

Financial Statements

September 30, 2020

**Sterling Hill Community
Development District**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors
Sterling Hill Community Development District

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, and each major fund of the *Sterling Hill Community Development District* (the "District"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting principles 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, and each major fund of the District as of September 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund 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 management's discussion and analysis starting on page 3, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

As discussed in Note 7, due to the nonpayment of assessments by certain significant landowners, the District has been unable to make its debt service payments on the Series 2003 Bonds and the Series 2006 Bonds. Events of default were declared on these bonds. As a result, the Special Purpose Entities discussed in Note 7 were created to own, manage and sell the property subject to the delinquent assessments.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated March 24, 2021, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and 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 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "McDiarmid Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Orlando, Florida
March 24, 2021

Our discussion and analysis of the *Sterling Hill Community Development District's*, (the "District") financial accomplishments provide an overview of the District's financial activities for the year ended September 30, 2020. Please read it in conjunction with the District's Independent Auditor's Report, financial statements and accompanying notes.

This information is being presented to provide additional information regarding the activities of the District and to meet the disclosure requirements of Government Accounting Standards Board Statement (GASB) No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments* issued June 1999.

Financial Highlights

- The liabilities of the District exceeded its assets at September 30, 2020 by \$1,064,095 an increase in net position of \$3,922,390 in comparison with the prior year.
- At September 30, 2020, the District's governmental funds reported negative fund balances of \$2,682,938 an increase in the fund balance of \$1,745,687 in comparison with the prior year.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the *Sterling Hill Community Development District's* financial statements. The District's financial statements are comprised of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to financial statements.

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 of the District's assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources, with the difference 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 general government, physical environment, culture and recreation, public safety and roads and streets related functions.

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.

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 government'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 two individual governmental funds. 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 and debt service fund which are considered to be 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.

Notes to 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

Statement of Net Position

The District's net position was a deficit of \$(1,064,095) at September 30, 2020. The analysis that follows focuses on the net position of the District's governmental activities.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Assets, excluding capital assets	\$ 2,159,954	\$ 1,804,149
Capital Assets Net of Depreciation	<u>10,805,960</u>	<u>11,994,171</u>
Total assets	<u>12,965,914</u>	<u>13,798,320</u>
Liabilities, excluding long-term liabilities	5,180,009	6,659,805
Long-term liabilities	<u>8,850,000</u>	<u>12,125,000</u>
Total liabilities	<u>14,030,009</u>	<u>18,784,805</u>
Net Position:		
Net investment in capital assets	855,604	(889,505)
Unrestricted	<u>(1,919,699)</u>	<u>(4,096,980)</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ (1,064,095)</u>	<u>\$ (4,986,485)</u>

Sterling Hill Community Development District
Management's Discussion and Analysis

The following is a summary of the District's governmental activities for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2020 and 2019.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Revenues:		
Program revenues	\$ 2,316,272	\$ 2,200,583
General revenues	6,819	17,566
Gain from lot sales	693,968	-
Special item - debt forgiveness	4,048,539	-
Total revenues	<u>7,065,598</u>	<u>2,218,149</u>
Expenses:		
General government	166,616	200,449
Physical environment	804,499	745,215
Culture and recreation	790,042	818,157
Public safety	41,219	52,304
Roads and streets	614,531	579,950
Interest on long-term debt	726,301	1,032,011
Total expenses	<u>3,143,208</u>	<u>3,428,086</u>
Change in net position	3,922,390	(1,209,937)
Net position, beginning	(4,986,485)	(3,776,548)
Net position, ending	<u>\$ (1,064,095)</u>	<u>\$ (4,986,485)</u>

The cost of all governmental activities during the year ended September 30, 2020 was \$3,143,208 primarily comprised of physical environment and culture and recreation expense.

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

The District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance related legal requirements. The focus of the District's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the District's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year. At September 30, 2020, the District's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balance deficit of (\$2,682,938). Of this total, \$66,885 is nonspendable, \$965,421 is restricted for capital outlay and the remainder is an unassigned fund balance of (\$3,715,244).

The fund balance of the general fund increased \$276,874 from the prior year due to revenues exceeding expenditures. In the current year, the debt service fund balance increased by \$1,468,813 because of the cancellation of the 2006 bonds and lot sales.

General Fund Budgetary 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. There were no amendments to the general fund budget. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At September 30, 2020, the District had \$10,805,960 invested in capital assets net of accumulated depreciation. More detailed information about the District's capital assets is presented in the notes to financial statements.

Capital Debt

At September 30, 2020, the District had \$13,630,000 in bonds outstanding, including \$4,780,000 of matured bonds payable. More detailed information about the District's capital debt is presented in the notes to financial statements.

Requests for Information

If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the *Sterling Hill Community Development District's* Finance Department at 12750 Citrus Park Lane, Suite 115, Tampa, Florida 33625.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sterling Hill Community Development District
Statement of Net Position
September 30, 2020

	Governmental Activities
Assets:	
Cash	\$ 1,433,628
Prepaid costs	36,822
Deposits	30,063
Restricted Assets:	
Temporarily restricted investments	659,441
Capital Assets:	
Capital assets not being depreciated	1,500,000
Capital assets being depreciated, net	9,305,960
Total assets	12,965,914
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	54,535
Accrued interest payable	337,117
Matured bonds payable	4,780,000
Unearned revenues	8,357
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Due within one year	375,000
Due in more than one year	8,475,000
Total liabilities	14,030,009
Net Position:	
Net investment in capital assets	855,604
Unrestricted	(1,919,699)
Total net position	\$ (1,064,095)

Sterling Hill Community Development District
Statement of Activities
Year Ended September 30, 2020

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenue		Net (Expense)
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Revenue and Changes in Net Position
				Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities:				
General government	\$ 166,616	\$ 99,425	\$ -	\$ (67,191)
Physical environment	804,499	480,065	-	(324,434)
Culture and recreation	790,042	518,070	-	(271,972)
Public safety	41,219	24,596	-	(16,623)
Roads and streets	614,531	361,278	-	(253,253)
Interest on long-term debt	726,301	826,449	6,389	106,537
Total governmental activities	\$ 3,143,208	\$ 2,309,883	\$ 6,389	(826,936)
General Revenues and Special Items:				
				6,819
				4,048,539
				693,968
				4,749,326
				3,922,390
				(4,986,485)
				\$ (1,064,095)

Sterling Hill Community Development District
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
September 30, 2020

	<u>General</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 1,433,628	\$ -	\$ 1,433,628
Investments	-	659,441	659,441
Prepaid costs	36,822	-	36,822
Deposits	30,063	-	30,063
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,500,513</u>	<u>\$ 659,441</u>	<u>\$ 2,159,954</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balances:			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 54,535	\$ -	\$ 54,535
Unearned revenue	8,357	-	8,357
Matured bonds payable	-	4,780,000	4,780,000
Total liabilities	<u>62,892</u>	<u>4,780,000</u>	<u>4,842,892</u>
Fund Balances:			
Nonspendable	66,885	-	66,885
Restricted for capital projects	965,421	-	965,421
Unassigned	405,315	(4,120,559)	(3,715,244)
Total fund balances (deficit)	<u>1,437,621</u>	<u>(4,120,559)</u>	<u>(2,682,938)</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 1,500,513</u>	<u>\$ 659,441</u>	

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 in the funds.	10,805,960
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	
Accrued interest payable	(337,117)
Long-term liabilities	<u>(8,850,000)</u>
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ (1,064,095)</u>

Sterling Hill Community Development District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
Year Ended September 30, 2020

	General	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:			
Special assessments	\$ 1,442,230	\$ 810,890	\$ 2,253,120
Special assessments - prepayments	-	15,559	15,559
Investment and other income	48,023	6,389	54,412
Total revenues	1,490,253	832,838	2,323,091
Expenditures:			
Current:			
General government	140,285	26,331	166,616
Physical environment	508,739	-	508,739
Culture and recreation	366,086	-	366,086
Public safety	41,219	-	41,219
Roads and streets	75,710	-	75,710
Debt Service:			
Principal	-	350,000	350,000
Interest	-	816,215	816,215
Capital Outlay	70,326	-	70,326
Total expenditures	1,202,365	1,192,546	2,394,911
Excess (Deficit) of revenues over expenditures	287,888	(359,708)	(71,820)
Other Financing Sources (Uses) :			
Gain on bond forgiveness	-	1,123,539	1,123,539
Gain from lot sales	-	693,968	693,968
Transfers in	-	11,014	11,014
Transfers out	(11,014)	-	(11,014)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(11,014)	1,828,521	1,817,507
Net change in fund balances	276,874	1,468,813	1,745,687
Fund balances (deficit), beginning of year	1,160,747	(5,589,372)	(4,428,625)
Fund balances (deficit), end of year	\$ 1,437,621	\$ (4,120,559)	\$ (2,682,938)

Sterling Hill Community Development District
**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities**
Year Ended September 30, 2020

Amounts reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Net Change in Fund Balances - total governmental funds \$ 1,745,687

Governmental Funds report outlays for Capital Assets as expenditures because such outlays use current financial resources; however, in the statement of net position the cost of those assets is recorded as capital assets.

Capitalized assets	70,326	
Depreciation expense	<u>(1,258,537)</u>	(1,188,211)

The issuance of long term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of principal on long-term debt uses current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction however has any effect on net position.

Reclassification to matured bonds payable	350,000
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The cancellation of liabilities not due and payable from current resources is not reported in the fund level statement	2,925,000
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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 accrued interest	<u>89,914</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 3,922,390</u></u>

Sterling Hill Community Development District
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance Budget and Actual - General Fund**
Year Ended September 30, 2020

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Special assessments	\$ 1,341,432	\$ 1,341,432	\$ 1,442,230	\$ 100,798
Investment and other income	35,000	35,000	48,023	13,023
Total revenues	1,376,432	1,376,432	1,490,253	113,821
Expenditures:				
Current:				
General government	160,883	160,883	140,285	20,598
Physical environment	560,993	560,993	508,739	52,254
Culture and recreation	396,582	396,582	366,086	30,496
Public safety	55,000	55,000	41,219	13,781
Roads and streets	150,382	150,382	75,710	74,672
Capital Outlay	52,592	52,592	70,326	(17,734)
Total expenditures	1,376,432	1,376,432	1,202,365	174,067
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	-	-	287,888	287,888
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Transfers Out	-	-	(11,014)	(11,014)
Total other financing sources and uses	-	-	(11,014)	(11,014)
Net change in fund balance	-	-	276,874	276,874
Fund balance, beginning	1,160,747	1,160,747	1,160,747	-
Fund balance, ending	\$ 1,160,747	\$ 1,160,747	\$ 1,437,621	\$ 276,874

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

The *Sterling Hill Community Development District*, (the “District”) was established on March 20, 2003, 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, the power to borrow money and issue bonds, and the power to levy and assess non-ad valorem assessments for the financing and delivery of capital infrastructure. The District was established for the purpose 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 (the “Board”), which is composed of five members. All are elected on an at large basis by qualified electors who reside in 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 final responsibility for:

1. Allocating 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 GASB Statements 14, 39 and 61. Under the provisions of those standards, the financial reporting entity consists of the primary government, organizations for which the District Board of Supervisors 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. Management has determined that there are no entities to be considered a component unit of the District.

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The 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, 2) grants, contributions and investment earnings that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment and 3) operating-type special assessments that are treated as charges for services (including assessments for maintenance and debt service). Other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

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 recognized as revenues as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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 District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period, except for Developer receivables for retainage, which are collected from the Developer when the amount is due to the contractor. Expenditures are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

Assessments, including debt service assessments and operation and maintenance assessments, are non-ad valorem assessments imposed on all lands located within the District and benefited by the District's activities. Operation and maintenance special assessments are levied by the District prior to the start of the fiscal year which begins October 1st and ends on September 30th. These assessments are imposed upon all benefited lands located in the District. Debt service special assessments are imposed upon certain lots and lands as described in each resolution imposing the special assessment for each series of bonds issued by the District. Certain debt service assessments are collected upon the closing of those lots subject to short term debt and are used to prepay a portion of the bonds outstanding.

Assessments and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Only the portion of assessments receivable due within the current fiscal period is considered to be susceptible to accrual as revenue of the current period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

The District reports the following governmental funds:

General Fund

Is the District's primary operating fund. It is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Debt Service Fund

Accounts for the accumulation of resources for the annual payment of principal and interest on long-term debt.

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 District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance:

Restricted Assets

These assets represent cash and investments set aside pursuant to bond covenants.

Deposits and Investments

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

Investments of the District are reported at fair value and are categorized within the fair value hierarchy established in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. The District's investments consist of investments authorized in accordance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes.

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.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, sidewalks and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$5,000 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
Roadways and Streetlights	20
Water Management Control	25
Security and Landscaping	15
Recreational Facilities	30
Equipment	5-10

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 over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. Bonds payable are reported net of premiums or discounts. Issuance costs are reported as expenses.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discount 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 are reported as 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. The District does not have any item that qualifies for reporting in this category for the year ended September 30, 2020.

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. The District does not have any item that qualifies for reporting in this category for the year ended September 30, 2020.

Net Position Flow Assumption

Sometimes the District will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted net position and unrestricted net position in the government-wide financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the District's policy to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position is applied.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Balance Flow Assumptions

Sometimes the District will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the District's policy to consider restricted fund balance to have been depleted before using any of the components of unrestricted fund balance. Further, when the components of unrestricted fund balance can be used for the same purpose, committed fund balance is depleted first, followed by assigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balance is applied last.

Fund Balance Policies

Fund balance of governmental funds is reported in various categories based on the nature of any limitations requiring the use of resources for specific purposes. The District itself can establish limitations on the use of resources through either commitment (committed fund balance) or an assignment (assigned fund balance).

The committed fund balance classification includes fund balance amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority. The Board of Supervisors is the highest level of decision-making authority for the government that can, by adoption of an ordinance or resolution prior to the end of the fiscal year, commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed by the ordinance or resolution remains in place until a similar action is taken to remove or revise the limitation.

Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the government for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as committed. The Board of Supervisors has authorized the District Manager to assign amounts for specific purposes. The Board of Supervisors may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget. Unlike commitments, assignments generally only exist temporarily. In other words, an additional action does not normally have to be taken for the removal of an assignment. Conversely, as discussed above an additional action is essential to either remove or revise a commitment.

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.

New Accounting Standards

In fiscal year 2020, the District implemented Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance*. This statement provides temporary relief to governments and other stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic by postponing the effective dates of provisions in certain other statements. There was no effect on beginning balances of the District for implementation of this Statement.

NOTE 2 STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Budgetary Information

The District is required to establish a budgetary system and an approved annual budget for the General Fund. Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. All annual appropriations lapse at the fiscal year end. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level. Any budget amendments that increase the aggregate budgeted appropriations, at the fund level, must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

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

1. Each year the District Manager submits to the District Board a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following October 1.
2. A public hearing is conducted to obtain comments.
3. Prior to October 1, the budget is legally adopted by the District Board.
4. All budget changes must be approved by the District Board.
5. The budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

NOTE 3 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.

Investments

The District categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. The District uses a market approach in measuring fair value that uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or similar assets, liabilities, or groups of assets and liabilities.

Assets or liabilities are classified into one of three levels. Level 1 is the most reliable and is based on quoted prices for identical assets, or liabilities, in an active market. Level 2 uses significant other observable inputs when obtaining quoted prices for identical or similar assets, or liabilities, in markets that are not active. Level 3 is the least reliable, and uses significant unobservable inputs that uses the best information available under the circumstances, which includes the District's own data in measuring unobservable inputs.

The District has the following recurring fair value measurements as of September 30, 2020:

- Money market mutual funds of \$659,441 are valued using Level 2 inputs.

NOTE 3 DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Investments made by the District at September 30, 2020 are summarized below. In accordance with GASB 31, investments are reported at fair value.

Investment Type	Fair Value	Credit Rating	Weighted Average Maturity
US Bank Money Market Fund	\$ 659,441	NA	NA
	\$ 659,441		

Credit Risk:

The District's investment policy limits credit risk by restricting authorized investments to those described. Investments in U.S. Government securities and agencies must be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Short term bond funds shall be rated by a nationally recognized ratings agency and shall maintain the highest credit quality rating. Investment ratings by investment type are included in the preceding summary of investments.

Custodial Credit Risk:

In the case of deposits, this is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. The District's investment policy requires that bank deposits be secured as provided by Chapter 280, Florida Statutes. This law requires local governments to deposit funds only in financial institutions designated as qualified public depositories by the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida, and creates the Public Deposits Trust Fund, a multiple financial institution pool with the ability to assess its member financial institutions for collateral shortfalls if a default or insolvency has occurred. At September 30, 2020, all of the District's bank deposits were in qualified public depositories.

For an investment, this is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the government will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At September 30, 2020, none of the investments listed are exposed to custodial credit risk because their existence is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

Concentration of Credit 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. The District manages its exposure to declines in fair values by investing primarily in pooled investments that have a weighted average maturity of less than three months.

NOTE 4 CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended September 30, 2020 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Disposals	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities:				
Capital Assets not Being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000
Construction work in progress	91,044	70,326	(161,370)	-
Total capital assets not being depreciated	1,591,044	70,326	(161,370)	1,500,000
Capital Assets Being Depreciated:				
Roadways and streetlights	10,776,425	-	-	10,776,425
Water Management Control	7,042,774	-	-	7,042,774
Security and landscaping	4,572,944	-	-	4,572,944
Recreational facilities	2,922,143	137,507	-	3,059,650
Equipment	197,115	23,863	-	220,978
Vehicles	37,085	-	-	37,085
Total capital assets being depreciated	25,548,486	161,370	-	25,709,856
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:				
Roadways and streetlights	(6,716,894)	(538,821)	-	(7,255,715)
Water Management Control	(3,540,945)	(281,711)	-	(3,822,656)
Security and landscaping	(3,601,112)	(306,817)	-	(3,907,929)
Recreational facilities	(1,116,038)	(117,139)	-	(1,233,177)
Equipment	(137,935)	(11,514)	-	(149,449)
Vehicles	(32,435)	(2,535)	-	(34,970)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	(15,145,359)	(1,258,537)	-	(16,403,896)
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, net	10,403,127	(1,097,167)	-	9,305,960
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, net	\$ 11,994,171	\$ (1,026,841)	\$ (161,370)	\$ 10,805,960

Depreciation was charged as follows: \$538,821 to roads and streets expense, \$423,956 to culture and recreation expense and \$295,760 to physical environment expense. The District improvements are complete.

NOTE 5 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Series 2003 Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds - Public Offering

On October 29, 2003, the District issued \$39,000,000 of Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds, consisting of \$4,765,000 Series 2003A Term Bonds due May 1, 2023 with a fixed interest rate of 6.1%, \$7,770,000 Series 2003A Term Bonds due on May 1, 2035 with a fixed interest rate of 6.2% and \$26,465,000 Series 2003B Term Bonds due on November 1, 2010 with a fixed interest rate of 5.5%. The Bonds were issued to finance the acquisition and construction of certain improvements for the benefit of the property within the District and to pay off the Bond Anticipation Notes. Interest is to be paid semiannually on each May 1 and November 1. Principal on the 2003A Bonds is paid annually commencing May 1, 2006 through May 1, 2035. Principal on the 2003B Bonds is due in one lump sum on November 1, 2010. The principal payment due of \$4,225,000 on November 1, 2010 for the Series 2003B Bonds was not made. The remaining unpaid balance of \$3,725,000 has been accrued on the fund financial statements as matured bonds payable.

The Series 2003A Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the District in whole or in part at any time on or after May 1, 2013 at a redemption price as set forth in the Bond Indenture. The Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Indenture.

The Bond Indenture requires that the District maintain adequate funds in a reserve account to meet the debt service reserve requirements as defined in the Indenture. The requirement has not been met at September 30, 2020. In the event of default, the bondholders may declare all principal and interest due and payable.

The Bond Indenture has certain 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 agreed to levy special assessments in annual amounts adequate to provide payment of debt service. Payment of principal and interest on the 2003 Bonds is secured by a pledge of and a first lien upon the pledged special assessment revenue. The District is not in compliance with the certain requirements of the Bond Indenture.

Total principal and interest remaining on the Series 2003 Bonds at September 30, 2020 is \$18,854,690, including matured principal of \$4,780,000. For the year ended September 30, 2020, interest paid was \$816,215 and \$350,000 of principal was due but not paid. Total special assessment revenue pledged was \$821,478.

Series 2006 Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds - Public Offering

On July 12, 2006, the District issued \$8,305,000 of Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds, consisting of \$3,755,000 Series 2006A Term Bonds due May 1, 2037 with a fixed interest rate of 5.5%, and \$4,550,000 Series 2006B Term Bonds due on May 1, 2011 with a fixed interest rate of 5.1%. The Bonds were issued to finance the acquisition and construction of certain improvements for the benefit of the property within the District. Interest is to be paid semiannually on each May 1 and November 1. Principal on the 2006A Bonds is due annually commencing May 1, 2008 through May 1, 2037. Principal on the 2006B Bonds is due in one lump sum on May 1, 2011. The remaining principal balance due of \$295,000 on May 1, 2011 for the Series 2006B Bonds was not made. In the current fiscal year, the entire remaining balance was canceled per bond holder direction.

The Series 2006A Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the District in whole or in part at any time on or after May 1, 2013 at a redemption price as set forth in the Bond Indenture. The Bonds are subject to extraordinary mandatory redemption prior to maturity in the manner determined by the Bond Indenture.

The Bond Indenture requires that the District maintain adequate funds in a reserve account to meet the debt service reserve requirements as defined in the Indenture. In the event of default, the bondholders may declare all principal and interest due and payable.

The Bond Indenture has certain 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 agreed to levy special assessments in annual amounts adequate to provide payment of debt service. Payment of principal and interest on the 2006 Bonds is secured by a pledge of and a first lien upon the pledged special assessment revenue.

NOTE 5 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)

In October 2019, at the direction of the 100% holder of the bonds, the trustee made a final distribution of \$654,932 and cancelled the remaining bonds. As a result of the cancellation, the District recognized gains on cancellation of \$1,123,539 on the fund statements and \$4,048,539 on the government-wide statements.

As discussed in Notes 7 and 8, significant prior and current fiscal year assessments remain delinquent. As a result, the District did not have sufficient funds to make certain scheduled debt service payments on the Series 2003 bonds. These amounts are accrued on the financial statements as matured bonds payable of \$4,780,000.

Long-term liabilities activity for the year ended September 30, 2020 was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Governmental Activities:					
Bonds Payable:					
Series 2003A	\$ 9,200,000	\$ -	\$ (350,000)	\$ 8,850,000	\$ 375,000
Series 2006A	2,925,000	-	(2,925,000)	-	-
Governmental activity long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 12,125,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (3,275,000)</u>	<u>\$ 8,850,000</u>	<u>\$ 375,000</u>

The reductions above include \$350,000 of principal expensed in the current year but not paid. This amount is included in matured bonds payable. The beginning balance excludes \$4,430,000 of matured bonds payable on the series 2003 bonds.

At September 30, 2020, the scheduled debt service requirements on the bonds payable were as follows:

<u>Year ending September 30,</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2021	\$ 375,000	\$ 611,340
2022	400,000	588,465
2023	940,000	564,065
2024	295,000	442,370
2025	480,000	424,080
2026 - 2030	2,885,000	1,635,560
2031 - 2035	3,475,000	618,140
	<u>\$ 8,850,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,884,020</u>

NOTE 6 DEFICIT NET POSITION

The District has a government-wide net deficit of \$(1,064,095) at September 30, 2020 resulting from the non-payment of assessments by major landowners.

NOTE 7 BOND DEFAULT AND SPECIAL PURPOSE ENTITIES

On January 12, 2010, the District declared an event of default on the Series 2006 Bonds as a result of non-collection of assessments from landowners to make the necessary debt service payments. Pursuant to the Bond Indenture, the Trustee, on behalf of the Bondholders, has access to the funds held on deposit in the trust accounts. As a result of the default, SPE 1 was created by the Trustee in January 2010 to own and maintain the property subject to delinquent 2006 assessments. SPE 1 accepted lots owned by the delinquent landowners (including the Developer) in lieu of foreclosure. In addition, an agreement was entered into between the District and SPE 1, whereby, debt service assessments on the Bond would be forborne but continue to constitute a lien on the property. The operation and maintenance assessments for the lots will be billed to SPE 1. For fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, SPE 1 paid \$99,203 of current and past due assessments. The agreement also states that in the event funds are no longer available in the trust accounts and another funding source has not been secured or changes affecting the delinquent lands results in increased risk to SPE 1 or related parties, SPE 1 may convey the lands to the District for ownership and maintenance. During 2020, the SPE sold the remaining lots and contributed \$693,969 to the District. The SPE was dissolved in December 2019.

Further, on September 14, 2010, the District declared an event of default on the Series 2003 Bonds as a result of non-collection of assessments to make the lump sum principal payment on the Series 2003B Bonds on November 1, 2010. Consequently, the District filed foreclosure lawsuits against three landowners for failure to pay assessments due on the Series 2003B Bonds. SPE 2 was created by the Trustee in September 2011 and one of the landowners conveyed their land to the SPE. In accordance with the SPE 2 agreement, the District agreed to defer collection of the Series 2003 assessments encumbering the property until direction to the contrary is given by the Trustee, but will continue to constitute a lien on the property. Under the agreement, operations and maintenance assessments will be directly billed to the SPE as District expenses accrue. However, no assessments related to the SPE 2 were billed in the current year. In the current year, SPE 2 did not pay any assessments.

NOTE 8 DETERIORATING FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The District's activity is dependent upon the continued involvement of the major landowners and the SPE's. Delinquent assessments from the landowners and the abeyance of assessments on land owned by the SPE's have had a material adverse effect on the District's operations. A portion of the assessments for the prior and current fiscal years were delinquent or in abeyance and remain so as of the report date. These amounts have not been recognized in the financial statements. Consequently, the District did not have sufficient available funds and certain scheduled debt service payments on the Series 2003 Bonds in the prior fiscal years were made, in part, by a draw on the Debt Service Reserve Account. In addition, the District did not have sufficient funds to make certain scheduled debt service payments on the Series 2003 bonds in the current and prior years and as a result, the payments were not made.

NOTE 9 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. The District has not filed any claims under this commercial insurance coverage during the last three years.

COMPLIANCE SECTION

**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
Sterling Hill Community Development District

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, and each major fund of the *Sterling Hill Community Development District* (the "District") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 24, 2021.

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) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing 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 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. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District'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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. See Appendix A.

We noted certain other matters that we reported to management of the District, in a separate letter dated March 24, 2021. The District's response to our findings identified in our audit is included in this report. We did not audit the District's response, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

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

McDiarmid Davis

Orlando, Florida
March 24, 2021



MANAGEMENT LETTER

Board of Supervisors
Sterling Hill Community Development District

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the *Sterling Hill Community Development District*, (the "District") as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated March 24, 2021.

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 *Government 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 Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of 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 March 24, 2021, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. Corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report, except as noted below.

Tabulation of Uncorrected Audit Findings		
Current Year Finding #	2018-19 FY Finding #	2017-2018 FY Finding #
12-03	12-03	12-03
12-04	12-04	12-04

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4. And 10.556(7), Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. This information has been disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Condition and Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)5.a. and 10.556(7), Rules of the Auditor General, require us to apply appropriate procedures and communicate the results of our determination as to whether or not the District has met one or more of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, and to identify the specific condition(s) met. In connection with our audit, we determined that the District met the following condition described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, as listed in Appendix B.

Pursuant to Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8), Rules of the Auditor General, we applied financial condition assessment procedures for the District. It is management's responsibility to monitor the District's 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. Deteriorating financial conditions were noted as indicated above under Section 10.554(1)(i)5.a.

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

Additional Matters

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

Purpose of this Letter

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

McDiarmid Davis

Orlando, Florida
March 24, 2021

12-03 - Failure to Meet Debt Service Reserve Account Requirement

Criteria

The Trust Indenture requires the District to maintain a minimum balance in the Series 2003 Debt Service Reserve Accounts.

Condition

At September 30, 2020, the Debt Service Reserve Account was deficient.

Cause

The balance in the Debt Service Reserve Account was used to pay prior year debt service on the Bonds.

Effect

The District is not in compliance with the Trust Indentures.

Recommendation

We recommend the District utilize all remedies available to replenish the Debt Service Reserve Account.

12-04 - Failure to Make Debt Service Payments When Due

Criteria

The Special Assessment Revenue Bonds Series 2003 require semiannual interest payments and annual principal payments as per the Bond Indenture.

Condition

In the current and prior years, the District did not pay all principal and/or interest due on these Bonds.

Cause

The District is not receiving debt service assessments due to landowner nonpayment and Special Purpose Entity purchase of the land within the District.

Effect

At September 30, 2020, the District was not in compliance with the requirements of the Bond Indenture and has met a financial emergency condition as described in Florida Statute Section 218.503(1).

Recommendation

We recommend the District utilize all remedies available to bring debt service payments current.

12-04 - Failure to Make Debt Service Payments When Due

In the current and prior years, the District did not pay principal and/or interest due on the Series 2003 Bonds as a result of lack of funds; therefore the District meets Section 218.503(1)(a) as a financial emergency condition.



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 218.415, FLORIDA STATUTES**

Board of Supervisors
Sterling Hill Community Development District

We have examined Sterling Hill Community Development District's (the "District") compliance with the requirements of Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, during the year ended September 30, 2020. 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 and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2020.

McDermitt Davis

Orlando, Florida
March 24, 2021



**STERLING HILL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

5844 Old Pasco Road, Suite 100, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 - 813-994-1001 - sterlinghillcdd.org

March 24, 2021

Response to the Management Letter for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020

Management Letter finding 12-03:

The auditor noted that the District’s Debt Service Reserve Account was deficient at September 30, 2020, as a result of funds from the Reserve Account being used to pay prior year debt service payments.

District response to the finding:

The District and the Bondholders have been working to alleviate this issue. As discussed in Note 7 to the Financial Statements, during a prior year, the Trustee formed a Special Purpose Entity (SPE 1) to own and maintain the property subject to delinquent Series 2006 assessments. In October 2019 the Series 2006A and 2006B bonds were cancelled. In 2020, SPE 1 sold the remaining lots and contributed \$693,969 to the District.

In a prior year, the District filed foreclosure against three landowners for failure to pay assessments due on the Series 2003B Bonds. The Trustee formed SPE 2 to own and maintain the property subject to the delinquent Series 2003B Bond assessments upon transfer of ownership to SPE 2. SPE 2 continues to search for a homebuilder to purchase this land. Once all the outstanding assessments have been collected, the Trustee, on behalf of the Bondholders, and the District will need to discuss the status of the debt service reserve funds and determine if the debt service reserve funds will be replenished to an appropriate level based on the Bond indenture.

Management Letter finding 12-04:

The auditor noted that the District did not make the required debt service interest and principal payments on the Series 2003B bonds.

District response to the finding:

In a prior year, the District filed foreclosure against three landowners for failure to pay assessments due on the Series 2003B Bonds. The Trustee formed SPE 2 to own and maintain the property subject to the delinquent Series 2003B Bond assessments upon transfer of ownership to SPE 2. SPE 2 continues to search for a homebuilder to purchase this land. Assessment collection of the Series 2003 bonds have been deferred until direction is given by the Trustee.

Scott Brizendine
Treasurer - Sterling Hill Community Development District

STERLING HILL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Christina Miller Sandra Manuele Cassi Harbuck Michael Dimos Louis Peters Angel Montagna
Chairman Vice Chairman Supervisor Supervisor Supervisor District Manager