 2044.

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (Continued)

Series 2014 (Continued)
The Series 2014 Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the District prior to their maturity, in whole or in part, at any time after November 1, 2028 at a redemption price equal to the principal amount of the Series 2014 Bonds to be redeemed, together with accrued interest to the date of redemption. The Series 2014 Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Register if certain events occurred as outlined in the Bond Indenture.

Series 2016 (3A)
On February 3, 2016, the District issued Special Assessment Bonds (Area 3A Project) Series 2016 for $4,875,000. The Bonds were issued for the purpose of constructing the area 3A project. The Bonds bear interest at rates from 4% to 5.5% and are to be paid semiannually on each May 1 and November 1. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing May 1, 2017 through May 1, 2046.

The Series 2016 3A Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the District prior to their maturity, in whole or in part, at any time after November 1, 2028 at a redemption price outlined in the Trust Indenture. The Series 2016 3A Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Register if certain events occurred as outlined in the Bond Indenture.

Series 2016 (Refunding)
On October 17, 2016, the District issued Special Assessment Refunding Bonds Series 2016 for $7,195,000. The Bonds were issued for the purpose of refunding all of the District's outstanding Series 2005 Bonds. The Bonds bear interest at rates from 2% to 4.25% and are to be paid semiannually on each May 1 and November 1. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing May 1, 2017 through May 1, 2046.

The Series 2016 Refunding Bonds maturing 2031 and 2036 are subject to redemption at the option of the District prior to their maturity, in whole or in part, at any time after May 1, 2026 at a redemption price outlined in the Trust Indenture. The Series 2016 Refunding Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Register if certain events occurred as outlined in the Bond Indenture.

Series 2016 (3C)
On December 13, 2016, the District issued Special Assessment Bonds (Area 3C Project) Series 2016 for $3,925,000. The Bonds were issued for the purpose of constructing the area 3C project. The Bonds bear interest at rates from 3.875% to 5.500% and are to be paid semiannually on each June 15 and December 15. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing June 15, 2017 through December 15, 2046.

The Series 2016 3C Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the District prior to their maturity, in whole or in part, at any time after December 15, 2026 at a redemption price outlined in the Trust Indenture. The Series 2016 3C Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Register if certain events occurred as outlined in the Bond Indenture.

Series 2018 (Phase 3B & 5)
On December 11, 2018, the District issued Special Assessment Bonds (Areas 3B and 5 Project) Series 2018 for $5,515,000. The Bonds were issued for the purpose of constructing the Assessment Areas 3B and 5 projects. The Bonds bear interest at rates from 4.00% to 5.00% and are to be paid semiannually on each June 15 and December 15. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing December 15, 2019 through December 15, 2048.

The Assessment Areas 3B and 5 Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the District prior to their maturity, in whole or in part, at any time after December 15, 2029 at a redemption price outlined in the Trust Indenture. The Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Register if certain events occurred as outlined in the Bond Indenture.

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (Continued)

Series 2018 (Phase 4)

On December 11, 2018, the District issued Special Assessment Bonds (Area 4 Project) Series 2018 for $3,560,000. The Bonds were issued for the purpose of constructing the area 4 project. The Bonds bear interest at rates from 4.250% to 5.375% and are to be paid semiannually on each June 15 and December 15. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing June 15, 2020 through December 15, 2049.

The Assessments Area 4 Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Register if certain events occurred as outlined in the Bond Indenture.

Bond Compliance

For the Series 2013, Series 2014, Series 2016 (3A), Series 2016 (Refunding), Series 2016 (3C), Series 2018 (Area 3B & 5), and Series 2018 (Area 4) Bonds, the Bond Indentures established debt service reserve requirements as well as other restrictions and requirements relating principally to the use of proceeds to pay for the infrastructure improvements and the procedures to be followed by the District on assessments to property owners. The District agrees to levy special assessments in annual amounts adequate to provide payment of debt service and to meet the reserve requirements. The District was in compliance with the requirements at September 30, 2024.

Long-term debt activity

Changes in long-term liability activity for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 were as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year*
Governmental activities					
Bonds payable:					
Series 2013 - Phase 2B	$ 2,445,000	$ -	$ 60,000	$ 2,385,000	$ 60,000
Series 2014 - Phase 2A	2,010,000	-	40,000	1,970,000	45,000
Series 2016 - Phase 3A	3,525,000	-	85,000	3,440,000	85,000
Seires 2016	5,210,000	-	315,000	4,895,000	320,000
Series 2016 - Phase 3C	3,430,000	-	80,000	3,350,000	80,000
Series 2018 - Phase 3B & 5	5,120,000	-	105,000	5,015,000	110,000
Series 2018 - Phase 4	2,200,000	-	40,000	2,160,000	45,000
Plus: original issue premium	204,257	-	15,712	188,545	-
Less: original issue discount	(94,076)	-	(3,869)	(90,207)	-
Total	$ 24,050,181	$ -	$ 736,843	$ 23,313,338	$ 745,000

At September 30, 2024, the scheduled debt service requirements on the long-term debt were as follows:

Year ending September 30:	Governmental Activities		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	$ 745,000	$ 1,214,668	$ 1,959,668
2026	775,000	1,183,319	1,958,319
2027	815,000	1,146,138	1,961,138
2028	855,000	1,106,788	1,961,788
2029	895,000	1,065,166	1,960,166
2030-2034	5,210,000	4,607,478	9,817,478
2035-2039	5,015,000	3,203,322	8,218,322
2040-2044	5,325,000	1,810,475	7,135,475
2045-2049	3,580,000	418,938	3,998,938
Total	$ 23,215,000	$ 15,756,292	$ 38,971,292

NOTE 8 – FINANCED PURCHASE

In May 2022, the District entered into 36 month financed purchase agreement with Navitas Credit Corp. for certain security equipment. The agreement has an end of financed purchase option which qualifies it as a financed purchase: therefore, the asset has been recorded at the present value of future minimum payments.

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year*
Governmental activities					
Financed purchase payable:					
Security Equipment	$ 7,954	$ -	$ 4,655	$ 3,299	$ 3,299
	$ 7,954	$ -	$ 4,655	$ 3,299	$ 3,299

NOTE 9 – MANAGEMENT COMPANY

The District has contracted with a management company to perform management advisory services, which include financial and accounting services. Certain employees of the management company also serve as officers of the District. Under the agreement, the District compensates the management company for management, accounting, financial reporting, and other administrative costs.

NOTE 10 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The District has obtained commercial insurance from independent third parties to mitigate the costs of these risks; coverage may not extend to all situations. There were no settled claims during the past three years.

NOTE 11 – LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

The District is involved in one litigation matter concerning a breach of contract related to a pool resurfacing project. The District filed the action for breach of contract against Sharper Image Pools, LLC, after discovering the complete failure of the defendant's swimming pool resurfacing work in May of 2024. Sharper Image responded to the Complaint with a demand for mediation which was conducted on April 14, 2025. No resolution was reached and the parties impassed.

The District intends to vigorously pursue collection from Sharper Image. The estimated damages that the District will be seeking is about $150,000, plus legal fees and expert witness costs which will most likely exceed $50,000. As of the report date, the outcome cannot be determined and, therefore, no amounts related to this matter have been reflected in the financial statements.

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts Original & Final	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)
REVENUES			
Assessments	$ 1,373,299	$ 1,387,010	$ 13,711
Interest	-	39,797	39,797
Miscellaneous	5,000	19,341	14,341
Total revenues	1,378,299	1,446,148	67,849
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government	175,038	174,606	432
Physical environment	871,186	689,610	181,576
Culture/recreation	332,075	382,387	(50,312)
Debt Service:			
Principal	-	4,655	(4,655)
Interest	-	770	(770)
Total expenses	1,378,299	1,252,028	126,271
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	$ -	194,120	$ 194,120
Fund balance - beginning		514,837	
Fund balance - ending		$ 708,957	

See notes to required supplementary information

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The District is required to establish a budgetary system and an approved Annual Budget for the general fund. The District's budgeting process is based on estimates of cash receipts and cash expenditures which are approved by the Board. The budget approximates a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (generally accepted accounting principles).

The legal level of budgetary control, the level at which expenditures may not exceed budget, is in the aggregate. Any budget amendments that increase the aggregate budgeted appropriations must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Actual general fund expenditures did not exceed appropriations for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
OTHER INFORMATION – DATA ELEMENTS
REQUIRED BY FL STATUTE 218.39(3)(C)
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024
UNAUDITED

Element	Comments
Number of District employees compensated in the last pay period of the District's fiscal year being reported.	0
Number of independent contractors compensated to whom nonemployee compensation was paid in the last month of the District's fiscal year being reported.	18
Employee compensation	Not applicable
Independent contractor compensation	$661,063
Construction projects to begin on or after October 1; (>$65K)	Not applicable
Budget variance report	See the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual - General Fund
Ad Valorem taxes;	Not applicable
Non ad valorem special assessments;	
Special assessment rate	Operations and maintenance - $827.37 Debt service - varies from $772.49 to $1,328.66
Special assessments collected	$3,402,484
Outstanding Bonds:	see Note 7 for details

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

To the Board of Supervisors
Highlands Community Development District
Hillsborough County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida ("District") as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our opinion thereon dated April 21, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and 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*.

Purpose of this Report

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

Brown & Associates

April 21, 2025

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 218.415, FLORIDA STATUTES, REQUIRED BY RULE 10.556(10) OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

To the Board of Supervisors
Highlands Community Development District
Hillsborough County, Florida

We have examined Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida's ("District") compliance with the requirements of Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, in accordance with Rule 10.556(10) of the Auditor General of the State of Florida during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. Management is responsible for the District's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the District complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced in Section 218.415, Florida Statutes. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the District complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with specified requirements.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the examination engagement.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, management, and the Board of Supervisors of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Grau & Associates

April 21, 2025

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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MANAGEMENT LETTER PURSUANT TO THE RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

To the Board of Supervisors
Highlands Community Development District
Hillsborough County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida ("District") as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated April 21, 2025, which includes an emphasis of matter paragraph.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in G*overnment Auditing Standards,* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards;* and Independent Auditor's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated April 21, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Purpose of this Letter

The purpose of this letter is to comment on those matters required by Chapter 10.550 of the Rules of the Auditor General for the State of Florida. Accordingly, in connection with our audit of the financial statements of the District, as described in the first paragraph, we report the following:

I. Current year findings and recommendations.
II. Status of prior year findings and recommendations.
III. Compliance with the Provisions of the Auditor General of the State of Florida.

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, as applicable, management, and the Board of Supervisors of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We wish to thank Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida and the personnel associated with it, for the opportunity to be of service to them in this endeavor as well as future engagements, and the courtesies extended to us.

Grau & Associates

April 21, 2025

REPORT TO MANAGEMENT

I. CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None

II. PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None

III. COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Unless otherwise required to be reported in the auditor's report on compliance and internal controls, the management letter shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. A statement as to whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

   There were no significant findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

2. Any recommendations to improve the local governmental entity's financial management.

   There were no such matters discovered by, or that came to the attention of, the auditor, to be reported for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

3. Noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance.

   There were no such matters discovered by, or that came to the attention of, the auditor, to be reported, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

4. The name or official title and legal authority of the District are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

5. The District has not met one or more of the financial emergency conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes.

6. We applied financial condition assessment procedures and no deteriorating financial conditions were noted as of September 30, 2024. It is management's responsibility to monitor financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information provided by same.

7. Management has provided the specific information required by Section 218.39(3)(c) in the Other Information section of the financial statements on page 25.