

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AND SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS**

**YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**



WEALTH ADVISORY | OUTSOURCING  
AUDIT, TAX, AND CONSULTING

[CLAconnect.com](http://CLAconnect.com)

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
TABLE OF CONTENTS  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	
<b>BALANCE SHEET – GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND     BALANCES – BUDGET TO ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT LETTER</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT</b>	<b>23</b>



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Marsha M. Faux  
Property Appraiser  
Polk County, Florida

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the general fund of the Polk County, Florida Property Appraiser (Property Appraiser), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Property Appraiser's financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Honorable Marsha M. Faux  
Property Appraiser

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the general fund of the Property Appraiser as of September 30, 2021, and the changes in financial position and budgetary comparison of its general fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida (the Rules). In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of each major fund, only for that portion of the major funds of Polk County, Florida that is attributable to the Property Appraiser. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Polk County, Florida as of September 30, 2021, and the changes in its financial position for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

**Other Matters**

Management has omitted management’s discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statement is not affected by this missing information.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated December 1, 2021 on our consideration of the Property Appraiser’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Property Appraiser’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Property Appraiser’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Lakeland, Florida  
December 1, 2021

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
BALANCE SHEET – GENERAL FUND  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**ASSETS**

Cash	\$ 1,110,527
Accounts Receivable	15,041
Prepaid Items	<u>72,205</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 1,197,773</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable	\$ 10,719
Due to Polk County, Florida Board of County Commissioners	757,345
Due to Other Special Taxing Districts	21,076
Accrued Liabilities	<u>408,633</u>
Total Liabilities	1,197,773

**FUND BALANCE**

Nonspendable	72,205
Unassigned	<u>(72,205)</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u><u>\$ 1,197,773</u></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE –  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

	Budget		Actual	Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Board of County Commissioners	\$ 10,010,592	\$ 10,020,806	\$ 10,020,806	\$ -
Special Taxing Districts	278,572	278,857	278,857	-
Interest	-	-	4,463	4,463
Miscellaneous	-	-	399,483	399,483
Total Revenues	<u>10,289,164</u>	<u>10,299,663</u>	<u>10,703,609</u>	<u>403,946</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
General Government:				
Personal Services	8,919,511	8,930,010	8,730,499	199,511
General Operating	1,257,240	1,257,240	1,092,898	164,342
Capital Outlay	112,413	112,413	101,791	10,622
Total Expenditures	<u>10,289,164</u>	<u>10,299,663</u>	<u>9,925,188</u>	<u>374,475</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	-	-	778,421	778,421
<b>OTHER FINANCING (USES)</b>				
Distribution of Excess Fees to Polk County, Florida Board of County Commissioners	-	-	(757,345)	(757,345)
Distribution of Excess Fees to Special Taxing Districts	-	-	(21,076)	(21,076)
Total Other Financing (Uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(778,421)</u>	<u>(778,421)</u>
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	-
<b>FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounting policies of the Polk County, Florida Property Appraiser (Property Appraiser) conform to accounting principles, as applicable to governmental units generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies is presented to assist the reader in interpreting the financial statements and footnotes in this report. These policies, as presented, should be viewed as an integral part of the accompanying financial statements.

**Reporting Entity**

Polk County, Florida is a political subdivision of the State of Florida governed by the State Constitution and general laws of the State of Florida.

The legislative and governing body of the County is the five-member Board of County Commissioners. Each County Commissioner is elected on a countywide basis for a four-year term of office and each County Commissioner is a resident of their Commission District. Polk County became a Home Rule Charter County on January 1, 1999, with an appointed County Manager, and with separate legislative and executive functions. The County Manager is the head of the administrative branch of county government and is responsible to the Board of County Commissioners for the proper administration of all affairs of the County, except for those powers, duties and functions residing, as specified by law, with the elected constitutional officers.

There are six (6) offices elected countywide which are as follows: Board of County Commissioners composed of five (5) members, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, and Tax Collector.

The Property Appraiser is an elected official of the County pursuant to Article 8, Section 1(d), of the Constitution of the State of Florida. For financial statement and reporting purposes, the Property Appraiser does not meet the definition of a legally separate organization and is not considered to be a component unit. The Property Appraiser is considered to be a part of the primary government of Polk County, Florida (the County).

The financial activities of the Property Appraiser, as a constitutional officer are included in the Polk County, Florida Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

**Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Basis of Presentation**

These financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(2), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*, which allows the Property Appraiser to only present fund financial statements. These financial statements present only the portion of the funds of Polk County, Florida that are attributable to the Property Appraiser. They are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of Polk County, Florida in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Description of Fund**

The accounting records are organized for reporting purposes on the basis of a governmental fund. The Property Appraiser's only governmental fund is the general fund. The general fund is used to account for the general operations of the Property Appraiser.

**Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied. The accounts of the governmental funds use the current financial resources measurement focus and are maintained on the modified accrual basis. Under the modified accrual basis, expenditures are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred and revenues are recorded when received in cash or when they are considered both measurable and available and, as such, are susceptible to accrual. For this purpose, the Property Appraiser considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end.

**Fund Balance and Spending Policies**

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 54 – *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, governments are required to classify fund balance in governmental funds as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

As the Property Appraiser is an elected official responsible for the activities of the Property Appraiser's office, she is the highest level of decision making authority and any official order from the Property Appraiser would be required to authorize commitment of fund balance. Also, the finance director has been given the authority to assign fund balance for a specific purpose.

The Property Appraiser has implemented fund balance and spending policies to clearly define the process for tracking the various classifications of fund balance. The policy states that when an expenditure is incurred and where restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned amounts are available to be used, the Property Appraiser will first use restricted amounts, then committed amounts, then assigned amounts, and finally unassigned amounts.



**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Budgets and Budgetary Accounting**

Chapter 195, Florida Statutes, governs the preparation, adoption and administration of the Property Appraiser's annual budget. The General Fund budget is prepared on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Section 129.07, Florida Statutes, provides that only excesses of total fund budgets are unlawful.

The following are procedures followed in establishing the budget for the Property Appraiser's office:

1. On or before June 1 of each year, the Property Appraiser submits an annual budget for the operation of the office to the State of Florida, Department of Revenue, Ad Valorem Tax Division (the Department). A copy of the budget is also furnished to the Board of County Commissioners. After the budget has been reviewed and approved by the Department, it becomes the operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year.
2. The Property Appraiser's operating budget can only be amended after written approval has been received from the Department.
3. The Department approves all transfers between appropriation categories requested by the Property Appraiser, and this becomes the level of budgetary control for the Property Appraiser's office.
4. The original budget is the first complete appropriated budget. The final budget is the original budget adjusted by all reserves, transfers, allocations, supplemental appropriations, and other legally authorized changes applicable to the fiscal year, whenever legally authorized.
5. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for the General Fund.

**Accounts Receivable**

All receivables are expected to be collected. As such, no allowance has been recorded.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of the fund financial statements is in conformity with GAAP, as applicable to government entities, requires management to make use of estimates that affect the reported amounts in the financial statement. Actual results could differ from estimates.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Return of “Excess Fees”**

Florida Statutes further provide that the excess of revenues over expenditures held by the Property Appraiser be distributed to each governmental agency or the Board in the same proportion as the fees paid by each governmental agency bear to total fee revenues. The amount of this distribution is recorded as a liability and as an other financing use-transfer out in the accompanying financial statements.

**Capital Assets**

Capital assets purchased by the Property Appraiser are recorded as capital outlay expenditures. Capital assets are not included in the financial statements of the Property Appraiser because ownership is vested in the Polk County, Florida Board of County Commissioners as provided by Chapter 274, Florida Statutes.

Capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are valued at their estimated acquisition value on the date received. No depreciation expense has been provided on capital assets in these financial statements. However, depreciation expense on these assets is recorded in the basic financial statements of Polk County, Florida.

**Accumulated Unpaid Vacation and Sick Pay**

Effective January 1, 2014, the Property Appraiser adopted a Paid-Time-Off (PTO) for its vacation and sick leave. The purpose of this change is providing deputies with flexible paid time off from work that can be used for any purpose (illness or vacation). All unused annual leave will carry over and will convert into PTO credits. All unused sick time on, January 1, 2014 converted into “banked sick leave”. The banked sick leave may be used if desired until it is exhausted. Deputies may not take leave without pay in lieu of PTO or banked sick leave. Deputies may not use or be paid for time accrued during the first six (6) months of employment.

Each full time deputy will accrue PTO bi-weekly, except for the last check in a three paycheck month, in hourly increments based on the deputies length of service as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Leave Accrued per Month</u>	<u>Days Per Year</u>
0-4 Years	6.87 Hours	22
5-9 Years	7.81 Hours	25
10-14 Years	8.75 Hours	28
15-19 Years	9.68 Hours	31
20 or More Years	10.93 Hours	35

The maximum accumulation for PTO will be 450 hours in any given payroll year.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Accumulated Unpaid Vacation and Sick Pay (Continued)**

Deputies may sell back PTO once a year provided funds are available, if all criteria are met:

1. A minimum of 37.5 hours of scheduled PTO has been taken prior to annual sell back date. This time frame is based on the fiscal year of October through September.
2. No more than 75 hours of unscheduled PTO has been taken prior to annual sell back date. This time frame is based on the fiscal year of October through September.
3. There must be a PTO balance of a minimum of 150 hours after the sell back.

If Polk County Property Appraiser Deputies hired prior to October 1, 1996 and classified as full-time shall receive compensation for banked sick leave upon resignation and/or retirement. Any deputy terminated will not be paid sick leave. Those appointed after October 1, 1996 will not receive compensation for banked sick leave upon resignation or retirement.

A deputy shall not be eligible for compensation according to the schedule unless they have accrued a minimum of twenty (20) days or one hundred fifty (150) hours.

Maximum of eight hundred (800) hours payable to deputies hired prior to January 1, 1987. Maximum of four hundred (400) hours payable to deputies hired after January 1, 1987. No sick leave hours payable to deputies hired after October 1, 1996.

Compensation shall be based on the deputy's computed hourly rate at the time of resignation or retirement based on hours on the books the day of resignation. Length of service and percentage payable shall be calculated on continuous service with the Property Appraiser's Office only.

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Percentage of Leave Accrued</u>
2-5 Years	25%
6-10 Years	30%
11-15 Years	35%
16-20 Years	40%
20 or More Years	50%

The Property Appraiser does not, nor is legally required to, accumulate financial resources for these unmatured obligations. Accordingly, the liability for compensated absences is not reported in the general fund of the Property Appraiser, but rather reported in the basic financial statements of Polk County, Florida.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Other Significant Accounting Policies**

Chapter 218, Florida Statutes, requires that the Constitutional Officers make an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners, within 31 days of the close of their fiscal year, reflecting the excess of revenues over expenditures or the unexpended budget balance as of the close of the fiscal year. In order to comply with the state statute, it is the policy of the Constitutional Officers that the accounting records be held open several days after the close of their fiscal year in order that all receipts and expenditures applicable to the fiscal year can be recorded in the records. The financial statements prepared on a GAAP basis reflect any receipts or disbursements made after the close of the fiscal year as receivables or payables, as applicable.

**Other Postemployment Benefit Obligations**

The County provides certain health care benefits for retired employees. In accordance with Section 112.0801, Florida Statutes, and as authorized by the County Ordinance 2011-023, effective October 3, 2011, and County Ordinance 2017-037 effective July 25, 2017, the County offers retiring employees enrolled in the County's plans at the time of retirement and their covered dependents the opportunity to continue to participate in health and/or life insurance plans through the County's Retiree Benefits Program. The Property Appraiser participates with Polk County in offering retiring employees the opportunity to continue to participate in the County's health insurance plan. Other postemployment benefits, calculated in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, are reported in the financial statements of the County.

**NOTE 2 CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK**

Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of failure of the counterparty, the Property Appraiser will not be able to recover the value of its securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

At September 30, 2021, the Property Appraiser's book balance of cash was \$1,110,527 and the bank balance was \$1,167,913. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures the Property Appraiser's bank balances for \$250,000 for each banking relationship through December 31, 2021. The remaining balances are collateralized pursuant to Chapter 280, Florida Statutes. Pursuant to Chapter 280, Florida Statutes, the Property deposits are required to be entirely covered by federal depository insurance or by collateral pledged with the State Treasurer. Under this Chapter, in the event of default by a participating financial institution, (a qualified public depository), all participating institutions are obligated to reimburse the governmental entity for the loss.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 3 OPERATING LEASES**

At September 30, 2021, the Property Appraiser has entered into long-term operating leases. Each operating lease has a funding clause that allows the Property Appraiser to terminate the lease if funding is not available to make lease payments. The following schedule of future minimum lease payments is required under these leases.

September 30,	Amount
2022	\$ 78,049
2023	28,801
Total	\$ 106,850

The operating lease expenses for the year ended September 30, 2021 were \$102,572.

**NOTE 4 CAPITAL ASSETS**

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended September 30, 2021:

	October 1, 2020	Additions	Deletions	September 30, 2021
Capital Assets:				
Building Improvements	\$ 68,373	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,373
Equipment	1,841,771	101,791	(116,100)	1,827,462
Intangibles	1,530,000	-	-	1,530,000
Total Capital Assets	3,440,144	101,791	(116,100)	3,425,835
Less: Accumulated Depreciation:				
Building Improvements	68,373	-	-	68,373
Equipment	1,448,895	133,157	(116,100)	1,465,952
Intangibles	1,530,000	-	-	1,530,000
Total Accumulated Depreciation	3,047,268	133,157	(116,100)	3,064,325
Total Capital Assets, Net	\$ 392,876	\$ (31,366)	\$ -	\$ 361,510

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 5 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

The following is a summary of the changes in long-term liabilities which are reported in the basic financial statements of Polk County, Florida.

	October 1, 2020	Additions	Deletions	September 30, 2021	Due Within One Year
Accrued Compensated Absences	\$ 215,425	\$ 745,329	\$ (724,195)	\$ 236,559	\$ 236,559

The long-term liabilities are not reported in the financial statements of the Property Appraiser since they are not payable from available spendable resources, and they have not matured. They are reported in the financial statements of the County.

**NOTE 6 PENSION PLANS**

**Background**

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any State-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

Essentially all regular employees of the Property Appraiser are eligible to enroll as members of the State-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. A comprehensive annual financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site ([www.dms.myflorida.com](http://www.dms.myflorida.com)).

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 6 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

***FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM PENSION PLAN***

**Plan Description**

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

- Regular Class – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- Elected County Officers Class – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.
- Senior Management Service Class (SMSC) – Members in senior management level positions.

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at 6 years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at eight (8) years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62 or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55 or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 60 or at any age after 30 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to four (4) years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 60 months after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 96 months. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 6 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Benefits Provided**

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the five (5) highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the eight (8) highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3% per year. If the member is initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, and has service credit on or after July 1, 2011, there is an individually calculated cost-of-living adjustment. The annual cost-of-living adjustment is a proportion of 3% determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3%. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of FRS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

***RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM***

**Plan Description**

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (HIS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established under Section 112.363, Florida Statutes, and may be amended by the Florida Legislature at any time. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of State-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs and is administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement.

**Benefits Provided**

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of \$5 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of \$30 and a maximum HIS payment of \$150 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a State-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.



**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 6 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

***RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM (CONTINUED)***

**Benefits Provided (Continued)**

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of HIS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

***FRS INVESTMENT PLAN***

The Florida State Board of Administration (SBA) administers the defined contribution plan officially titled the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan). The Investment Plan is reported in the SBA's annual financial statements and in the State of Florida Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

As provided in Section 121.4501, Florida Statutes, eligible FRS members may elect to participate in the Investment Plan in lieu of the FRS defined benefit plan. Property Appraiser employees participating in DROP are not eligible to participate in the Investment Plan. Employer and employee contributions, including amounts contributed to individual member's accounts, are defined by law, but the ultimate benefit depends in part on the performance of investment funds. Benefit terms, including contribution requirements, for the Investment Plan are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Investment Plan is funded with the same employer and employee contribution rates that are based on salary and membership class (Regular Class, Elected County Officers, etc.), as the FRS defined benefit plan. Contributions are directed to individual member accounts, and the individual members allocate contributions and account balances among various approved investment choices. Costs of administering plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06% of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

For all membership classes, employees are immediately vested in their own contributions and are vested after 1 year of service for employer contributions and investment earnings. If an accumulated benefit obligation for service credit originally earned under the FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS Pension Plan vesting (including the service credit represented by the transferred funds) to be vested for these funds and the earnings on the funds. Nonvested employer contributions are placed in a suspense account for up to five years. If the employee returns to FRS-covered employment within the 5-year period, the employee will regain control over their account. If the employee does not return within the 5-year period, the employee will forfeit the accumulated account balance. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, the information for the amount of forfeitures was unavailable from the SBA; however, management believes that these amounts, if any, would be immaterial to the Property Appraiser.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 6 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

***FRS INVESTMENT PLAN (CONTINUED)***

After termination and applying to receive benefits, the member may rollover vested funds to another qualified plan, structure a periodic payment under the Investment Plan, receive a lump-sum distribution, leave the funds invested for future distribution, or any combination of these options. Disability coverage is provided; the member may either transfer the account balance to the FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

**Contributions**

Participating employer contributions are based upon statewide rates established by the State of Florida. The Property Appraiser's contributions made to the plans during the years ended September 30, 2021, 2020, and 2019 were \$897,014, \$757,238, and \$684,855, respectively, equal to the actuarially determined contribution requirements for each year.

Additional information about pension plans can be found in the County's comprehensive financial report or County-wide financial statements.

**NOTE 7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Transactions with the Polk County, Florida Board of County Commissioners for the year ended September 30, 2021, were as follows:

Budget Appropriation – The Polk County, Florida Board of County Commissioners paid fees to the Property Appraiser for the year ended September 30, 2021 in the amount of \$10,020,806. Revenues from the Polk County, Florida Board of County Commissioners accounted for 94% of total General Fund revenues. The amount representing excess fees to the Polk County, Florida Board of County Commissioners at September 30, 2021 was \$757,345.

Health Insurance – The Board of County Commissioners provides health insurance benefits to the Property Appraiser for employees, their dependents, and retirees. The charges for the services for the year ended September 30, 2021 amounted to \$1,464,176.

Other – The Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of Circuit Court provides other supplies and services to the Property Appraiser. The charges for these supplies and services for the year ended September 30, 2021 amounted to \$37,889 and \$300, respectively.

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 8 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Property Appraiser participates in the risk management program through the Polk County, Florida Board of County Commissioners under a local government risk management pool. There were no losses reported for the years ended September 30, 2021, 2020, nor 2019.

There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage in the last year. Settled claims have not exceeded the insurance provided by third party carriers in any of the last three years.

The County is exposed to various risk of loss related to theft of, damage to and destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees and natural disasters. A self-insurance program is effectively maintained by the County to administer insurance activities related to workers' compensation insurance, general and employment practices liability, auto liability and health. The County's self-insurance program covers operations of the Board of County Commissioners and the constitutional officers. Under the program, the County has retention limits for each type of claim, which is covered by commercial insurance purchased by the County.

Claim Type	County Coverage (Deductible/Self-insured Amount)	Excess Carrier's Coverage
Property	Deductible \$1,000,000 except for as below:  Named Windstorm 3% of TIV with \$5,000,000 Maximum \$1,000,000 Builders Risk	\$ 60,000,000 Named Windstorm \$ 100,000,000 All Other Perils (AOP) \$ 50,000,000 Builder's Risk \$ 25,000,000 Earthquake Aggregate \$ 20,000,000 Flood Aggregate \$ 10,000,000 Flood Aggregate (zones A & V)
Employment Practices Liability	\$ 1,000,000 Self-insurance Retention Sovereign immunity limits: \$ 200,000 Any One Person \$ 300,000 Any One Claim	\$ 5,000,000 Per Occurrence \$ 10,000,000 Aggregate
Auto Liability	\$1,000,000 Self-insured Retention Sovereign immunity limits: \$ 200,000 Any One Person \$ 300,000 Any One Claim	\$ 5,000,000 Per Occurrence
Employee Health	\$ 1,000,000 Self-insurance Retention	Unlimited Stop Loss
Workers Compensation	\$ 1,500,000 Self-insured Retention \$ 1,000,000 Employers Liability	Workers Compensation Statutory Employers Liability - No Excess Coverage
Cyber Liability	\$ 750,000 Self Insured Retention	\$ 3,000,000 Limit

**POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROPERTY APPRAISER  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

**NOTE 9 LITIGATION**

Various suits and claims arising in the ordinary course of the Property Appraiser's operations, some of which involve substantial amounts, are pending against the Property Appraiser. While the ultimate effect of such litigation cannot be ascertained at this time, in the opinion of counsel for the Property Appraiser, the liabilities which may arise from such action would not result in losses which would materially affect the financial position of the Property Appraiser or the results of its operations.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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**

Honorable Marsha M. Faux  
Property Appraiser  
Polk County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the general fund of Polk County, Florida Property Appraiser (Property Appraiser), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Property Appraiser's financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 1, 2021.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

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

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

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

Honorable Marsha M. Faux  
Property Appraiser

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

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

### **Purpose of this Report**

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



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Lakeland, Florida  
December 1, 2021



## MANAGEMENT LETTER

Honorable Marsha M. Faux  
Polk County Property Appraiser  
Polk County, Florida

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the financial statements of the general fund of the Polk County, Florida Property Appraiser (Property Appraiser), Florida, as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated December 1, 2021.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

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

### ***Other Reporting Requirements***

We have issued our Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and Independent Accountants' Report on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports and schedule, which are dated December 1, 2021, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

### **Prior Audit Findings**

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such findings.

### **Official Title and Legal Authority**

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

Honorable Marsha M. Faux  
Property Appraiser

**Financial Management**

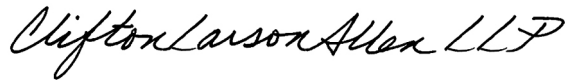
Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

**Additional Matters**

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

**Purpose of this Letter**

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



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Lakeland, Florida  
December 1, 2021





## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Honorable Marsha M. Faux and the Florida Auditor General  
Polk County Property Appraiser  
Polk County, Florida

We have examined Polk County, Florida Property Appraiser's (the Property Appraiser) compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2021. Management of the Property Appraiser is responsible for the Property Appraiser's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Property Appraiser's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Property Appraiser complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Property Appraiser complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Property Appraiser's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Property Appraiser complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2021.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Property Appraiser and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*CliftonLarsonAllen LLP*

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Lakeland, Florida  
December 1, 2021