# **STATE OF MINNESOTA** Office of the State Auditor



# **Rebecca Otto State Auditor**

# WATONWAN COUNTY ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

# **Description of the Office of the State Auditor**

The Office of the State Auditor serves as a watchdog for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity, accountability, and cost-effectiveness in local governments throughout the state.

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

The State Auditor performs approximately 250 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 4,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

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

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

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

**Pension** - monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for over 700 public pension funds; and

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

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

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# Year Ended December 31, 2005



Audit Practice Division Office of the State Auditor State of Minnesota

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**Introductory Section** 

# ORGANIZATION 2005

Office	Name	Term Expires
Commissioners		
1st District	Dwayne Krenz	January 2009
2nd District	Noren Durheim	January 2007
3rd District	William Berg	January 2009
4th District	Scott Sanders*	January 2007
5th District	John Baerg	January 2009
Officers		
Elected		
Attorney	LaMar Piper	January 2007
Auditor	Donald Kuhlman	January 2007
County Recorder	Joy Sing	January 2007
Sheriff	Gary Menssen	January 2007
Treasurer	Carol F. Johnson	January 2007
Appointed		
Assessor	Noreen Curry	January 2009
Court Administrator (State)	Kelly Iverson	Indefinite
Coroner	R. A. Parsons, M.D.	January 2007
Highway Engineer	Roger Risser	May 2007
Probation Officer	Paul Harris	Indefinite
Veterans Service Officer	Deb Grote	Indefinite
Human Services Director	Richard Collins	Indefinite

\*2005 Chair

**Financial Section** 



**STATE OF MINNESOTA** OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

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#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Board of County Commissioners Watonwan County

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Watonwan County, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the County's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information for Watonwan County as of December 31, 2005, and the respective changes in financial position thereof and the respective budgetary comparisons for the General Fund, Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, and Human Services Special Revenue Fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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The Management's Discussion and Analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Watonwan County's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of Watonwan County. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 21, 2006, on our consideration of Watonwan County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

/s/Rebecca Otto

/s/Greg Hierlinger

REBECCA OTTO STATE AUDITOR GREG HIERLINGER, CPA DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

End of Fieldwork: November 21, 2006

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS DECEMBER 31, 2005 (Unaudited)

#### INTRODUCTION

As management of Watonwan County, we offer readers of the Watonwan County financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of Watonwan County for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the County's basic financial statements following this section. All amounts, unless otherwise indicated, are expressed in whole dollars.

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The assets of Watonwan County exceeded its liabilities at the close of 2005 by \$41,857,781. Of this amount, \$2,653,687 (unrestricted net assets) may be used to meet Watonwan County's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- Watonwan County's total net assets increased by \$864,340 in 2005.
- At the close of 2005, Watonwan County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$9,190,994, \$5,721,879 unreserved of which approximately \$2,023,280 is available for spending at the County's discretion and is noted as unreserved, undesignated fund balance.
- At the close of 2005, unreserved fund balance for the General Fund was \$2,974,391, or 58 percent, of total General Fund expenditures.
- Watonwan County's total bonds and capital notes payable increased by \$690,000, or 15 percent, during 2005. The key factor to this increase was the issuance of \$845,000 of bonds with offsetting payments of \$155,000.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This Management's Discussion and Analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to Watonwan County's basic financial statements. Watonwan County's basic financial statements comprise three components: (1) County-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.

### **County-Wide Financial Statements**

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

The statement of net assets presents information on all of Watonwan County's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of Watonwan County is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the government's net assets changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net assets 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 result in cash flows only in future fiscal periods (for example, uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

The County-wide financial statements list the functions of Watonwan County principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues. The governmental activities of Watonwan County include general government, public safety, highways and streets, sanitation, human services, health, culture and recreation, economic development, and conservation of natural resources. Watonwan County has no business-type activities intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges.

The County-wide financial statements can be found on Exhibits 1 and 2.

# Fund Financial Statements

A "fund" is a grouping of related accounts used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Watonwan County, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of Watonwan County can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the County-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the County-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the County's short-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.

<u>Governmental funds</u> are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the County-wide financial statements. However, unlike the County-wide financial statements, County fund level financial statements focus on short-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 the County's short-term financing requirements.

Watonwan County reports four major funds and three nonmajor funds. The major funds are the General Fund, Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, Human Services Special Revenue Fund, and Debt Service Fund. The nonmajor funds are the County Library Special Revenue Fund, County Ditch Special Revenue Fund, and Solid Waste Special Revenue Fund. Information is presented separately for the major funds and in total for the nonmajor funds in Exhibits 3 and 4.

<u>Fiduciary funds</u> are used to account for assets held by the County as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, or other funds. Watonwan County's fiduciary funds consist of three agency funds. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations. In addition, the agency funds are not reflected in the County-wide financial statements because those resources are not available to support the County's programs.

Watonwan County's governmental fund financial statements are on Exhibits 3 through 7, and Watonwan County's fiduciary funds are on Exhibit 8.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

Notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided.

# **Other Information**

In addition to the basic financial statements and notes, Watonwan County also provides supplementary information on intergovernmental revenues (Schedule 1).

Watonwan County adopts an annual appropriated budget for its General Fund, special revenue funds, and the Debt Service Fund. Budgetary comparison statements have been provided for the County's major funds to demonstrate compliance with these budgets.

# **County-Wide Financial Analysis**

Over time, net assets serve as a useful indicator of the County's financial position. Watonwan County's assets exceeded liabilities by \$41,857,781 at the close of 2005. The largest portion of Watonwan County's net assets (83.5 percent) reflects its investment in capital assets (for example, land, buildings, and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. However, it should be noted that these assets are not available for future spending.

#### **Governmental Net Assets**

	2005	2004		
Current and other assets Capital assets	\$ 12,311,024 37,382,307	\$ 10,953,275 36,555,027		
Total Assets	\$ 49,693,331	\$ 47,508,302		
Long-term liabilities outstanding Other liabilities	\$ 6,901,187 934,363	\$		
Total Liabilities	\$ 7,835,550	\$ 6,514,861		
Net Assets Invested in capital assets - net of related debt Restricted Unrestricted	\$ 34,950,407 4,253,687 2,653,687	\$ 34,067,184 3,086,677 3,839,580		
Total Net Assets	\$ 41,857,781	\$ 40,993,441		

The unrestricted net asset amount of \$2,653,687 as of December 31, 2005, may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

#### **Governmental Activities**

The following table summarizes the changes in net assets for 2005.

#### **Changes in Governmental Net Assets**

	 2005		
Revenues			
Program revenues			
Charges for services	\$ 2,004,991	\$	1,194,437
Operating grants and contributions	4,761,761		4,900,115
Capital grants and contributions	329,156		73,100
General revenues			
Property taxes	4,926,186		4,710,566
Other	 1,979,710		1,618,493
Total Revenues	\$ 14,001,804	\$	12,496,711

	 2005		2004
Expenses			
General government	\$ 2,526,432	\$	2,385,080
Public safety	1,632,703		1,665,523
Highways and streets	3,024,976		2,749,887
Sanitation	171,732		149,985
Human services	3,709,839		3,388,606
Health	406,683		381,661
Culture and recreation	564,683		507,225
Conservation of natural resources	717,619		490,801
Economic development	141,815		133,639
Interest	 240,982		187,644
Total Expenses	\$ 13,137,464	\$	12,040,051
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 864,340	\$	456,660
Net Assets - January 1	 40,993,441		40,536,781
Net Assets - December 31	\$ 41,857,781	\$	40,993,441

#### Sources of County Revenues





#### Where County Funds Are Spent

### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTY'S FUNDS

As noted earlier, the County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

<u>Governmental funds</u>. The focus of the County's governmental funds is to provide information on short-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the County's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$9,190,994. The majority of this amount (\$5,721,879) constitutes unreserved fund balance. The remainder of fund balance is reserved to indicate this it is not available for new spending because it has already been committed for various reasons.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of Watonwan County. At the end of the current fiscal year, the unreserved fund balance of the General Fund was \$2,974,391, while the total fund balance was \$3,985,511. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare unreserved fund balance and total fund balance to annual expenditures. Unreserved fund balance represents 57.6 percent of total General Fund expenditures for 2005, while total

fund balance represents 77.2 percent of total General Fund expenditures. In 2005, the total fund balance in the General Fund increased by \$1,031,493, with unreserved fund balances increasing by \$234,320 and reserved fund balances increasing by \$797,173. The primary reasons for the increase were revenues from the sale of bonds and proceeds from ISTS loans from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The Road and Bridge Fund's fund balance decreased by \$445,445 in 2005. The main reason for the decrease was state-aid reimbursements for construction projects, which were not received in a timely enough manner to be recognized as revenue in the calendar year.

In 2005, the Human Services Fund's fund balance increased by \$19,611. A planned use of \$100,000 in fund balance did not materialize due to an unforeseen increase in revenues (which tickled us pink).

# General Fund Budgetary Highlights

There were two major changes between the original budget and the final budget. The Information Services Department expenditure budget was increased by \$41,017 to reflect the updates to the County's computer network. The revenues budget for other financing sources was increased by \$826,257 to account for the sale of bonds for the jail remodeling project.

One of the largest variances was in miscellaneous revenues, which was due to a dividend from workers' compensation and property/casualty insurance. The other large variance was the proceeds from ISTS loans from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, mainly for the septic improvements around Long Lake. On the expenditure side, the ISTS construction payment for the Long Lake project of \$273,447 accounted for the major variance.

# CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

# **Capital Assets**

The County's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2005, amount to \$37,382,307 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, equipment, and infrastructure. The total increase in the County's investment in capital assets for the current fiscal year was 2.3 percent. The major capital asset event in 2005 was additional infrastructure additions (primarily bridges and County State-Aid Highway roads).

# Governmental Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)

	2005	2004		
Land	\$ 695,771	\$ 695,771		
Construction in progress	387,631	196,533		
Land improvements	39,321	41,777		
Buildings and improvements	5,271,643	5,437,439		
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	1,907,739	1,808,608		
Infrastructure	29,080,202	28,374,899		
Total	\$ 37,382,307	\$ 36,555,027		

Additional information on the County's capital assets can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

#### Long-Term Debt

At the end of the current fiscal year, the County had total bonded debt and capital notes outstanding of \$5,240,606, which is backed by the full faith and credit of the government. Watonwan County's bonds are not rated.

#### **Governmental Outstanding Debt**

	 2005	 2004
General obligation bonds and capital notes	\$ 5,240,606	\$ 4,557,647

The County's debt increased by \$682,959 during the fiscal year. The main reason for the increase was the issuance of bonds for the jail remodeling project.

Minnesota statutes limit the amount of debt that a county may levy to two percent of its total market value. As of the end of 2005, Watonwan County is well below the two percent debt limit imposed by state statutes.

Additional information on the County's long-term debt can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

### ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS

- Watonwan County's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent as of the end of 2005. This is slightly higher than the statewide rate of 4.0 percent.
- Both housing and farm land values have continued to increase in 2005.

At the end of 2005, Watonwan County set its 2006 revenue and expenditure budgets. In doing so, it has appropriated \$661,075 from available fund balance to offset the difference between 2006 budgeted revenues and expenditures of \$14,601,016 and \$15,262,091, respectively.

During 2005, Watonwan County's net assets increased by \$864,340. A significant portion of this increase was from the sale of \$845,000 of General Obligation Bonds in 2005 to fund the remodeling and expansion of the County's Detention Facility. The current capacity of the Watonwan County Detention Facility is 15. The Detention Facility consists of an eight-bed Huber cell, a two-bed Huber cell, five 90-day holding beds in three cells, and one isolation cell. The expansion will add five 90-day holding beds. These additional beds should alleviate some of the expenses incurred in housing prisoners outside of Watonwan County. In 2002, 2003, and 2004, the County spent \$36,610, \$53,320, and \$82,030, respectively, on out-of-county prisoner board. The addition of the five 90-day holding beds should directly reduce the costs of out-of-county prisoner board. Other benefits include less transportation costs. In addition to the detention cells being added to the Detention Facility, the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system in this area is over 25 years old; technological advances will improve the performance of the system and reduce the maintenance and operational cost of the system.

# **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

This annual financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the County's finances for all those with an interest in the County's finances. Questions concerning any information provided in this report, or requests for additional financial information, should be addressed to the Watonwan County Auditor, Watonwan County Courthouse, 710 Second Avenue South, P. O. Box 518, St. James, Minnesota 56081.

**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** 

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** 

#### EXHIBIT 1

#### STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS DECEMBER 31, 2005

#### Assets

Cash and pooled investments	\$	7,278,719
Cash with fiscal agent		2,035,495
Taxes receivable		144 712
Prior		144,713
Special assessments receivable		10 002
Prior		18,883
Noncurrent		828,969
Accounts receivable		281,452
Accrued interest receivable		20,146
Due from other governments		1,508,062
Inventories Deferred debt issue costs		157,919
		36,666
Capital assets		1 092 402
Non-depreciable		1,083,402
Depreciable - net of accumulated depreciation		36,298,905
Total Assets	\$	49,693,331
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$	206,849
Salaries payable	Ψ	130,685
Contracts payable		39,186
Due to other governments		93,226
Accrued interest payable		105,063
Unearned revenue		59,354
Advance from other governments		300,000
Long-term liabilities		500,000
Due within one year		633,886
Due in more than one year		6,267,301
Due in note than one year		0,207,301
Total Liabilities	\$	7,835,550
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Invested in capital assets - net of related debt	\$	34,950,407
Restricted for		
General government		812,071
Public safety		28,753
Highways and streets		884,480
Culture and recreation		159,835
Conservation of natural resources		23,374
Debt service		2,340,804
Economic development		4,370
Unrestricted		2,653,687
Total Net Assets	\$	41,857,781

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

EXHIBIT 2

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	Expenses	]	Entry Hongs, Fines, d Other	G	am Revenues Operating Trants and Intributions	G	Capital rants and ntributions	R	et (Expense) evenue and Change in Net Assets
Functions/Programs									
Governmental activities									
General government	\$ 2,526,432	\$	396,279	\$	167,439	\$	597	\$	(1,962,117)
Public safety	1,632,703		173,971		197,857		37,667		(1,223,208)
Highways and streets	3,024,976		257,835		2,355,134		290,892		(121,115)
Sanitation	171,732		136,551		49,079		-		13,898
Human services	3,709,839		459,649		1,695,951		-		(1,554,239)
Health	406,683		32,192		203,281		-		(171,210)
Culture and recreation	564,683		20,381		2,455		-		(541,847)
Conservation of natural resources	717,619		446,797		90,565		-		(180,257)
Economic development	141,815		81,336		-		-		(60,479)
Interest	240,982		-		-		-		(240,982)
Total governmental activities	\$ 13,137,464	\$	2,004,991	\$	4,761,761	\$	329,156	\$	(6,041,556)
	General Revenu	es							
	Property taxes							\$	4,926,186
	Mortgage regist								6,414
	Grants and contr			l to sp	ecific progran	ns			1,638,355
	Payments in lieu		5						7,767
	Investment inco	me							173,765
	Miscellaneous								153,409
	Total general	revenue	s					\$	6,905,896
	Change in net a	assets						\$	864,340
	Net Assets - Jan	uary 1							40,993,441
	Net Assets - Dec								41,857,781

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2005

	 General	load and Bridge
Assets		
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 3,978,142	\$ 694,317
Cash with fiscal agent	-	-
Taxes receivable		
Prior	72,930	15,035
Special assessments receivable		
Prior	7,885	-
Noncurrent	676,803	22,171
Accounts receivable	51,083	709
Accrued interest receivable	18,695	-
Due from other funds	13,397	17,170
Due from other governments	22,952	880,847
Inventories	-	157,919
Advances to other funds	 137,716	 -
Total Assets	\$ 4,979,603	\$ 1,788,168

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

#### EXHIBIT 3

Human Services		 Debt Service	Gov	Other vernmental Funds	Go	Total overnmental Funds
\$	1,363,450	\$ 295,720 2,035,495	\$	947,090	\$	7,278,719 2,035,495
	37,871	7,672		11,205		144,713
	-	-		10,998		18,883
	228,927	-		129,995 733		828,969 281,452 20,146
	-	-		1,451 63		20,146 30,630
	348,194	- 226,000		30,069		1,508,062 157,919 137,716
\$	1,978,442	\$ 2,564,887	\$	1,131,604	\$	12,442,704

#### BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2005

	General		Road and Bridge	
Liabilities and Fund Balances				
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$	59,345	\$	39,321
Salaries payable		54,440		21,865
Contracts payable		-		39,186
Due to other funds		15,881		-
Due to other governments		51,633		1,030
Matured interest payable		-		-
Deferred revenue - unavailable		754,695		891,052
Deferred revenue - unearned		58,098		274
Advance from other funds		-		-
Advance from other governments		-		300,000
Total Liabilities	\$	994,092	\$	1,292,728
Fund Balances				
Reserved for				
Debt service	\$	-	\$	-
Inventories		-		157,919
Law library		46,097		-
Recorder's equipment		1,061		-
E-911		21,646		-
Boat and water safety		436		-
Sheriff's contingency		6,671		-
Highway projects		-		104,746
Future projects		764,913		-
Donations		-		-
ISTS loans		150,197		-
Water plan		15,729		-
HRA special benefits levy		4,370		-
Unreserved				
Designated for cash flows		1,692,501		38,388
Designated for compensated absences		333,870		194,387
Designated for debt service		-		-
Undesignated		948,020		-
Unreserved, reported in nonmajor				
special revenue funds				-
Total Fund Balances	\$	3,985,511	\$	495,440
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$	4,979,603	\$	1,788,168

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
#### EXHIBIT 3 (Continued)

	Iuman ervices	Debt Service		Go	Other overnmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds		
\$	93,566	\$		\$	14,617	\$	206,849	
φ	47,684	φ	-	φ	6,696	φ	130,685	
	-		-		-		39,186	
	13,397		-		1,352		30,630	
			-		16,090		93,226	
	24,473		- 763		-		95,220	
	237,526		223,184		146,844		2,253,301	
	651		136		195		59,354	
	-		-		137,716		137,716	
	-		-		-		300,000	
\$	417,297	\$	224,083	\$	323,510	\$	3,251,710	
\$	-	\$	2,035,495	\$	-	\$	2,035,495	
	-		-		-		157,919	
	-		-		-		46,097	
	-		-		-		1,061	
	-		-		-		21,646	
	-		-		-		436	
	-		-		-		6,671	
	-		-		-		104,746	
	-		-		-		764,913	
	-		-		159,835		159,835	
	-		-		-		150,197	
	-		-		-		15,729	
	-		-		-		4,370	
	877,500		-		-		2,608,389	
	256,644		-		-		784,901	
	-		305,309		-		305,309	
	427,001		-		-		1,375,021	
	-		-		648,259		648,259	
\$	1,561,145	\$	2,340,804	\$	808,094	\$	9,190,994	
\$	1,978,442	\$	2,564,887	\$	1,131,604	\$	12,442,704	

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EXHIBIT 3A

#### RECONCILIATION OF THE FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS DECEMBER 31, 2005

Fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit 3)		\$ 9,190,994
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:		
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		37,382,307
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the governmental funds.		2,253,301
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		
General obligation bonds Capital notes Accrued interest payable Matured interest payable Deferred debt issue costs Discount on bonds Loans payable Compensated absences	\$ $\begin{array}{c} (5,145,000) \\ (140,000) \\ (105,063) \\ 763 \\ 36,666 \\ 44,394 \\ (824,912) \\ (835,669) \end{array}$	 (6,968,821)
Net assets of governmental activities (Exhibit 1)		\$ 41,857,781

#### STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

		General	Road and Bridge		
Revenues					
Taxes	\$	2,505,867	\$	548,457	
Special assessments		78,456		8,653	
Licenses and permits		21,934		-	
Intergovernmental		1,349,613		2,490,794	
Charges for services		614,570		231,722	
Fines and forfeits		3,008		-	
Gifts and contributions		-		-	
Investment earnings		121,786		-	
Miscellaneous		252,022		257,662	
Total Revenues	\$	4,947,256	\$	3,537,288	
Expenditures					
Current Concred government	\$	2 411 072	\$		
General government Public safety	à	2,411,872 1,696,204	¢	-	
Highways and streets		1,090,204		3,992,943	
Sanitation		-		5,992,945	
Human services		-		-	
Health		_		-	
Culture and recreation		60,559		-	
Conservation of natural resources		673,387		-	
Economic development		140,861		-	
Capital outlay		107,084		-	
Debt service		,			
Principal		44,801		-	
Interest		9,054		-	
Bond issue costs		17,578		-	
Administrative charges		-		-	
Total Expenditures	\$	5,161,400	\$	3,992,943	
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$	(214,144)	\$	(455,655)	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Transfers in	\$	95,391	\$	8,825	
Transfers out		(14,139)		-	
Proceeds from loans		344,823		-	
Proceeds from sale of bonds		829,067		-	
Discount on bonds/notes issued		(9,505)		-	
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$	1,245,637	\$	8,825	
Net Change in Fund Balances	\$	1,031,493	\$	(446,830)	
Fund Balances - January 1 Increase (decrease) in reserved for inventories		2,954,018		940,885 1,385	
Fund Balances - December 31	\$	3,985,511	\$	495,440	

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

HumanDebtServicesService		Gov	Other vernmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds		
\$ 1,240,722	\$	250,920	\$	373,020	\$	4,918,986
-		-		165,690		252,799
-		-		-		21,934
2,420,846		54,003		177,474		6,492,730
64,121		-		4,822 8,317		915,235 11,325
-		-		2,455		2,455
-		51,979		4,423		178,188
 457,508		-		4,052		971,244
\$ 4,183,197	\$	356,902	\$	740,253	\$	13,764,896
\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,411,872
-		-		-		1,696,204
-		-		-		3,992,943
-		-		176,511		176,511
3,664,528		-		-		3,664,528
403,667		-		-		403,667
-		-		533,197		593,756
-		-		104,676		778,063
-		-		-		140,861
-		-		-		107,084
-		155,000		-		199,801
-		207,589		-		216,643
-		-		-		17,578
 -		903		-		903
\$ 4,068,195	\$	363,492	\$	814,384	\$	14,400,414
\$ 115,002	\$	(6,590)	\$	(74,131)	\$	(635,518)
\$ _	\$	_	\$	5,314	\$	109,530
(95,391)		-		-		(109,530)
-		-		-		344,823
-		15,933		-		845,000
 						(9,505)
\$ (95,391)	\$	15,933	\$	5,314	\$	1,180,318
\$ 19,611	\$	9,343	\$	(68,817)	\$	544,800
 1,541,534		2,331,461		876,911		8,644,809 1,385
\$ 1,561,145	\$	2,340,804	\$	808,094	\$	9,190,994

EXHIBIT 4A

#### RECONCILIATION OF THE CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit 4)	\$ 544,800
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.	571,634
Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current period.	
Capital outlay expenditures\$2,176,312Depreciation expense(1,349,032)	827.280
The issuance of long-term debt provides current current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal consumes current financial resources. Neither transaction has any effect on net assets. Also, governmental funds report the net effect of issuance costs and discounts when debt is issued; these amounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the debt in the statement of activities.	
Proceeds of new debt\$ (845,000)Capital improvement bonds issued\$ 9,505Discount on debt9,505Deferred debt issue costs17,578Loans issued(344,823)	(1,162,740)
Repayment of debt principal	199,801
Amortization of discount on debt and issuance costs	(4,013)
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 inventories\$1,385Change in accrued interest payable(19,423)Change in compensated absences(94,384)	(112,422)
Change in net assets of governmental activities (Exhibit 2)	\$ 864,340

**EXHIBIT 5** 

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE GENERAL FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>				Actual Variance with			iance with	
		Original		Final		Amounts		Final Budget	
Revenues									
Taxes	\$	2,781,454	\$	2,476,565	\$	2,505,867	\$	29,302	
Special assessments	φ	-	Ψ	-	Ψ	78,456	Ψ	78,456	
Licenses and permits		10,590		10,590		21,934		11,344	
Intergovernmental		1,036,546		1,341,435		1,349,613		8,178	
Charges for services		582,735		582,735		614,570		31,835	
Fines and forfeits		-		562,755		3,008		3,008	
Investment earnings		112,000		112,000		121,786		9,786	
Miscellaneous		91,608		91,608		252,022		160,414	
Total Revenues	\$	4,614,933	\$	4,614,933	\$	4,947,256	\$	332,323	
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	<u> </u>	, ,	<u> </u>	, <u> </u>	· ·		
Expenditures									
Current									
General government									
Commissioners	\$	175,971	\$	175,971	\$	180,762	\$	(4,791)	
Courts		20,000		20,000		14,487		5,513	
Law library		12,000		12,000		14,937		(2,937)	
Victim witness coordinator		35,181		35,181		44,154		(8,973)	
County auditor		200,460		200,460		196,034		4,426	
License bureau		74,504		74,504		78,075		(3,571)	
County treasurer		120,199		120,199		113,349		6,850	
County assessor		206,222		206,222		210,743		(4,521)	
Elections		100		100		242		(142)	
Central services		80,600		80,600		74,301		6,299	
Personnel		66,337		66,337		74,375		(8,038)	
Information services		73,983		115,000		109,036		5,964	
Attorney		221,662		221,662		211,462		10,200	
Recorder		128,704		128,704		145,962		(17,258)	
Surveyor		5,000		5,000		-		5,000	
Buildings and plant		227,345		227,345		245,504		(18,159)	
Transit		170,952		170,952		223,686		(52,734)	
Veterans service officer		99,991		99,991		80,518		19,473	
Appropriations - general government		-		-		1,525		(1,525)	
Other general government		347,169		347,169		392,720		(45,551)	
Total general government	\$	2,266,380	\$	2,307,397	\$	2,411,872	\$	(104,475)	
Public safety									
Sheriff	\$	1,025,192	\$	1,025,192	\$	1,037,299	\$	(12,107)	
Emergency services	Ψ	43,435	Ψ	43,435	Ψ	71,584	Ψ	(12,107) (28,149)	
Coroner		7,800		7,800		9,772		(23,149) (1,972)	
County jail		433,349		433,349		331,614		101,735	
Probation and parole		221,465		221,465		245,935		(24,470)	
Total public safety	\$	1,731,241	\$	1,731,241	\$	1,696,204	\$	35,037	
iour public salety	Ψ	1,731,441	Ψ	1,/31,241	Ψ	1,070,204	Ψ		

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

EXHIBIT 5 (Continued)

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE GENERAL FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>			Actual		Variance with		
		Original		Final		Amounts	Fir	nal Budget
Expenditures								
Current (Continued)								
Culture and recreation								
Historical society	\$	30,000	\$	30,000	\$	30,000	\$	-
Parks		21,500		21,500		30,559		(9,059
Total culture and recreation	\$	51,500	\$	51,500	\$	60,559	\$	(9,059
Conservation of natural resources								
Cooperative extension	\$	71,317	\$	71,317	\$	75,402	\$	(4,085
Soil and water conservation		46,500		46,500		46,750		(250
Agricultural society/County fair		40,500		40,500		41,513		(1,013
Water planning		85,000		85,000		37,621		47,379
CWP project		152,000		152,000		51,096		100,904
Environmental services		81,665		81,665		83,731		(2,066
Septic loan program		-		-		337,274		(337,274
Total conservation of natural								
resources	\$	476,982	\$	476,982	\$	673,387	\$	(196,405
Economic development								
Job training and employment	\$	86,835	\$	86,835	\$	80,990	\$	5,845
Appropriations - economic development		-		-		7,412		(7,412
Other		51,500		51,500		52,459		(959
Total economic development	\$	138,335	\$	138,335	\$	140,861	\$	(2,526
Capital outlay								
General government	\$	106,445	\$	121,445	\$	107,084	\$	14,361
Debt service								
Principal	\$	-	\$	-	\$	44,801	\$	(44,80)
Interest	\$	-	\$	-	\$	9,054	\$	(9,054
Bond issuance costs	\$	-	\$	-	\$	17,578	\$	(17,578
Total Expenditures	\$	4,770,883	\$	4,826,900	\$	5,161,400	\$	(334,500
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)								
Expenditures	\$	(155,950)	\$	(211,967)	\$	(214,144)	\$	(2,17)

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

EXHIBIT 5 (Continued)

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE GENERAL FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	Budgeted Amounts				Actual	Variance with		
	Original			Final		Amounts	Final Budget	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)								
Transfers in	\$	95,000	\$	95,000	\$	95,391	\$	391
Transfers out		-		-		(14,139)		(14,139)
Proceeds from loans		-		-		344,823		344,823
Proceeds from sale of bonds		-		836,257		829,067		(7,190)
Discount on bonds/notes issued				-		(9,505)		(9,505)
Total Other Financing Sources								
(Uses)	\$	95,000	\$	931,257	\$	1,245,637	\$	314,380
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$	(60,950)	\$	719,290	\$	1,031,493	\$	312,203
Fund Balance - January 1		2,954,018		2,954,018		2,954,018		-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$	2,893,068	\$	3,673,308	\$	3,985,511	\$	312,203

**EXHIBIT 6** 

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>			Actual Variance with			riance with	
		Original		Final	Amounts		Final Budget	
Revenues								
Taxes	\$	621,047	\$	550,824	\$	548,457	\$	(2,367)
Special assessments	Ψ	-	Ψ	-	Ψ	8,653	Ψ	8,653
Intergovernmental		2,809,043		3,023,061		2,490,794		(532,267)
Charges for services		140,000		140,000		231,722		91,722
Miscellaneous		155,072		155,072		257,662		102,590
Total Revenues	\$	3,725,162	\$	3,868,957	\$	3,537,288	\$	(331,669)
Expenditures								
Current								
Highways and streets								
Administration	\$	353,824	\$	353,824	\$	373,855	\$	(20,031)
Maintenance		926,980		1,070,775		885,921		184,854
Construction		1,390,469		1,390,469		1,387,975		2,494
Equipment maintenance and shop		975,498		975,498		1,108,754		(133,256)
Other		226,178		226,178		236,438		(10,260)
Total Expenditures	\$	3,872,949	\$	4,016,744	\$	3,992,943	\$	23,801
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)								
Expenditures	\$	(147,787)	\$	(147,787)	\$	(455,655)	\$	(307,868)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)								
Transfers in		12,000	. <u> </u>	12,000		8,825		(3,175)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$	(135,787)	\$	(135,787)	\$	(446,830)	\$	(311,043)
Fund Balance - January 1		940,885		940,885		940,885		-
Increase (decrease) in reserved for inventories		-		-		1,385		1,385
Fund Balance - December 31	\$	805,098	\$	805,098	\$	495,440	\$	(309,658)

EXHIBIT 7

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE HUMAN SERVICES FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>				Actual			Variance with	
		Original		Final	Amounts		Final Budget		
Revenues									
Taxes	\$	1,404,481	\$	1,244,287	\$	1,240,722	\$	(3,565)	
Intergovernmental		2,241,192		2,401,386		2,420,846		19,460	
Charges for services		33,350		33,350		64,121		30,771	
Miscellaneous		246,900		246,900		457,508		210,608	
Total Revenues	\$	3,925,923	\$	3,925,923	\$	4,183,197	\$	257,274	
Expenditures									
Current									
Human services									
Income maintenance	\$	873,508	\$	873,508	\$	889,349	\$	(15,841)	
Social services		2,691,213		2,691,213		2,775,179		(83,966)	
Total human services	\$	3,564,721	\$	3,564,721	\$	3,664,528	\$	(99,807)	
Health									
Community health services		461,202		461,202		403,667		57,535	
Total Expenditures	\$	4,025,923	\$	4,025,923	\$	4,068,195	\$	(42,272)	
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$	(100,000)	\$	(100,000)	\$	115,002	\$	215,002	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)									
Transfers out				-		(95,391)		(95,391)	
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$	(100,000)	\$	(100,000)	\$	19,611	\$	119,611	
Fund Balance - January 1		1,541,534		1,541,534		1,541,534			
Fund Balance - December 31	\$	1,441,534	\$	1,441,534	\$	1,561,145	\$	119,611	

#### **EXHIBIT 8**

#### STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS AGENCY FUNDS **DECEMBER 31, 2005**

Assets Cash and pooled investments \$ 210,142 **Liabilities** Due to other governments 210,142 \$

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

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

## 1. <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u>

The County's financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). Governments are also required to follow the pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued through November 30, 1989, (when applicable) that do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the County are discussed below.

#### A. <u>Financial Reporting Entity</u>

Watonwan County was established February 25, 1860, and is an organized county having the powers, duties, and privileges granted counties by Minn. Stat. ch. 373. The County is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners elected from districts within the County. The Board is organized with a chair and vice chair elected at the annual meeting in January of each year.

### Joint Ventures

The County participants in joint ventures described in Note 5.B. The County also participates in jointly-governed organizations described in Note 5.C.

#### B. <u>Basic Financial Statements</u>

#### 1. <u>County-Wide Statements</u>

The County-wide financial statements (the statement of net assets and the statement of activities) display information about the County. These statements include the financial activities of the overall County government, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities.

## 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### B. Basic Financial Statements

1. <u>County-Wide Statements</u> (Continued)

In the County-wide statement of net assets, the governmental activities column: (a) is presented on a consolidated basis; and (b) is reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The County's net assets are reported in three parts: (1) invested in capital assets, net of related debt; (2) restricted net assets; and (3) unrestricted net assets. The County first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

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

#### 2. Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the County's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category--governmental and fiduciary--are presented. The emphasis of governmental fund financial statements is on major individual governmental funds, with each displayed as a separate column in the fund financial statements. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

The <u>General Fund</u> is the County's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

## 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### B. <u>Basic Financial Statements</u>

2. <u>Fund Financial Statements</u> (Continued)

The <u>Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund</u> is used to account for revenues and expenditures of the County Highway Department, which is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and other projects affecting County roadways.

The <u>Human Services Special Revenue Fund</u> is used to account for economic assistance and community social services programs.

The <u>Debt Service Fund</u> is used to account for the revenues and expenditures related to the County's debt activity.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

<u>Special revenue funds</u> are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

<u>Agency funds</u> are custodial in nature and do not present results of operations or have a measurement focus. These funds account for assets that the County holds for others in an agent capacity.

#### C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The County-wide and fiduciary fund 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. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Shared revenues are generally recognized in the period the appropriation goes into effect. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

## 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (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. Watonwan County considers all revenues as available if collected within 60 days after the end of the current period. Property and other taxes, shared revenues, licenses, and interest are all considered susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on long-term debt, compensated absences, and claims and judgments, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent that they have matured. Proceeds of long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

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

#### D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

#### 1. <u>Deposits and Investments</u>

The cash balances of substantially all funds are pooled and invested by the County Treasurer for the purpose of increasing earnings through investment activities. Pooled and fund investments are reported at their fair value at December 31, 2005, based on market prices. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 385.07, investment earnings on cash and pooled investments are credited to the General Fund. Pooled investment earnings for 2005 were \$121,786.

Watonwan County invests in an external investment pool, the Minnesota Association of Governments Investing for Counties (MAGIC) Fund, which is created under a joint powers agreement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59. The MAGIC Fund is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but does operate in a manner consistent with Rule 2a7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Therefore, the fair value of the County's position in the pool is the same as the value of the pool shares.

# 1. <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u>

- D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity
  - 1. <u>Deposits and Investments</u> (Continued)

Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.04 and 118A.05 generally authorize the following types of investments as available to the County:

- (1) securities which are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress, except mortgage-backed securities defined as "high risk" by Minn. Stat. § 118A.04, subd. 6;
- (2) mutual funds through shares of registered investment companies provided the mutual fund receives certain ratings depending on its investments;
- (3) general obligations of the State of Minnesota and its municipalities, and in certain state agency and local obligations of Minnesota and other states provided such obligations have certain specified bond ratings by a national bond rating service;
- (4) bankers' acceptances of United States banks;
- (5) commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries that is rated in the highest quality category by two nationally recognized rating agencies and matures in 270 days or less; and
- (6) with certain restrictions, in repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements, joint powers investment trusts, and guaranteed investment contracts.

Investments of the County are reported at fair value.

2. <u>Receivables and Payables</u>

Activity between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year is referred to as "advances to/from other funds." All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds."

## 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

- D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity
  - 2. <u>Receivables and Payables</u> (Continued)

Advances between funds, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by a fund balance reserve account in applicable governmental funds to indicate that they are not available for appropriation and are not expendable available financial resources.

Property taxes are levied as of January 1 on property values assessed as of the same date. The tax levy notice is mailed in March with the first half payment due May 15 and the second half payment due October 15. Unpaid taxes at December 31 become liens on the respective property and are classified in the financial statements as delinquent taxes receivable.

3. <u>Inventories</u>

The Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund inventory is valued using the weighted average method. Inventories in governmental funds are recorded as expenditures at the time the item is purchased. Inventories at the County-wide level are reported as expenses when consumed.

Inventories, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by a fund balance reserve to indicate that they do not constitute available spendable resources.

#### 4. <u>Capital Assets</u>

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (such as roads and bridges), are reported in the County-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the County as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of five years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market 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.

# 1. <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u>

## D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

## 4. Capital Assets (Continued)

Capital assets of the County are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Assets	Years
Buildings	25 - 50
Improvements other than buildings	20 20
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	5 - 20
Infrastructure	50 - 75

## 5. <u>Compensated Absences</u>

The liability for compensated absences reported in financial statements consists of unpaid, accumulated annual and sick leave balances. The liability has been calculated using the vesting method, in which leave amounts for both employees who currently are eligible to receive termination payments and other employees who are expected to become eligible in the future to receive such payments upon termination are included. Compensated absences are accrued when incurred in the County-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

#### 6. <u>Deferred Revenue</u>

All County funds and the County-wide financial statements defer revenue for resources that have been received, but not yet earned. Governmental funds also report deferred revenue in connection with receivables for revenues not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.

## 1. <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u>

## D. <u>Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity</u> (Continued)

## 7. <u>Long-Term Obligations</u>

In the County-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the statement of net assets. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Bond issuance costs are reported as deferred charges and amortized over the term of the related debt.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of the debt issued is reported as an other financing source. 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.

#### 8. <u>Fund Equity</u>

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

#### 9. <u>Use of Estimates</u>

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

## 2. <u>Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability</u>

### A. Budgetary Information

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for all major governmental funds and nonmajor special revenue funds. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end.

On or before mid-August of each year, all departments submit requests for appropriations to the County Auditor so that a budget can be prepared. Before October 31, the proposed budget is presented to the County Board for review. The Board holds public hearings, and a final budget must be prepared and adopted no later than December 31.

The appropriated budget is prepared by fund, function, and department. Transfers of appropriations within a department and between departments require approval of the County Board. The legal level of budgetary control--the level at which expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations--is the fund level. The Board made a budget adjustment for the bond sale proceeds as well as some immaterial adjustments.

Encumbrance accounting is employed in governmental funds. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are reported as reservations of fund balances and do not constitute expenditures or liabilities because the commitments will be re-apportioned and honored during the subsequent year.

#### B. Excess of Expenditures Over Budget

The funds shown below had expenditures in excess of budget for the year ended December 31, 2005.

	Ex	penditures	 Budget	Excess		
General	\$	5,161,400	\$ 4,826,900	\$	334,500	
Human Services		4,068,195	4,025,923		42,272	
Debt Service		363,492	305,327		58,165	
County Library		533,197	509,756		23,441	
County Ditch		104,676	21,533		83,143	

The excess of expenditures over budget was funded by unanticipated revenues and available fund balance.

### 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

#### A. Assets

#### 1. Deposits and Investments

The County's total cash and investments are as follows:

Governmental funds	
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 9,314,214
Fiduciary funds	
Cash and pooled investments	
Agency funds	 210,142
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 9,524,356

#### a. Deposits

Minn. Stat. § 118A.02 and 118A.04 authorize the County to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in certificates of deposit. Minn. Stat. § 118A.03 requires that all County deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit plus accrued interest at the close of the financial institution's banking day, not covered by insurance or bonds.

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

## 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

### A. Assets

- 1. Deposits and Investments
  - a. <u>Deposits</u> (Continued)

# Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the County's deposits may not be returned to it. It is County policy to minimize custodial credit risk of deposits by making deposits with financial institutions as defined by Minn. Stat. § 118A.01 and by obtaining necessary documentation of perfected security interest in pledged collateral from the financial institutions. As of December 31, 2005, \$19,141 of the County's bank balance of \$7,353,665 was exposed to custodial credit risk because deposits exceeded insurance and pledged collateral.

b. <u>Investments</u>

# Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in the market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. It is County policy to minimize exposure to interest rate risk by structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations; thereby avoiding the need to sell securities in the open market, investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities liquid asset funds, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools; and limiting the average maturity in accordance with the County's cash requirements.

# Credit Risk

Generally, credit risk is 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. It is the County's policy to invest only in securities that meet the ratings requirements set by state statute.

## 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

### A. Assets

- 1. <u>Deposits and Investments</u>
  - b. <u>Investments</u> (Continued)

# Custodial Credit Risk

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. It is County policy to mitigate custodial credit risk by investing only in securities allowed by Minnesota statute and by obtaining necessary documentation of perfected security interest in pledged collateral from the financial institutions with which business is conducted.

At December 31, 2005, none of the County's investments were subject to custodial credit risk.

# Concentration of Credit Risk

The concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss that may be caused by the County's investment in a single issuer. It is the County's policy to minimize concentration of credit risk by diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of potential losses from any one type of security or issuer will be minimal. As of December 31, 2005, all of the County's investment, with a carrying value of \$532,000, was invested in the MAGIC Fund.

# 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

# A. <u>Assets</u> (Continued)

# 2. <u>Receivables</u>

Receivables as of December 31, 2005, for the County are as follows:

	Re	Total eceivables	Sch Collecti	ounts Not eduled for on During the equent Year
Taxes - prior Special assessments - prior Special assessments - noncurrent	\$	144,713 18,883 828,969	\$	
Accounts Accrued interest		281,452 20,146		637,850
Due from other governments Total	\$	1,508,062 2,802,225	\$	217,000 854,850

# 3. <u>Capital Assets</u>

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2005, was as follows:

	]	Beginning Balance		Increase	<u> </u>	Decrease		Ending Balance
Capital assets not depreciated Land Construction in progress	\$	695,771 196,533	\$	370,889	\$	179,791	\$	695,771 387,631
Total capital assets not depreciated	\$	892,304	<u>\$</u>	370,889	\$	179,791	<u>\$</u>	1,083,402
Capital assets depreciated Buildings Land improvements	\$	7,011,387 49,128	\$	-	\$	-	\$	7,011,387 49,128
Machinery, furniture, and equipment Infrastructure		4,745,374 37,284,427		524,646 1,460,568		301,318		4,968,702 38,744,995
Total capital assets depreciated	\$	49,090,316	\$	1,985,214	\$	301,318	\$	50,774,212

# 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

## A. Assets

# 3. <u>Capital Assets</u> (Continued)

	 Beginning Balance	 Increase	 Decrease	 Ending Balance
Less: accumulated depreciation for				
Buildings Land improvements Machinery, furniture, and equipment Infrastructure	\$ 1,573,948 7,351 2,936,766 8,909,528	\$ 165,796 2,456 425,515 755,265	\$ 301,318	\$ 1,739,744 9,807 3,060,963 9,664,793
Total accumulated depreciation	\$ 13,427,593	\$ 1,349,032	\$ 301,318	\$ 14,475,307
Total capital assets depreciated, net	\$ 35,662,723	\$ 636,182	\$ 	\$ 36,298,905
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 36,555,027	\$ 1,007,071	\$ 179,791	\$ 37,382,307

# Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

General government Public safety	\$ 234,116 69,593
Highways and streets, including depreciation of infrastructure assets	982,686
Sanitation	846
Human services	 61,791
Total Depreciation Expense	\$ 1,349,032

# 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds (Continued)

# B. Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers

The composition of interfund balances as of December 31, 2005, is as follows:

## 1. <u>Due To/From Other Funds</u>

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount		
General	Human Services	\$	13,397	
County Ditch	General	\$	63	
Road and Bridge	General County Ditch Solid Waste	\$	15,818 1,335 17	
Total Due to Road and Bridge Fund		\$	17,170	
Total Due To/From Other Funds		\$	30,630	

#### 2. Advances To/From Other Funds

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	 Amount
General	County Ditch	\$ 137,716

#### 3. Interfund Transfers

Transfers Out	Transfers In	 Amount	Purpose
General	Road and Bridge County Library County Ditch	\$ 8,825 1,691 3,623	Allocated interest Allocated interest Allocated interest
Total Transfers Out of General Fund		\$ 14,139	
Human Services	General	 95,391	2005 rent
Total Transfers In/Out		\$ 109,530	

# 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds (Continued)

## C. Liabilities

## 1. Long-Term Debt

Types of Indebtedness	Final Maturity	Installment Amount	Interest Rate (%)	 Original Issue Amount	utstanding Balance ccember 31, 2005
G.O. Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2000A	2007	\$ 90,000 - \$2,095,000	5.65	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,185,000
G.O. Capital Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series 2004A	2021	\$120,000 - \$190,000	2.75 - 4.50	2,115,000	2,115,000
G.O. Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2005A	2026	\$30,000 - \$60,000	3.50 - 4.40	845,000	845,000
G.O. Capital Notes, Series 2003	2007	\$70,000	3.00	 280,000	 140,000
Total general obligation bonds				\$ 5,740,000	\$ 5,285,000
Less: unamortized discount					 (44,394)
Total General Obligation Bonds, Net					\$ 5,240,606

Capital improvement bonds and capital notes are being retired by the Debt Service Fund.

#### Loans Payable

The County entered into loan agreements with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the purpose of funding Clean Water Partnership projects. The loans are secured by special assessments against benefited properties. Loan payments are reported in the General Fund.

# 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

# C. Liabilities

# 1. Long-Term Debt

# Loans Payable (Continued)

Types of Indebtedness	Final Maturity	Installment Amount	Interest Rate (%)			1	itstanding Balance cember 31, 2005
Watonwan Watershed Clean Water Partnership Project, SFR0047	2014	\$26,928	2.00	\$	485,926	\$	419,057
Watonwan Watershed Continuation Clean Water Partnership Project, SFR0108	2017	\$28,194	2.00		405,855		405,855
Total Loans				\$	891,781	\$	824,912

#### 2. Debt Service Requirements

Debt service requirements at December 31, 2005, were as follows:

Year Ending	General Obligation Bonds					Capital	al Notes			
December 31		Principal	Interest		I	Principal		Interest		
2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 - 2015 2016 - 2020	\$	90,000 2,125,000 150,000 155,000 165,000 875,000	\$	237,615 176,656 113,205 108,630 103,470 425,890 233,024	\$	70,000 70,000 - - - -	\$	4,200 2,100 - -		
2016 - 2020 2021 - 2025 2026		1,070,000 455,000 60,000		233,024 47,052 1,320		- - -				
Total	\$	5,145,000	\$	1,446,862	\$	140,000	\$	6,300		

#### 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

#### C. Liabilities

#### 2. <u>Debt Service Requirements</u> (Continued)

Year Ending		Loans Payable						
December 31	P	rincipal	I	nterest				
2006	\$	45,702	\$	8,154				
2007		46,620		7,235				
2008		47,558		6,298				
2009		48,513		5,342				
2010		49,488		4,367				
2011 - 2014		181,176		7,319				
Total	\$	419,057	\$	38,715				

The debt service requirements for the loan from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in the amount of \$405,855 are not known as of December 31, 2005.

#### Crossover Refunding of Bonds

In 2004, \$2,115,000 General Obligation Capital Improvement Refunding Bonds were sold to refund the following bond issue:

Call Date	Issue	Maturing	Totaling		
February 1, 2007	\$2,500,000 G.O. Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2000A	2008 - 2021	\$ 2,000,000		

The proceeds from the refunding bonds were placed with an escrow agent in an irrevocable trust from which U.S. Treasury securities were purchased. The County is responsible for the principal and interest payments on the original issue through 2007. The interest payments on the refunding bonds will be paid by the escrow agent through 2007 from earnings on the escrow account. Principal balances of both bond issues will be shown in the statement of net assets until the call date of the refunded bonds, at which time the 2000 Series Bonds will be considered defeased, and the liability for those bonds will be removed from the statement of net assets.

#### 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

#### C. Liabilities

2. <u>Debt Service Requirements</u>

#### Crossover Refunding of Bonds (Continued)

The County crossover refunded the 2000 Capital Improvement Bonds to reduce its total debt service payments in the years 2008 to 2021 by \$160,678 and to obtain an economic gain (difference between the present values of the debt service payments on the old and new debt) of \$111,522.

## 3. Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2005, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	A	Additions	Re	eductions	Ending Balance	e Within ne Year
G.O. Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2000A G.O. Capital Improvement	\$ 2,270,000	\$	-	\$	85,000	\$ 2,185,000	\$ 90,000
Bonds, Series 2005A G.O. Capital Improvement Refunding Bonds,	-		845,000		-	845,000	-
Series 2004A G.O. Capital Notes,	2,115,000		-		-	2,115,000	-
Series 2003 Less: unamortized discount	210,000		-		70,000	140,000	70,000
on bonds	 (37,353)		(9,505)		(2,464)	(44,394)	 -
Total bonds payable	\$ 4,557,647	\$	835,495	\$	152,536	\$ 5,240,606	\$ 160,000
Loans payable	524,890		344,823		44,801	824,912	45,702
Compensated absences	 741,285		94,384		-	835,669	 428,184
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 5,823,822	\$	1,274,702	\$	197,337	\$ 6,901,187	\$ 633,886

## 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds (Continued)

#### D. <u>Risk Management</u>

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; or natural disasters. The County has entered into a joint powers agreement with other Minnesota counties to form the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT). The County is a member of both the MCIT Workers' Compensation and Property and Casualty Divisions. For other risk, the County carries commercial insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance from the prior year. The amount of settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Workers' Compensation Division of MCIT is self-sustaining based on the contributions charged, so that total contributions plus compounded earnings on these contributions will equal the amount needed to satisfy claims liabilities and other expenses. MCIT participates in the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association with coverage at \$760,000 per claim in 2005 and \$390,000 per claim in 2006. Should the MCIT Workers' Compensation Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess the County in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

The Property and Casualty Division of MCIT is self-sustaining, and the County pays an annual premium to cover current and future losses. MCIT carries reinsurance for its property lines to protect against catastrophic losses. Should the MCIT Property and Casualty Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess the County in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

#### D. Other Postemployment Benefits - Retirees

Watonwan County provides postemployment health care benefits for retirees and elected officials.

- The retirement policy was for employees that exercised a retirement option between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004. Individuals are eligible for benefits in the amount equal to the single health insurance premium for two years.

As of December 31, 2005, there were three employees receiving the premium-coverage benefit. The County finances the plans on a pay-as-you-go basis. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the County recognized \$30,621 of expenditures.

### 3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

## D. Other Postemployment Benefits - Retirees (Continued)

- Within 60 days of the effective date of an elected County official's retirement or termination, the County shall contribute an amount equal to the annual premium for single health insurance coverage in effect at the time of termination or retirement for every four complete years of service, to a maximum of four years' premium.

As of December 31, 2005, the County recorded a liability of \$63,540 for the elected official's termination benefits as a part of the compensated absences liability.

- 4. <u>Pension Plans</u>
  - A. Defined Benefit Plans

#### Plan Description

All full-time and certain part-time employees of Watonwan County are covered by defined benefit pension plans administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). The PERA administers the Public Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Public Employees Correctional Fund, which are cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans. These plans are established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. chs. 353 and 356.

Public Employees Retirement Fund members belong to either the Coordinated Plan or the Basic Plan. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security, and Basic Plan members are not. All new members must participate in the Coordinated Plan. All police officers, firefighters, and peace officers who qualify for membership by statute are covered by the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund. Members who are employed in a county correctional institution and have direct contact with inmates are covered by the Public Employees Correctional Fund.

The PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability benefits to members and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. Benefits are established by state statute and vest after three years of credited service. The retirement benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service.

#### 4. <u>Pension Plans</u>

#### A. Defined Benefit Plans

#### Plan Description (Continued)

Two methods are used to compute benefits for Coordinated and Basic Plan members. The retiring member receives the higher of a step-rate benefit accrual formula (Method 1) or a level accrual formula (Method 2). Under Method 1, the annuity accrual rate for a Basic Plan member is 2.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years of service and 2.7 percent for each year thereafter. For a Coordinated Plan member, the annuity accrual rate is 1.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years and 1.7 percent for each successive year. Under Method 2, the annuity accrual rate is 2.7 percent of average salary for Basic Plan members and 1.7 percent for Coordinated Plan members for each year of service. For Public Employees Police and Fire Fund members, the annuity accrual rate is 3.0 percent of average salary for each year of service. For Public Employees Correctional Fund members, the annuity accrual rate is 1.9 percent of average salary for each year of service.

For all Public Employees Retirement Fund members whose annuity is calculated using Method 1, and for all Public Employees Police and Fire Fund and Public Employees Correctional Fund Members, a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90. A reduced retirement annuity is also available to eligible members seeking early retirement.

The benefit provisions stated in the previous paragraphs of this section are current provisions and apply to active plan participants. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits but are not yet receiving them are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated public service.

The PERA issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the Public Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Public Employees Correctional Fund. That report may be obtained on the internet at www.mnpera.org; by writing to PERA at 60 Empire Drive, Suite 200, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103-2088; or by calling 651-296-7460 or 1-800-652-9026.

#### 4. <u>Pension Plans</u>

#### A. <u>Defined Benefit Plans</u> (Continued)

#### Funding Policy

Pension benefits are funded from member and employer contributions and income from investment of fund assets. Minn. Stat. ch. 353 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. These statutes are established and amended by the State Legislature. The County makes annual contributions to the pension plans equal to the amount required by state statutes. Public Employees Retirement Fund Basic Plan members and Coordinated Plan members are required to contribute 9.10 and 5.10 percent, respectively, of their annual covered salary in 2005. Contribution rates in the Coordinated Plan increased in 2006 to 5.50 percent. Public Employees Police and Fire Fund members are required to contribute 6.20 percent of their annual covered salary in 2005. That rate increased to 7.00 percent in 2006. Public Employees Correctional Fund members are required to contribute 5.83 percent of their annual covered salary.

The County is required to contribute the following percentages of annual covered payroll in 2005 and 2006:

	2005	2006
Dublic Earsteance Detingues of Eurod		
Public Employees Retirement Fund		
Basic Plan members	11.78%	11.78%
Coordinated Plan members	5.53	6.00
Public Employees Police and Fire Fund	9.30	10.50
Public Employees Correctional Fund	8.75	8.75

The County's contributions for the years ending December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003, for the Public Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Public Employees Correctional Fund, were:

	]	Public Employees Retirement		Public Employees Police and		Public Employees Correctional	
	En						
	Re						
		Fund		Fire Fund		Fund	
2005 2004	\$	223,265 215,329	\$	39,678 38,394	\$	15,322 14,177	
2003		208,868		38,929		10,797	

#### 4. <u>Pension Plans</u>

### A. Defined Benefit Plans

## Funding Policy (Continued)

These contribution amounts are equal to the contractually required contributions for each year as set by state statute.

#### B. <u>Defined Contribution Plan</u>

The Public Employees Defined Contribution Plan is a multiple-employer deferred compensation plan for local government officials, except elected county sheriffs. The plan is established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. ch. 353D. The plan is a tax-qualified plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions by or on behalf of employees are tax deferred until time of withdrawal.

Plan benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings, less administrative expenses. Minn. Stat. § 353D.03 specifies the employee and employer contribution rates for those qualified personnel who elect to participate. An eligible elected official who decides to participate contributes five percent of salary, which is matched by the employer.

No vesting period is required to receive benefits in the Defined Contribution Plan. At the time of retirement or termination, the market value of the member's account is distributed to the member or another qualified plan.

The County's contributions for the years ending December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003, were \$7,176, \$6,746, and \$5,795, respectively, equal to the contractually required contributions for each year as set by state statute.

#### 5. <u>Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items</u>

#### A. <u>Contingent Liabilities</u>

Amounts received or receivable from grant agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of the expenditures that may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the County expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.
# 5. <u>Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items</u> (Continued)

### B. Joint Ventures

### Red Rock Rural Water System

The Red Rock Rural Water System was established pursuant to Minn. Stat. ch. 116A, through a joint powers agreement, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, and under the jurisdiction of the Fifth Judicial District. Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Redwood, and Watonwan Counties have agreed to guarantee their shares of debt arising within each respective county. The Red Rock Rural Water System provides water for participating rural water users and cities within the water district.

The governing body is composed of nine members appointed to three-year terms by the District Court. Each county is responsible for levying and collecting the special assessments from the benefited properties within the county. The bond issue and notes payable are shown as long-term debt in the financial statements of the Red Rock Rural Water System. At December 31, 2005, long-term liabilities consist of governmental activities' bonded indebtedness of \$6,490,000, and business-type activities' notes and bonds payable of \$263,397. The Water System's total combined net assets increased by \$133,377 in 2005. Complete financial information can be obtained from the Red Rock Rural Water System, Jeffers, Minnesota 56145.

### Three Counties for Kids Collaborative

The Three Counties for Kids Collaborative was established in 1996 under the authority of Minn. Stat. § 471.59. The Collaborative includes Brown, Sibley, and Watonwan Counties; the River Bend Education District; and the Sioux Trails Mental Health Center. The purpose of the Collaborative is to join local units of government together to ensure a unified, unduplicated, and family-friendly system of intervention and care for families and children.

Control of the Collaborative is vested in a Board of Directors consisting of seven members. Brown County Family Services acts as fiscal agent for the Collaborative. The Collaborative is financed by Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) funds. During 2005, Watonwan County made no contributions to the Collaborative. Any withdrawing party remains liable for fiscal obligations incurred prior to the effective date of withdrawal and shall not be entitled to any compensation as long as the Collaborative continues in existence. Should the Collaborative cease to exist, all property, real and personal, at the time of termination shall be distributed by the

# 5. <u>Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items</u>

### B. Joint Ventures

# Three Counties for Kids Collaborative (Continued)

Three Counties for Kids Collaborative Board of Directors. Complete financial information may be obtained by contacting the Brown County Family Services Department, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073.

# Vision for Family and Community Collaborative

The Vision for Family and Community Collaborative was established in 1996 under the authority of Minn. Stat. § 121.8355 (now Minn. Stat. § 124D.23). The Collaborative includes Watonwan County and St. James, Madelia, and Butterfield Independent School Districts. The Joint Powers Board ensures the availability of comprehensive services designed to enhance or strengthen family functioning.

Control of the Collaborative is vested in a Joint Powers Board. The Joint Powers Board is composed of nine members. Watonwan County Human Services acts as fiscal agent for the Collaborative. The Collaborative is financed by LCTS funds. During 2005, Watonwan County made no contributions to the Collaborative. Any withdrawing party remains fiscally liable until the effective date of withdrawal. Should the Collaborative cease to exist, all property, real and personal, held by the Joint Powers Board at the time of termination shall be distributed by resolution of the Joint Powers Board in accordance with law and in a manner to best accomplish the purpose of the Collaborative.

### Rural Minnesota Energy Board

The Rural Minnesota Energy Board was established in 2005 under the authority of Minn. Stat. § 471.59. The Board includes the counties of Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, and Watonwan. The purpose of the Board is to provide policy guidance on issues surrounding energy development in rural Minnesota and to foster the diversification of the economic climate in rural Minnesota. The focus of the Board includes, but is not limited to, renewable energy, wind energy, energy transmission lines, hydrogen energy technology, and bio-diesel and ethanol use.

# 5. <u>Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items</u>

### B. Joint Ventures

# Rural Minnesota Energy Board (Continued)

The governing body is composed of one voting member and one alternate member from each participating county's Board of Commissioners. The Board shall remain in existence as long as two or more counties remain parties to the agreement. Should the Board cease to exist, assets shall be liquidated after payment of liabilities, based upon the ratios set out under the equal and proportionate share articles of the agreement. During 2005, Watonwan County made no contributions to the Board.

# C. Jointly-Governed Organizations

The South Central Emergency Medical Services (SEMS) provides various emergency medical services to several counties. During the year, the County made no contributions to the SEMS.

The Minnesota River Board promotes orderly water quality improvement and management of the Minnesota River Watershed. During the year, the County made contributions of \$940 to the Board.

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance is a joint powers of counties and soil and water districts that combines project and implementation efforts to improve water quality in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin. During the year, the County paid \$1,000 to the Alliance.

The Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative provides computer programming services for the County. During the year, the County purchased \$56,250 of services.

The South Central Regional IMMTRACK (immunization registry) Joint Powers Board promotes the implementation and maintenance of a regional immunization information system to ensure age-appropriate immunizations through complete and accurate records. During the year, the County paid \$1,754 to the Joint Powers Board.

# 5. <u>Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items</u> (Continued)

### D. Agricultural Best Management Loan Program

The County has entered into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and a local lending institution to jointly administer a loan program to individuals to implement projects that prevent or mitigate non-point source water pollution. While the County is not liable for the repayment of the loan in any manner, it does have certain responsibilities under the agreement. The County has met those responsibilities for 2005.

### E. Special Benefit Tax Levy

In 1993, the South Central Minnesota Multi-County Housing Authority issued \$20,315,000 of revenue bonds to construct housing units in Watonwan County and four surrounding counties. The Authority has since defaulted on these bonds. In 2000, the counties entered into a settlement agreement where each county will approve a special benefit tax levy on behalf of the Authority from 2001 through 2024 to cover the operating deficits based on each county's proportionate share of housing units constructed. Watonwan County's proportionate share of the operating deficit for 2005 is \$75,269. The proportionate share of the counties may change for years 2006 through 2024 if there are changes in the taxable market value over the 2001 taxable market value.

# **GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

### OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

### SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

<u>County Library</u> - to account for the funds of the County library system. Financing comes primarily from an annual tax levy and intergovernmental revenue from the state government.

<u>County Ditch</u> - to account for the operations of the County ditch system. Financing is provided by assessing benefited property owners.

<u>Solid Waste</u> - to account for the County recycling programs. Financing is provided by a tax levy, user charges, and state grants.

<u>Statement 1</u>

#### COMBINING BALANCE SHEET NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2005

	Special Revenue Funds						
		County Library		County Ditch		Solid Waste	Total
Assets							
Cash and pooled investments	\$	402,027	\$	193,448	\$	351,615	\$ 947,090
Taxes receivable							
Prior		10,905		-		300	11,205
Special assessments receivable							
Prior		-		115		10,883	10,998
Noncurrent		-		129,995		-	129,995
Accounts receivable		733		-		-	733
Accrued interest receivable		1,451		-		-	1,451
Due from other funds		-		63		-	63
Due from other governments		-		30,069		-	 30,069
Total Assets	\$	415,116	\$	353,690	\$	362,798	\$ 1,131,604
Liabilities and Fund Balances							
Liabilities							
Accounts payable	\$	2,946	\$	54	\$	11,617	\$ 14,617
Salaries payable		6,696		-		-	6,696
Due to other funds		-		1,335		17	1,352
Due to other governments		-		16,090		-	16,090
Deferred revenue - unavailable		8,752		130,110		7,982	146,844
Deferred revenue - unearned		190		-		5	195
Advance from other funds		-		137,716		-	 137,716
Total Liabilities	\$	18,584	\$	285,305	\$	19,621	\$ 323,510
Fund Balances							
Reserved for donations	\$	159,835	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 159,835
Unreserved		,					
Designated for cash flows		236,697		-		6,611	243,308
Undesignated				68,385		336,566	 404,951
Total Fund Balances	\$	396,532	\$	68,385	\$	343,177	\$ 808,094
Total Liabilities and Fund							
Balances	\$	415,116	\$	353,690	\$	362,798	\$ 1,131,604

Statement 2

#### COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	Special Revenue Funds							
	County Library		County Ditch		Solid Waste		Total	
Revenues								
Taxes	\$	364,880	\$	-	\$	8,140	\$	373,020
Special assessments		-		34,641		131,049		165,690
Intergovernmental		125,597		-		51,877		177,474
Charges for services		4,822		-		-		4,822
Fines and forfeits		8,317		-		-		8,317
Gifts and contributions		2,455		-		-		2,455
Investment earnings		4,423		-		-		4,423
Miscellaneous		866		-		3,186		4,052
Total Revenues	\$	511,360	\$	34,641	\$	194,252	\$	740,253
Expenditures								
Current								
Sanitation	\$	-	\$	-	\$	176,511	\$	176,511
Culture and recreation		533,197		-		-		533,197
Conservation of natural resources		-		104,676		-		104,676
Total Expenditures	\$	533,197	\$	104,676	\$	176,511	\$	814,384
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)								
Expenditures	\$	(21,837)	\$	(70,035)	\$	17,741	\$	(74,131)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)								
Transfers in		1,691		3,623		-		5,314
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$	(20,146)	\$	(66,412)	\$	17,741	\$	(68,817)
Fund Balance - January 1		416,678		134,797		325,436		876,911
Fund Balance - December 31	\$	396,532	\$	68,385	\$	343,177	\$	808,094

<u>Statement 3</u>

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE COUNTY LIBRARY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>			Actual		Variance with		
	(	Original		Final	A	mounts	Fin	al Budget
Revenues								
Taxes	\$	412,967	\$	365,864	\$	364,880	\$	(984)
Intergovernmental		78,494		125,597		125,597		-
Charges for services		5,460		5,460		4,822		(638)
Fines and forfeits		9,283		9,283		8,317		(966)
Gifts and contributions		800		800		2,455		1,655
Investment earnings		2,752		2,752		4,423		1,671
Miscellaneous		-		-		866		866
Total Revenues	\$	509,756	\$	509,756	\$	511,360	\$	1,604
Expenditures Current Culture and recreation								
County library		509,756		509,756		533,197		(23,441)
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(21,837)	\$	(21,837)
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b> Transfers in						1,691		1,691
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(20,146)	\$	(20,146)
Fund Balance - January 1		416,678		416,678		416,678		-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$	416,678	\$	416,678	\$	396,532	\$	(20,146)

<u>Statement 4</u>

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE COUNTY DITCH FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>			Actual		Variance with		
	(	Original		Final	A	mounts	Fin	al Budget
Revenues								
Special assessments	\$	21,533	\$	21,533	\$	34,641	\$	13,108
Expenditures Current								
<b>Conservation of natural resources</b> Other (ditch repairs)		21,533		21,533		104,676		(83,143)
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(70,035)	\$	(70,035)
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b> Transfers in				_		3,623		3,623
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(66,412)	\$	(66,412)
Fund Balance - January 1		134,797		134,797		134,797		-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$	134,797	\$	134,797	\$	68,385	\$	(66,412)

<u>Statement 5</u>

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE SOLID WASTE FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	Budgeted Amounts			Actual		Variance with		
	(	Driginal		Final		Amounts	Fina	al Budget
Revenues								
Taxes	\$	9,197	\$	8,147	\$	8,140	\$	(7)
Special assessments		130,000		130,000		131,049		1,049
Intergovernmental		45,527		46,577		51,877		5,300
Miscellaneous		4,110		4,110		3,186		(924)
Total Revenues	\$	188,834	\$	188,834	\$	194,252	\$	5,418
Expenditures Current Sanitation								
SCORE		186,668		186,668		176,511		10,157
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$	2,166	\$	2,166	\$	17,741	\$	15,575
Fund Balance - January 1		325,436		325,436		325,436		-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$	327,602	\$	327,602	\$	343,177	\$	15,575

<u>Statement 6</u>

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>			Actual		Variance with		
		Original		Final		Amounts	Fin	al Budget
Revenues								
Taxes	\$	283,928	\$	251,824	\$	250,920	\$	(904)
Intergovernmental		21,399		53,503		54,003		500
Investment earnings		-		-		51,979		51,979
Total Revenues	\$	305,327	\$	305,327	\$	356,902	\$	51,575
Expenditures								
Debt service								
Principal	\$	155,000	\$	155,000	\$	155,000	\$	-
Interest		150,327		150,327		207,589		(57,262)
Administrative charges		-		-		903		(903)
Total Expenditures	\$	305,327	\$	305,327	\$	363,492	\$	(58,165)
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)								
Expenditures	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(6,590)	\$	(6,590)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)								
Proceeds from sale of bonds		-		-		15,933		15,933
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$	-	\$	-	\$	9,343	\$	9,343
Fund Balance - January 1		2,331,461		2,331,461		2,331,461		
Fund Balance - December 31	\$	2,331,461	\$	2,331,461	\$	2,340,804	\$	9,343

# AGENCY FUNDS

<u>Agency</u> - to account for the collection and disbursement of funds for the state or other local governments, including game and fish fees, licenses, fines, police and fire aids, deed taxes, and mortgage registry taxes.

<u>Vision for Family and Community</u> - to account for the funds of a County/multi-school district family service collaborative.

Taxes and Penalties - to account for the collection and disbursement of taxes and penalties.

<u>Statement 7</u>

#### COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ALL AGENCY FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	Balance January 1	Additions	Deductions	Balance December 31
AGENCY				
Assets				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 23,015	\$ 2,036,535	\$ 2,039,793	<u>\$ 19,757</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ 23,015	\$ 2,036,535	\$ 2,039,793	\$ 19,757
VISION FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY				
Assets				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 176,280	\$ 115,867	\$ 182,893	\$ 109,254
Liabilities				
Due to other governments	\$ 176,280	\$ 115,867	\$ 182,893	\$ 109,254
TAXES AND PENALTIES				
Assets				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 81,952	\$ 9,321,563	\$ 9,322,384	\$ 81,131
Liabilities				
Due to other governments	\$ 81,952	\$ 9,321,563	\$ 9,322,384	\$ 81,131
TOTAL ALL AGENCY FUNDS				
Assets				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 281,247	\$ 11,473,965	\$ 11,545,070	\$ 210,142
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ 281,247	\$ 11,473,965	\$ 11,545,070	\$ 210,142

#### <u>Schedule 1</u>

#### SCHEDULE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

Shared Revenue	
State	
Highway users tax	\$ 2,301,911
County program aid	977,763
PERA rate reimbursement	19,906
Disparity reduction aid	5,082
Police aid	33,426
Enhanced 911	35,512
Market value credit	619,763
Market value credit - manufactured homes	 1,253
Total Shared Revenue	\$ 3,994,616
Reimbursement for Services	
State	
Minnesota Department of Human Services	\$ 962,268
Payments	
Local	
City contribution	\$ 21,899
Payments in lieu of taxes	 7,767
Total Payments	\$ 29,666
Grants	
State	
Minnesota Department of	
Public Safety	\$ 12,558
Health	70,160
Environmental Assistance	49,079
Natural Resources	6,426
Human Services	664,026
Veterans Affairs	1,400
Corrections	28,617
Transportation	109,254
Pollution Control Agency	50,000
Peace Officer Standards and Training Board	2,467
Water and Soil Resources Board	 40,565
Total State	\$ 1,034,552

#### <u>Schedule 1</u> (Continued)

#### SCHEDULE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

Grants (Continued)	
Federal	
Department of	
Agriculture	\$ 64,694
Justice	56,761
Transportation	27,280
Health and Human Services	264,327
Homeland Security	58,566
Total Federal	\$ 471,628
Total State and Federal Grants	\$ 1,506,180
Total Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 6,492,730

Management and Compliance Section

<u>Schedule 2</u>

# SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

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

# **INTERNAL CONTROL**

# ITEM ARISING THIS YEAR

### 05-1 Transit Department Segregation of Duties and Procedures

Due to the limited number of office personnel within the Watonwan County Transit Department, segregation of the accounting functions necessary to ensure adequate internal control is not possible. There is only one employee to receive and account for departmental collections. This is not unusual in operations the size of Watonwan County; however, the County's management should constantly be aware of this condition and realize the concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desirable from an accounting point of view.

Examples of incompatible duties that should be performed by separate individuals are:

- receipting collections, posting collections to registers, and making bank deposits;
- signing checks and reconciling the bank accounts;
- receipting collections and posting collections to the accounts receivable records;
- approving receivable write-offs/write-downs and posting adjustments to the accounts receivable records; and
- entering data, adjusting accounting codes, and reviewing the monthly detailed report of receipts and disbursements for accuracy.

Some procedures the County's management should implement to strengthen control in the Transit Department are:

- Departmental collections should be remitted to the County Treasurer more frequently than once each month, perhaps weekly or even daily, to reduce the amount of funds on hand.
- Checks should be endorsed immediately upon receipt.
- Daily receipts should be recorded on some type of ledger and reconciled, in some manner, to the services provided.

We recommend that the County's management be aware of the lack of segregation of duties within the accounting functions and implement procedures to ensure adequate controls are in place over cash, receivables, and other items.

### Client's Response:

A stamp has been purchased and when a check is received it is stamped immediately for deposit only.

All income received will be deposited in the bank on Friday or Monday, but at least once a week.

A spreadsheet will be developed to record daily receipts and used starting January 2, 2007.

# **II. OTHER ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION**

### Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) recently issued Statement No. 43, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*, which establishes financial reporting for OPEB plans, and Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, which governs employer accounting and financial reporting for OPEB. These standards, similar to what GASB Statements 25 and 27 did for government employee pension benefits and plans, provide the accounting and reporting standards for

the various other postemployment benefits many local governments offer to their employees. OPEB can include many different benefits offered to retirees such as health, dental, life, and long-term care insurance coverage.

If retirees are included in an insurance plan and pay a rate similar to that paid for younger active employees, this implicit subsidy is considered OPEB. In fact, local governments may be required to continue medical insurance coverage pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.61, subd. 2b. This benefit is common when accumulated sick leave is used to pay for retiree medical insurance. Under the new GASB statements, accounting for OPEB is now similar to the accounting used by governments for pension plans.

Some of the issues that the County Board will need to address in order to comply with the statements are:

- determine if employees are provided OPEB;
- if OPEB are being provided, the County Board will have to determine whether it will advance fund the benefits or pay for them on a pay-as-you-go basis;
- if OPEB are being provided, and the County Board determines that the establishment of a trust is desirable in order to fund the OPEB, the County Board will have to wait until legislation is enacted authorizing the creation of an OPEB trust and establishing an applicable investment standard; and
- in order to determine annual costs and liabilities that need to be recognized, the County Board will have to decide whether to hire an actuary.

If applicable for Watonwan County, GASB Statements 43 and 45 would be implemented for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2008, respectively.



# **STATE OF MINNESOTA** OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

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# REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of County Commissioners Watonwan County

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Watonwan County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated November 21, 2006. 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.

### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Watonwan County's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial report financial control over financial report financial control over financial control over financial control over financial the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the County's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Recommendations as item 05-1.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by

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employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe the reportable condition indicated above is not a material weakness.

### Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Watonwan County's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### Minnesota Legal Compliance

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65. Accordingly, the audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government* contains six categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our study included all of the listed categories.

The results of our tests indicate that, for the items tested, Watonwan County complied with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of County Commissioners and management, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

/s/Rebecca Otto

/s/Greg Hierlinger

REBECCA OTTO STATE AUDITOR GREG HIERLINGER, CPA DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

End of Fieldwork: November 21, 2006