



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES  
TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY DISCUSSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 155 F. Road, Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470  
Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kane called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Kane led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Anita Kane, Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog, Councilmember Paul Coleman, Councilmember Lisa El-Ramey, Councilmember Phillis Maniglia, Town Manager Francine Ramaglia, Town Attorney Glen Torcivia (via zoom), Public Works Director Richard Gallant, Project Coordinator Jeff Kurtz, Public Works Superintendent Craig Lower, Community Standards Director Caryn Gardner-Young, and Town Clerk Valerie Oakes were present.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Jo Siciliano expressed her continued support for the Town and commended Mayor Kane for being awarded the Home Rule Hero Award. She read into the record the statement recognizing Mayor Kane's efforts, noting that Mayor Kane had worked tirelessly throughout the legislative session to promote local voices, provide real-world examples to lawmakers, and elevate the voice of Florida's cities. Ms. Siciliano also quoted Mayor Kane's remarks upon receiving the award, in which Mayor Kane stated her commitment to preserving the Town's rural character and culture, continuing to advocate for resources and appropriations, and protecting local decision-making authority while planning for a responsible and resilient future.

Manish Sood emphasized the importance of trust in government, quoting industrialist and quality management pioneer W. Edwards Deming: In God we trust, all others bring data. He stated that without trust in the data, the Town cannot move forward. To illustrate his point, he used a visual demonstration with containers representing the General Fund, Rainy Day Fund, and Roads and Drainage Fund.

He explained that in 2024 Town management projected \$3.75 million in revenues, with \$23 of every \$100 allocated to roads and \$77 to the General Fund. However, he stated that property values rose significantly, resulting in 10% higher revenues, yet instead of transferring the excess to the Rainy-Day Fund or Roads Fund, most of it was spent on legal costs and contracted services. Mr. Sood noted that of the \$23 allocated for roads, only \$8 was invested, with the remainder left unused. He expressed that despite recent tax increases; additional increases were expected within months. He felt that restoring trust requires hiring a qualified Chief Financial Officer and an independent auditing firm to bring accountability and quality, urging the Council not to repeat past practices but to reset by selecting the best talent to move the Town forward.

Jane Harding expressed frustration that living in the Town and protecting its rural character had become increasingly difficult. She stated that residents had repeatedly opposed the proposed recreational vehicle (RV) park, yet the issue continued to resurface, creating the feeling that the concerns were being ignored. She emphasized that residents pay the taxes and salaries that sustain the Town and had elected the Council to protect the quality of life. Ms. Harding felt that the Town did not have a revenue problem but a spending problem, noting that staff were creating millions of new rules without enforcing existing ones that would better serve law abiding citizens. She questioned why projects were started but not completed and asked why it was easier to penalize residents who follow the rules rather than address violations by those who do not. She stated the constant creation of new rules and lengthy agendas that left residents feeling overwhelmed, targeted, and unable to live peacefully. She also expressed concern that development decisions seemed to be pushing the community toward becoming more like Wellington or West Palm Beach, instead of protecting its rural identity. Ms. Harding regained her opposition to the RV park, stating it would not benefit equestrians as some had suggested, and warned that the increasing complexity of Town processes was driving out regular, hardworking residents and urged Council to listen to residents, protect the rural character of the Town, and restore peace for those who live there year-round.

Councilmember Coleman apologized to residents who may feel treated differently based on whether they are long-term or seasonal, emphasizing that all residents deserve equal treatment. He addressed concerns about the size of recent agendas, explaining that the length, sometimes exceeding 1,000 pages, was due to the inclusion of full backup documentation for transparency. While some may prefer hyperlinks, he stated that complete documents were included to ensure accessibility for all. Mr. Coleman noted that although reviewing large agendas could be challenging, the detailed materials demonstrated that nothing was hidden. He acknowledged residents' frustrations but asked for patience, pointing out that the current Council was largely new and working to address longstanding issues. He stressed that while adjustments take time, progress was being made in areas such as roadwork and canal maintenance. Reflecting on past complaints about council actions, Mr. Coleman stated that the current Council was focused on fairness and on avoiding overdevelopment that would alter the rural character of the Town. He affirmed his opposition to making the Town another Wellington and expressed confidence that the Council shared the goal of preserving the Town's uniqueness. He asked residents to continue communicating with Council and to remain patient as the Town worked through challenges, assuring them that the Council was committed to long-term improvement and responsible governance.

Brian Tran introduced himself as a current resident since 2018. He expressed his desire for the community and leadership to work together to find solutions that improve the quality of life for all

residents. Mr. Tran explained that he supports paying taxes if they are balanced and used to help the Town grow, noting that leadership should provide opportunities for residents to prosper. He emphasized that economic development and the ability for residents to make money are key to improving both individual lives and the community and encouraged cooperation, majority consensus, and lifting those who may be left behind. He asked the Town to think big, provide opportunities for land development, and encourage investment that benefits all. He expressed pride in the Town’s leadership for being willing to listen and communicate directly with residents and stated that his purpose in attending was to advocate for positive change and economic opportunity in the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

In lieu of formal adjournment, Mayor Kane transitioned directly into the next scheduled meeting at 6:37 PM.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,  
FLORIDA**

**ATTEST:**

Signed by:  
*Valerie Dukes*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
06E744C2F37E4A4...  
Town Clerk

Signed by:  
*Anita Kane*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
F5AB3D09FF41435...  
Mayor Anita Kane, Seat 3

Signed by:  
*Margaret Herzog*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
69ECD57738A5448...  
Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog, Seat 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Phillis Maniglia, Seat 1  
Signed by:  
*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
07066C56061A4B9...

Signed by:  
*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
2B235D3F5E51430...  
Councilmember Lisa El-Ramey, Seat 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Paul T. Coleman II, Seat 4



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES  
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES**

**TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 155 F. Road, Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470  
Tuesday, June 03, 2025**

**TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kane called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Kane led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Anita Kane, Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog, Councilmember Paul Coleman, Councilmember Lisa El-Ramey, Councilmember Phillis Maniglia, Town Manager Francine Ramaglia, Town Attorney Glen Torcivia (via zoom), Public Works Director Richard Gallant, Project Coordinator Jeff Kurtz, Public Works Superintendent Craig Lower, Community Standards Director Caryn Gardner-Young, and Town Clerk Valerie Oakes were present.

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND MODIFICATIONS**

Mayor Kane called for any additions, deletions, modifications or approval of the agenda.

Town Clerk Oakes requested that Consent Agenda Items No. 5 and No. 11 be pulled and moved to the Regular Agenda. She also requested the removal of Discussion Item No. 20 and No. 23, the addition of a special meeting for the Paddock Project under the Discussion Items, the placement of the Public Hearing immediately following the Consent Agenda, and the removal of Public Hearing Items No. 24 and No. 26 from the agenda due to SB180 and the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office attorney.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED TO: PULL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS NO. 5 AND NO. 11 AND MOVE THEM TO THE REGULAR AGENDA; REMOVE DISCUSSION ITEM NO. 20 AND NO. 23; ADD A SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE PADDOCK PROJECT UNDER THE DISCUSSION ITEMS; MOVE PUBLIC HEARING TO FOLLOW THE CONSENT AGENDA; AND REMOVE PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS NO. 24 AND NO. 26. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

By consensus, the Town Council agreed to add an item to the next agenda to review committee appointments, including whether to allow landowners, in addition to residents, to serve on committees beyond ad hoc committees.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comment at this time. Town Council discussion ensued.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation by Keith N. Alexander, RES, MAS, CFE Manager, Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office

PBC CFE Manager Keith Alexander gave presentations for Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office.

Public comment received from Darrin Swank, Dr. Debra Marshall, Resident, Jo Siciliano, Virginia Standish, Cassie Suchy, and Todd McLendon. Town Council discussion ensued.

2. Presentation of Final Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Prepared by Andrew S. Fierman of Caballero, Fierman, Llerena & Garcia

Andrew Fierman gave presentations of Final Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and hereto attached as Exhibit A.

No public comment. Town Council discussion ensued.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN MOVED TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

3. Presentation on Extended Session Report for May / June 2025 by Ronald Book, P.A., Town's Lobbyist

Lobbyist Ronald Book, Sean Pittman, and Rana Brown gave presentations on the Extended Session Report for May / June 2025, and hereto attached as Exhibit B.

4. Presentation of Proclamation for Code Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week

Mayor Kane read into record the Code Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week Proclamation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember El-Ramey asked questions regarding Consent Agenda items No. 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, and no. 16 prior to a motion being made to approve the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

5. Consideration of Approval on *Resolution No. 2025-36*: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DAVIS & ASSOCIATES, P.A. FOR SPECIAL MAGISTRATE SERVICES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Consent Agenda Item No. 5 was pulled and added to the Regular Agenda and discussed after Item No.17.

Community Standards Director Caryn Garden-Young introduced Resolution No. 2025-36.

Public comment from Virginia Standish. Town Council discussion ensued.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-36. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

6. Consideration of Approval on *Resolution No. 2025-37*: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ROADWAY ADVISORY BOARDS THROUGH COOPERATIVE PURCHASE THROUGH THE FLORIDA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM CONTRACT FSA23-EQU21.0; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDERS PURSUANT TO THE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

7. Consideration of Approval on **Resolution No. 2025-38**: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH PALM BEACH AGGREGATES, LLC TO PROVIDE VARIOUS ROCKS AND RELATED GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE TOWN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

8. Consideration of Approval on **Resolution No. 2025-39**: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SIBONEY CONTRACTING CO. TO PROVIDE HAULING SERVICES FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE TO THE TOWN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

9. Consideration of Approval on **Resolution No. 2025-40**: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH E. GOMEZ CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR FENCE INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES UTILIZING THE CITY OF GREENACRES BID NO. 23-003; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

10. Consideration of Approval on **Resolution No. 2025-41**: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT THROUGH A COOPERATIVE PURCHASE UTILIZING SOURCEWELL CONTRACT #062320-CAT; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDERS PURSUANT TO THE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA**

**MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

11. Consideration of Approval on ***Resolution No. 2025-42***: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, APPROVING A SCHEDULE OF VIOLATIONS AND ASSOCIATED PENALTIES FOR CIVIL CITATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Consent Agenda Item No. 11 was removed and added to the end of the regular agenda.

Community Standards Director Caryn Garden-Young introduced Resolution No. 2025-42.

No public comment. Town Council discussion ensued.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA /COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-42. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

12. Consideration of Approval on ***Resolution No. 2025-43***: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH CABALLERO FIERMAN LLERENA GARCIA, LLP FOR ANNUAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

13. Consideration of Approval on ***Resolution No. 2025-44***: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH GVI GARDEN CENTER, INC. AND ODUMS SOD, INC. FOR SOD SERVICES AND GOODS UTILIZING WELLINGTON ITB#202509—ANNUAL SOD CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA**

**MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

14. Consideration of Approval on *Resolution No. 2025-45*: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, APPROVING WORK ORDERS NO. 5 WITH HUURR HOMES, LLC PURSUANT TO THEIR CONTRACT FOR CONTINUING SERVICES FOR CULVERTS – CONSTRUCTION, REPLACEMENT, MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, AND INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS (INCLUDING THOSE OVER \$300,000) FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CATCH BASINS AND CULVERTS ALONG A ROAD AND COLLECTING CANAL; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

15. Consideration of Approval on *Resolution No. 2025-46*: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, APPROVING WORK ORDERS NO. 6 WITH HUURR HOMES, LLC PURSUANT TO THEIR CONTRACT FOR CONTINUING SERVICES FOR CULVERTS – CONSTRUCTION, REPLACEMENT, MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, AND INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS (INCLUDING THOSE OVER \$300,000) FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CATCH BASINS AND CULVERTS ALONG COLLECTING CANAL ROAD, G ROAD, AND E ROAD; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

16. Consideration of Approval on *Resolution No. 2025-47*: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA,

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH PIGGYBACK AGREEMENT WITH D.S. EAKINS CONSTRUCTION. CORPORATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 5 AND ITEM NO. 11. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY DISSENTING).**

Public comment received from Todd McLendon. Town Council discussion ensued.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

17. Consideration of Engaging the Services of a Strategic Planning Consultant

Checree Bryant and Dr. Shannon McGhee of Actuate Consulting introduced the Consideration of Engaging the Services of a Strategic Planning Consultant.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH ACTUATE CONSULTING TO CONDUCT THE PROPER ANALYSIS AND AUTHORIZE THE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

**THE MAYOR CALLED FOR A BRIEF RECESS TO ALLOW COUNCIL, STAFF, AND ATTENDEES TIME TO TAKE A BREAK AT 9:18 PM.**

**RECONVENED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AT 9:24 PM.**

### **DISCUSSION**

18. Discussion on Councilmember El-Ramey's List

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/VICE MAYOR HERZOG MOVED TO REMOVE DISCUSSION ON COUNCILMEMBER EL-RAMEY'S LIST FROM THE AGENDA. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

19. Discussion on Town Attorney's Contract and Analysis of Legal Fees

Town Attorney stated that the Town had requested an agenda item to discuss the agreement with his firm and review legal fees, which he had provided. He noted that while the fees were higher than those charged to other municipalities his firm represents, the more significant issue was that his firm would be resigning as Town Attorney. He announced that the firm would provide the required 30 days' notice but would continue to represent the Town as long as necessary to allow Council to determine the process for securing new legal representation, whether through in-house counsel or seeking proposals. He added that his firm would also be available to assist with transition services for the new Town Attorney.

**By consensus, the Council agreed to place on the next agenda a discussion of exploring the option of hiring in-house legal counsel with paralegal support, while continuing to utilize an outside firm for larger projects.**

20. Discussion on Production of Records

Item No. 20 was removed from the agenda.

21. Discussion on A Road and Collecting Canal Project Update

Town Council discussion ensued.

Public comment received from Jo Siciliano.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER COLEMAN/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE A ROAD AND COLLECTING CANAL PROJECT UPDATE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

22. Discussion on Rural Vista Design Standards

Project Coordinator Jeff Kurtz introduced the Rural Vista Design Standards.

Public comment received from Jo Siciliano. Town Council discussion ensued.

**By consensus, the Town Council agreed to proceed with requiring two readings, and directed that the item be brought back for first reading in July.**

- 22A. Discussion of the Paddock Project (Discussion Item added)

Councilmember Maniglia recused herself from the discussion and left the room, citing her role as the real estate agent for the project and as the adjacent property owner.

Community Standards Director Caryn Garden-Young introduced the Discussion of the Paddock Project

**By consensus, the Town Council agreed to schedule the special meeting on the Paddock Project for July 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM, with no public workshop preceding the meeting.**

23. Discussion of Proposed Ordinance Updates to the Unified Land Development Code

Discussion Item No. 23, originally, was removed from the agenda.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

24. Consideration of Approval on *Ordinance No. 2025-01* on Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AMENDING ITS CODE OF ORDINANCES BY CREATING

CHAPTER 27 “FIREWORKS” TO PROVIDE FOR REGULATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF FIREWORKS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Item No. 24 was removed from the agenda.

25. Consideration of Approval of ***Ordinance No. 2025-02*** on Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE I “IN GENERAL,” ARTICLE II “IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE MATERIALS,” AND ARTICLE III “COLLECTION OF WASTE; FRANCHISES AND REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS AUTHORIZED,” ALL OF CHAPTER 38 “SOLID WASTE,” OF THE LOXAHATCHEE GROVES CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk Oakes read the title of Ordinance No. 2025-02 into the record on second reading.

Public comment received from Jane Harding. Town Council discussion ensued.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/VICE MAYOR HERZOG MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02 ON SECOND READING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

26. Consideration of Approval on ***Ordinance No. 2025-07*** on First Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AMENDING section 20-040 “Height” of Article 20 “RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS,” SECTION 25-045 “HEIGHT” of ARTICLE 25 “COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICTS,” SECTION 30-050 “HEIGHT” of ARTICLE 30 “INSTITUTIONAL AND PUBLIC FACILITIES ZONING DISTRICTS,” SECTION 35-040 “HEIGHT” of ARTICLE 35 “PARKS AND RECREATION ZONING DISTRICT,” AND SECTION 40-045 “HEIGHT” OF ARTICLE 40 “CONSERVATION DISTRICT,” WITHIN PART II “ZONING DISTRICTS” OF THE UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, to PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF HEIGHT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Item No. 26 was removed from the agenda.

### **TOWN STAFF COMMENTS**

**Town Manager** had no report.

**Town Attorney** had no report.

**Public Works Director** had no report.

**Town Clerk** had no report.

**TOWN COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Phillis Maniglia** expressed concern that the recreational vehicle (RV) program was intended to include protection for neighbors, such as requiring a driver's license from individuals residing in RVs, but that safeguard had since been removed. She suggested that the Town explore designating all maintenance easements as greenways and parks to provide additional protection, noting this could help prevent individuals with criminal histories, including sex offenders, from establishing residency in Loxahatchee Groves.

**Councilmember Lisa El-Ramey** asked whether the newly installed cameras at Town Hall were budgeted. Staff confirmed that the cameras had been planned for some time. Ms. El-Ramey referenced a prior Council consensus from years ago to install cameras and GPS on all Town equipment and inquired if that had been completed. Staff confirmed that GPS and cameras had been installed in all vehicles and equipment, with additional cameras being placed in the Town vehicles to ensure future incidents would be captured on video. Ms. El-Ramey then commented on public concerns regarding her detailed questions, noting that she had asked seven questions in 15 minutes and emphasizing that many residents also sought explanations. She concluded by clarifying her earlier remarks about moving the Town forward, explaining that to her, the phrase should not imply overlooking past mistakes. She stressed the importance of addressing issues such as magistrate matters and reiterated that the Council, as the Town's executive board, directly oversees only the Town Manager. She emphasized her commitment to ensuring both the Council and the Town operate at the highest standard.

**Councilmember Paul Coleman** suggested holding a workshop dedicated to drainage, roadway, and related infrastructure issues, noting the importance of education and reviewing designs to better understand how the systems are intended to function. The Council discussed scheduling and acknowledged that upcoming agendas were already full with budget matters.

**By consensus, the Council agreed to consider adding a drainage workshop at a future date, potentially following the budgeting process, with the format and timing to be discussed further.**

**Vice Mayor Marge Herzog** asked about the black pipes staged along A Road, noting that the number appeared reduced. Staff explained that the pipes were being installed. Vice Mayor Herzog congratulated Mayor Kane on the article and photo published in the Town Crier.

**Mayor Anita Kane** read into record a letter given to her by Councilmember Maniglia, and here to attached as Exhibit C.

*“Loxahatchee Groves town residents, landowners, council, and staff.*

*It is with infinite sadness that I feel compelled today to present to the Town of Loxahatchee Groves my resignation of my position as Seat One of the Town Council. My considerations are first of my family, friends, and constituents, my health, and my livelihood.*

*To my friends and constituents, I am so proud to have had your confidence and support throughout my service on Town Council. I reflect also on my fellow council members, past and present, and Town staff over the past seven years. Together we faced many struggles to build up this town and, in the end, we accomplished many great things.*

*To staff, I will always appreciate the experience and knowledge I gained during my time working with you all. I know politics are divisive and polarizing by nature. However, as a Councilmember, I have always strived to be fair and unbiased, taking positions to best serve the entire town.*

*To all, I want to say that I am troubled at the tone and timbre of some subversive comments being made in chambers and the malicious, slanderous commentary being spread outside of chambers. This hostile environment culminated in unwarranted physical and character attacks on me. At this time, I believe that my stepping down is the only next move I must make in order to continue my mission for a better Loxahatchee Groves.*

*My singular goal has always been to preserve this little town that I have lived in for thirty-five plus years. I have also been determined to protect the ideals of incorporation and its governance, an office and position I have served with honor and devotion. However, at this juncture, I can say with much certainty that I feel I can be most effective and powerful to that end not from the dais, but from the podium.*

*Please accept my resignation effective June 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.”*

Mayor Kane stated that she had anticipated the meeting would be very difficult, and while it was, it turned out positively because the Council worked well together and that she was proud to serve alongside the other Councilmembers and commended everyone for being respectful and thoughtful in the comments and input. She emphasized that the Council was united in working toward a common goal and future. Ms. Kane also thanked staff for the efforts and extended her gratitude to Councilmember Maniglia for her years of service, noting that it had been above and beyond for a long time and that her absence on the dais would be deeply felt.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember El-Ramey moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 PM, which was seconded by Councilmember Maniglia and passed unanimously (5-0).

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,  
FLORIDA**

**ATTEST:**

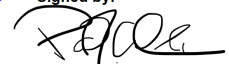
Signed by:  
Valerie Oakes  
00E744C2F37F4A4...  
Town Clerk

Signed by:  
Anita Kane  
FSAB3D69FF41435...  
Mayor Anita Kane, Seat 3  
Signed by:  
Margaret Herzog  
69ECD57738A5448...  
Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog, Seat 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Phillis Maniglia, Seat 1

Signed by: 

07066C56061A4B9...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Lisa El-Ramey, Seat 2

Signed by: 

2B233D3F5E31430...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Paul T. Coleman II, Seat 4



Accountants  
Advisors

May 9, 2025

To Honorable Mayor, Town Council and Town Manager  
Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida  
155 F Road  
Loxahatchee Groves, Florida 33470

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida (the Town) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated February 18, 2025. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

*Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Town are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during fiscal year 2024. We noted no transactions entered into by the Town during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There were no sensitive estimates affecting the Town's financial statements.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the financial statements was:

The disclosure of deposits and investments in Note 3 to the financial statements.

The disclosure of Florida Retirement System in Note 7 to the financial statements.

The disclosure of leases in Note 9 to the financial statements.

The disclosure of risk management in Note 10 to the financial statements.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

*Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

*Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. See Appendix A for material adjustments detected as a result of audit procedures performed and corrected by management.

*Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

*Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated May 9, 2025.

*Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Town's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

*Other Audit Findings or Issues*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Town's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to Management's Discussion and Analysis and the budgetary comparison information, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory and statistical sections, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Town Council and management of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

*Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP*

**APPENDIX A**

<b>To record September 2024 Franchise Fee income</b>		
001-00-11-116-10150	Accts REC-Franchise and Utility	35,787.00
001-01-32-323-32310	FPL Franchise Fee	<u>35,787.00</u>
Total		<u><u>35,787.00</u></u> <u><u>35,787.00</u></u>

<b>To record receivable for FEMA reimbursement not received within 60 days of FYE</b>		
305-00-11-101-10150	Accts REC	245,740.00
305-00-29-290-29001	Unavailable Grant Revenues	<u>245,740.00</u>
Total		<u><u>245,740.00</u></u> <u><u>245,740.00</u></u>

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,  
FLORIDA**



*Town of*  
**LOXAHATCHEE GROVES**

**ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**Prepared by:**

**THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES**

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u><b>PAGES</b></u>
<b>I. INTRODUCTORY SECTION (Unaudited)</b>	
Letter of Transmittal	i-iv
List of Town Officials	v
Organizational Chart	vi
<b>II. FINANCIAL SECTION</b>	
Independent Auditors' Report	1-2
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)	3-15
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-Wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position	16
Statement of Activities	17
Fund Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	18
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position	19
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	20
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of the Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	21
Statement of Net Position – Proprietary Fund	22
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Proprietary Fund	23
Statement of Cash Flows – Proprietary Fund	24
Notes to Basic Financial Statements	25-43
<b>III. REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)</b>	
Budgetary Comparison Schedules	
General Fund	44
Special Revenue Fund – Roads and Drainage Fund	45
Special Revenue Fund – Transportation Fund	46
Special Revenue Fund – Local Option Sales Tax Fund	47
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information	48
Schedule of Employer Contributions – Florida	
Retirement System Pension Plan	49
Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability – Florida	
Retirement System Pension Plan	50
Schedule of Employer Contributions – Florida Retirement System	
Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program	51
Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability – Florida	
Retirement System Health Insurance Subsidy Program	52

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<b><u>PAGES</u></b>
<b>IV. STATISTICAL SECTION (UNAUDITED)</b>	
Net Position by Component	53
Changes in Net Position	54
Fund Balances of Governmental Funds	55
Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds	56
General Governmental Revenues by Source	57
Assessed Value and Estimated Actual Value of Taxable Property	58
Property Tax Rates – Direct and Overlapping Governments	59
Principal Property Taxpayers	60
Property Tax Levies and Collections	61
Direct and Overlapping Governmental Activities Debt	62
Demographic and Economic Statistics	63
Principal Employers – Palm Beach County	64
Full-Time Equivalent Municipality Government Employees by Function	65
Operating Indicators by Function	66
<b>V. OTHER INFORMATION SECTION</b>	
Information Required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes	67
<b>VI. COMPLIANCE SECTION</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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	68
Management Letter in accordance with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida	69-70
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance Pursuant to Section 218.415 Florida Statutes	71

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**INTRODUCTORY SECTION**

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## A Town of Loxahatchee Groves

155 F Road, Loxahatchee Groves, FL • 33470 (561) • 793-2418 Fax (561) 793-2420  
www.loxahatcheegrovesfl.gov

May 9 2025

To: Honorable Mayor, Members of the Town Council, Citizens of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida  
155 F Road  
Loxahatchee Groves, Florida 33470

It is our pleasure to submit the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, pursuant to Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes, Chapter 10.550 of the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida, and the Town Charter. The financial statements included in this report conform to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America ("GAAP") as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"). The responsibility for both the accuracy of the presented data and the completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with the Town. The financial statements have been audited by Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. The independent auditor issued an unmodified opinion that this report fairly represents the financial position of the Town in conformity with GAAP. Management's Discussion & Analysis (MD&A) immediately follows the independent auditor's report and provides narrative introduction, overview and analysis of the basic financial statements. MD&A complements this letter of transmittal, it should be read in conjunction with it.

### **PROFILE OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The Town of Loxahatchee Groves (the "Town") is a political subdivision of the State of Florida located in Palm Beach County (the "County"), initially incorporated in November 2006. The Town has a population estimated at 3,375 as of April 1, 2022, from the University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research ("BEBR") residents living within 12.5 square miles. The Town is a rural-residential-agricultural community with a very limited commercial district primarily along SR-80 (Southern Boulevard).

The Town operates under a Council-Manager form of government in which the Town elects five council members, one of whom is appointed Mayor. Council members are elected for staggered three-year terms. The Town Council determines policies that guide Town operations, hiring a Town Manager and Attorney to administer these policies on a full-time basis. From incorporation through May 2019, the Town functioned under a "Contract Form of Government" with a private management company supplying employees, services and Town administration management under the legislative direction and policies of the Town Council. The Town Attorney also serves the Town pursuant to contract rather than as an employee.

On June 26, 2018, the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District became a dependent special district of the Town with \$1,269,175 of fund balance transferred to the Roads and Drainage special revenue fund as of that date. The transition to a traditional full-service, albeit small, local government model is a multi-year all-encompassing endeavor including, but not limited to, a shift in service delivery models, revisiting Town standards, evaluating all contract services, establishing, and updating policies & procedures, implementing new processes, and so on to better serve the community. The Town's continued focus is addressing deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs; developing and implementing a comprehensive Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and related funding mechanisms; automating and streamlining administrative functions; increasing transparency and accountability; and achieving financial sustainability.

The annual budget serves as the foundation for the Town's financial planning and control. All departments of the Town are required to submit proposed budgets to the Town Manager, who then makes any necessary revisions. The Town Manager then presents to the Town Council for their review, a budget estimate of the expenditures and revenues of all the Town's departments. Two public hearings are then conducted to inform taxpayers of the proposed and final budget, to receive their comments, and respond to their questions on the budget. A majority affirmative vote of the quorum is needed to adopt the budget, which is legally enacted prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> by the passage of a Resolution. The Town's budget is approved at the department function object.

Balancing competing needs drives the budget process which is a continuous cycle of predicting both long- and short-term needs. Budgetary needs are constantly prioritized with choices made within the framework of established policies and resources. Necessities like delivery of basic operational and maintenance services, personnel costs, insurance coverage, and debt service usually take initial priority whether provided in-house, inter-governmentally, and/or contractually. The Town strives to constantly address issues critical to serving our residents, maintaining or improving quality of life, and preserving richness of community character.

The Town Council must approve all budget amendments as well as any supplemental appropriations. At the close of each fiscal year, the unencumbered balance of each appropriation reverts to the fund from which it was appropriated and is subject to future appropriations. Transfers of funds assessed between the Town and its dependent district are approved by Council.

### **ECONOMIC CONDITION AND OUTLOOK**

The growth and development of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves is dependent upon the economic environment of South Florida and particularly that of Palm Beach County and in the surrounding western communities. The major economic influences in this area are the housing market, the regional job market, new construction, weather events, any future tax reform and/or other legislative mandates.

Positive signs about the national and local economies are evidenced by the continuing annual increases in average residential market values and an influx of new residents we have experienced for the last several years. Stable employment in the area remains higher than national averages. The equestrian community and industry play a major role in the economy of the western communities of the County as approximately two-thirds of Palm Beach County's equestrian industry is in this region.

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, the Town Council adopted a rate of 3.0000 mills out of a maximum levy of 10.0000 mills. The levied 3 mills is the same rate as in prior fiscal years, resulting in total tax levy of \$1,527,667 which is an increase of \$236,404, or 18.3%, from FY2023. The benefit of the continued increase is to begin “rebuilding” the Town and its critical infrastructure and to properly position the Town for the future by building reserves. This is critical as the Town’s undiversified tax base is primarily residential, with considerable agricultural exemptions and little commercial property. Future property tax growth is limited to the annual growth rate of per capita personal income, which is currently minimal, plus the value of new construction and new ownership of existing properties.

### LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Town adopted a Comprehensive Plan. Within this plan, the Town will examine the growth opportunities for the Town over a 10-year horizon. Management will continue to review revenues received from other sources to verify that the Town is receiving those revenues to which it is entitled. The Town will also continue to pursue new revenue streams that have as little impact on residents as possible. In addition, the Town will continue to contract for certain municipal services to keep taxes as low as possible.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Town Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the Town are protected from loss, theft, or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data is compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America. The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that: (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

As a recipient of federal, state, and local financial assistance, we are also responsible for ensuring that an adequate internal control structure is in place to document compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to these programs. This internal control structure is subject to periodic evaluation by management. In addition, the Town maintains budgetary controls. The objective of these controls is to ensure compliance with legal provisions embodied in the annual appropriated budget approved by the Town Council. The level of budgetary control (i.e., the level at which expenditures cannot legally exceed the appropriated amount) is the fund level.

The Town’s accounting system is organized on a fund basis. A fund is defined as an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The type of funds used are generally determined by the Town Council upon the recommendations of the Town Manager which is based upon established and accepted accounting policies and procedures as well as the number of funds required. The Town has established the following funds:

**General Fund-** a governmental fund that accounts for activity not accounted for elsewhere. It is the Town’s primary fund.

**Transportation Fund-** a governmental special revenue fund that accounts for the revenues and expenditures related to the Town’s share of the State’s 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> cent gas tax funds.

**Local Option Sales Tax Fund-** a governmental special revenue fund that accounts for the revenues and expenditures related to the Town's share of the 1 percent voter-approved local option sales tax levied county-wide.

**Road And Bridge Fund-** a governmental special revenue fund that accounts for the activities of the Town's dependent water control district.

**Capital Improvement Program Fund-** a governmental capital projects fund that accounts for the activity of long-lived capital improvements within the Town.

**Solid Waste Fund-** a proprietary fund that accounts for the enterprise operations related to residential solid waste operations.

### **INDEPENDENT AUDIT**

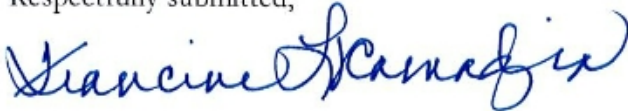
In accordance with Florida Statutes Section 218.39, the Town has engaged the firm of Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, to perform the independent audit of the Town's financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2024. The Independent Auditors' Report is presented in the financial section of this Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The preparation of this report could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of the entire staff of the Town and its auditing firm, Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP, as well as key independent financial professional contractors. We wish to express our appreciation to the staff for their interest and support in planning and conducting the financial operations of the Town in a responsible and progressive manner.

In closing, it is an honor to serve the Town, its residents and landowners. The leadership and support of the Mayor and Town Council have made the accomplishments and anticipated successes noted in this report possible and provide a strong foundation for the Town's future.

Respectfully submitted,



Francine Ramaglia  
Town Manager

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES**

**List of Elected Town Officials**

**September 30, 2024**

**Council – Manager Form of Government**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

Anita Kane, Mayor

Margaret Herzog, Vice Mayor

Phillis Maniglia, Councilmember

Laura Danowski, Councilmember

Robert Shorr, Councilmember

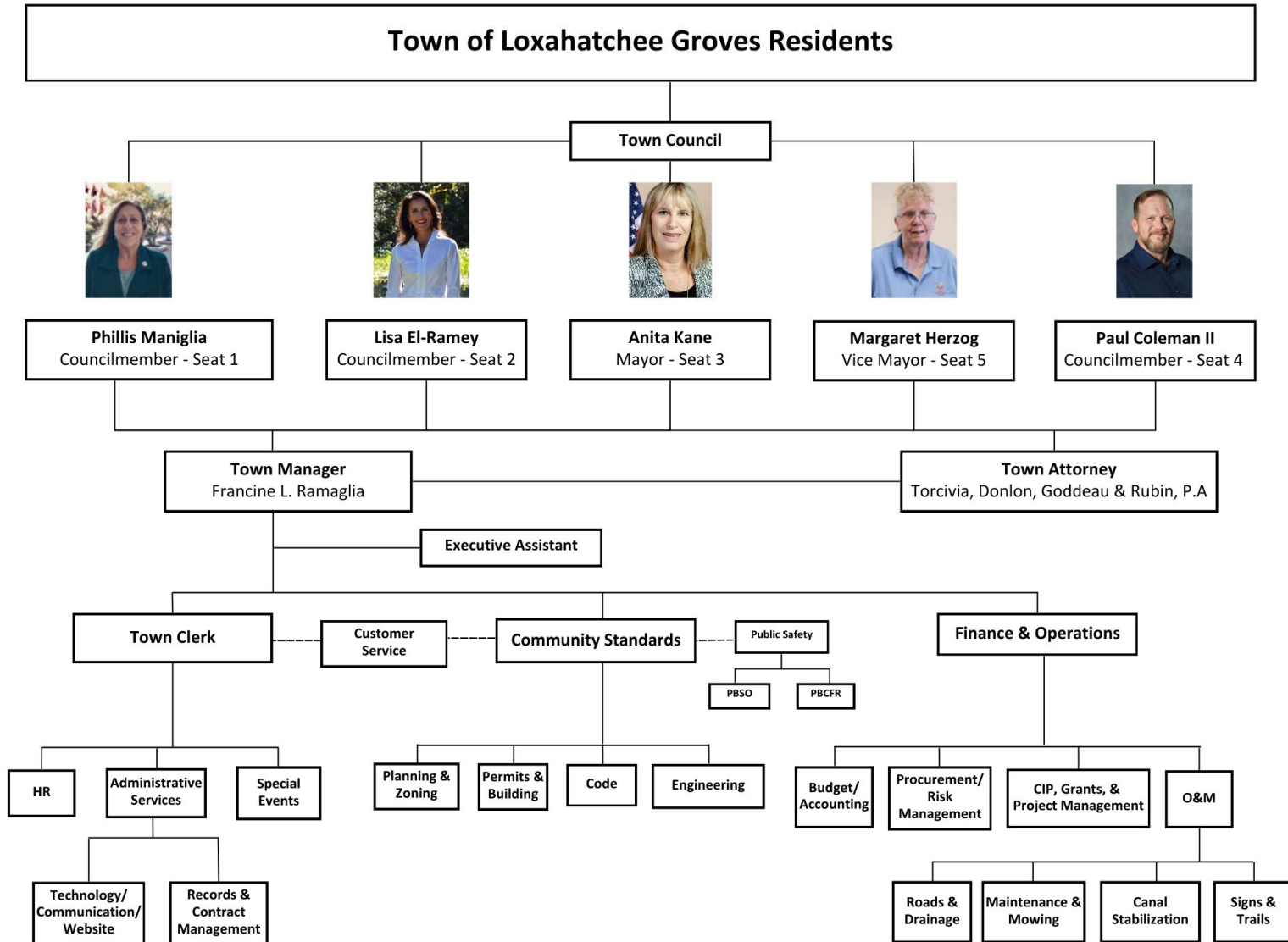
**ADMINISTRATION**

Francine L. Ramaglia, CPA, Town Manager

Elizabeth Lenihan of Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau & Rubin, P.A., Town Attorney

Valerie Oakes, Town Clerk

## Town of Loxahatchee Groves Organizational Chart



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**FINANCIAL SECTION**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

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Accountants  

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Advisors

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and Town Council  
Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### **Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida (the Town), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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

#### **Basis for Opinions**

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

#### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

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

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

#### **Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

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

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

**Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, and pension schedules on pages 3–15, 44–48, and 49–52, respectively, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

**Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory and statistical sections but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 9, 2025, on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town'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 Town's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP*

Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP  
Boca Raton, Florida  
May 9, 2025

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**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**  
**(Required Supplementary Information)**

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**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis**  
**September 30, 2024**

As management of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, we offer readers of the Town's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves (the Town) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. Readers are encouraged to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the auditors' reports, the basic financial statements, the notes to the financial statements, and the supplementary information.

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- At September 30, 2024, the assets plus deferred outflows of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves exceeded its liabilities plus deferred inflows by \$13,511,067 of which \$9,299,656 was the amount invested in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and \$1,655,389 was restricted by law or agreements. The Town had \$2,556,022 (*unrestricted net position*) which may be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- During the fiscal year 2024, net position increased by \$979,491 from the prior year.
- At September 30, 2024, the Town of Loxahatchee Groves' General Fund reported an ending fund balance of \$2,468,690 an increase of \$382,512 as compared with the prior year. Of the total fund balance, 34.7% is available for spending at the government's discretion (*unassigned fund balance*). The unassigned fund balance represents slightly more than four months of total General Fund operating expenditures and transfers and exceeds the Town's minimum target of 25%.

**OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This annual report consists of three parts—*management's discussion and analysis* (this section), the *basic financial statements* and *required supplementary information*. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the Town

- The first two statements are *government-wide financial statements* that provide both long-term and short-term information about the Town's overall financial status.
- The remaining statements are *fund financial statements* that focus on individual parts of the Town government, reporting the Town's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements.
- The *governmental funds* statements show how general government services such and public safety were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending.

The financial statements also include *notes* that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of *required supplementary information*, which further explains and supports the information in the financial statements. Figure A-1 shows how the required parts of this annual report are arranged and are related to one another.

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

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

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

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (*business-type activities*). The governmental activities of the Town include public works, police, and general administration services. The Town has one business-type activity for the provision of garbage and trash collection services.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 16 and 17 of this report.

**Fund financial statements.** A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

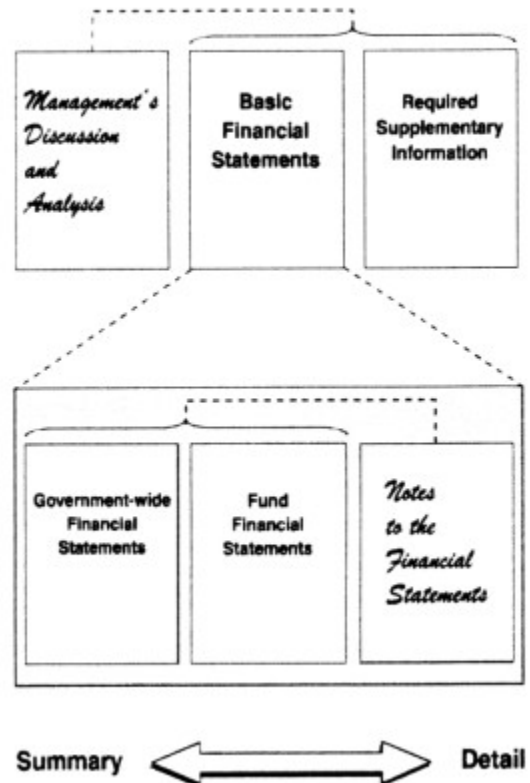
**Governmental funds.** Most of the Town's basic services are reported in governmental funds. Governmental funds focus on how resources flow in and out and with the balances remaining at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called the modified accrual accounting method, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Town's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information shows whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Town's programs.

The Town maintains five governmental funds:

**General Fund-** a governmental fund that accounts for activity not accounted for elsewhere. It is the Town's primary fund.

**Transportation Fund-** a governmental special revenue fund that accounts for the revenues and expenditures related to the Town's share of the State's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> cent gas tax funds.

Figure A-1  
Required Components of  
City's Annual Financial Report



**Local Option Sales Tax Fund-** a governmental special revenue fund that accounts for the revenues and expenditures related to the Town's share of the 1 percent voter-approved local option sales tax levied county-wide.

**Road And Bridge Fund-** a governmental special revenue fund that accounts for the activities of the Town's dependent water control district.

**Capital Improvement Program Fund-** a governmental capital projects fund that accounts for the activity of long-lived capital improvements within the Town.

The Town adopts an annual budget for each of its funds. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, the Local Option Sales Tax Fund, and the Roads and Drainage Fund to demonstrate compliance with the budget. The Capital Improvement Program Fund does not have a supplementary budgetary comparison statement because its activities generally occur over more than one fiscal period.

The governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 18 through 21 of this report.

**Enterprise funds.** The Town has one enterprise fund, the Solid Waste Fund, which charges residential customers for the services provided. These services are generally reported in proprietary funds. Proprietary funds are reported in the same way that all activities are reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities. The basic proprietary fund financial statements can be found on pages 22 through 24 of this report.

**Notes to the basic financial statements.** The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 25 through 43 of this report.

## **GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

**Summary of net position.** As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the Town, governmental activity assets plus deferred outflows exceeded liabilities plus deferred inflows by \$13,266,920. Business-type activity assets plus deferred outflows exceeded liabilities plus deferred inflows by \$244,147. The Town-wide total net position was \$13,511,067 at the close of the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. The Statement of Net Position is on page 16 of this report.

The Town's investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, equipment and vehicles, less accumulated depreciation and any related debt that is still outstanding that was used to acquire those assets) was \$9,299,656 or about 70% of total net position at September 30, 2024. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending.

An additional \$1,655,389 portion of the net position, or about 12%, represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The Town has assigned \$617,173 for the purpose of the subsequent year's capital improvement plan. The unrestricted net position of \$2,556,022, or about 19%, may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. The following table reflects the condensed Statement of Net Position for the current year as compared to the prior year.

**Table 1**  
**Town of Loxahatchee Groves**  
**Summary of Net Position**

	Governmental		Business		Total	
	Activities		Activities			
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b>Assets:</b>						
Current and other assets	\$ 5,639,459	\$ 5,297,012	\$ 311,626	\$ 309,050	\$ 5,951,085	\$ 5,606,062
Capital assets	9,762,473	8,917,757	-	-	9,762,473	8,917,757
Total assets	15,401,932	14,214,769	311,626	309,050	15,713,558	14,523,819
Deferred outflows of resources	684,385	614,986	-	-	684,385	614,986
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Long-term liabilities	1,802,131	1,516,935	-	-		1,516,935
Other liabilities	763,714	866,069	67,479	55,521	831,193	921,590
Total liabilities	2,565,845	2,383,004	67,479	55,521	2,633,324	2,438,525
Deferred inflows of resources	253,552	168,704	-	-	253,552	168,704
<b>Net position:</b>						
Net investment in capital assets	9,299,656	8,673,364	-	-	9,299,656	8,673,364
Restricted	1,655,389	1,736,643	-	-	1,655,389	1,736,643
Unrestricted	2,311,875	1,868,040	244,147	253,529	2,556,022	2,121,569
Total net position	\$ 13,266,920	\$ 12,278,047	\$ 244,147	\$ 253,529	\$ 13,511,067	\$ 12,531,576

**Governmental Activities.**

- During the fiscal year 2024, net position improved over the prior year, increasing by \$979,491, largely a result of investments in capital assets and a reduction in restricted assets and one-time developer contributions.

**Business Activities.**

- The funding for the Town’s solid waste operation is largely derived from a special assessment placed upon residential properties within the Town’s jurisdiction.
- The Town assesses approximately 1,500 residential units \$400 per year for both the collection and disposal of solid waste. This amount was increased slightly in FY2025.
- Palm Beach County Property Appraiser notifies all affected property owners of the amount, public hearing date, and location of the meeting when the Town will adopt the Tentative Assessment.
- Palm Beach County Tax Collector receives all Town ad valorem tax and assessment payments and remits the funds to the Town.
- Services are provided through a residential solid waste collection and disposal contract.

The following is a summary of the changes in net position for the years ended September 30, 2024, and 2023. Key indicators, including revenues and expenditures by category are presented herein for review:

**Table 2**  
**Town of Loxahatchee Groves**  
**Changes in Net Position**

	Governmental		Business		Total	
	Activities		Activities			
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 2,269,226	\$ 2,330,472	\$ 586,929	\$ 585,725	\$ 2,856,155	\$ 2,916,197
Grants and contributions	245,740	359,793	-	-	245,740	359,793
General revenues:						
Property taxes	1,527,667	1,291,263	-	-	1,527,667	1,291,263
Local option sales tax	335,791	330,728	-	-	335,791	330,728
Franchise fees	631,736	649,469	-	-	631,736	649,469
Utility taxes	575,043	531,900	-	-	575,043	531,900
Intergovernmental	819,734	846,416	-	-	819,734	846,416
Investment/other income	1,071,503	182,342	-	-	1,071,503	182,342
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>7,476,440</b>	<b>6,522,383</b>	<b>586,929</b>	<b>585,725</b>	<b>8,063,369</b>	<b>7,108,108</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>						
General Government	1,962,627	1,711,966	-	-	1,962,627	1,711,966
Public safety	1,289,290	1,442,215	-	-	1,289,290	1,442,215
Physical environment	3,090,301	2,690,070	-	-	3,090,301	2,690,070
Solid Waste	-	-	714,311	714,111	714,311	714,111
Interest Expense	27,349	3,820	-	-	27,349	3,820
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>6,369,567</b>	<b>5,848,071</b>	<b>714,311</b>	<b>714,111</b>	<b>7,083,878</b>	<b>6,562,182</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net position before transfers</b>	<b>1,106,873</b>	<b>674,312</b>	<b>(127,382)</b>	<b>(128,386)</b>	<b>979,491</b>	<b>545,926</b>
<b>Transfers:</b>	<b>(118,000)</b>	<b>(135,365)</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>135,365</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net position</b>	<b>988,873</b>	<b>538,947</b>	<b>(9,382)</b>	<b>6,979</b>	<b>979,491</b>	<b>545,926</b>
<b>Net position, beginning</b>	<b>\$ 12,278,047</b>	<b>\$ 11,739,100</b>	<b>\$ 253,529</b>	<b>\$ 246,550</b>	<b>\$ 12,531,576</b>	<b>\$ 11,985,650</b>
<b>Net position, ending</b>	<b>\$ 13,266,920</b>	<b>\$ 12,278,047</b>	<b>\$ 244,147</b>	<b>\$ 253,529</b>	<b>\$ 13,511,067</b>	<b>\$ 12,531,576</b>

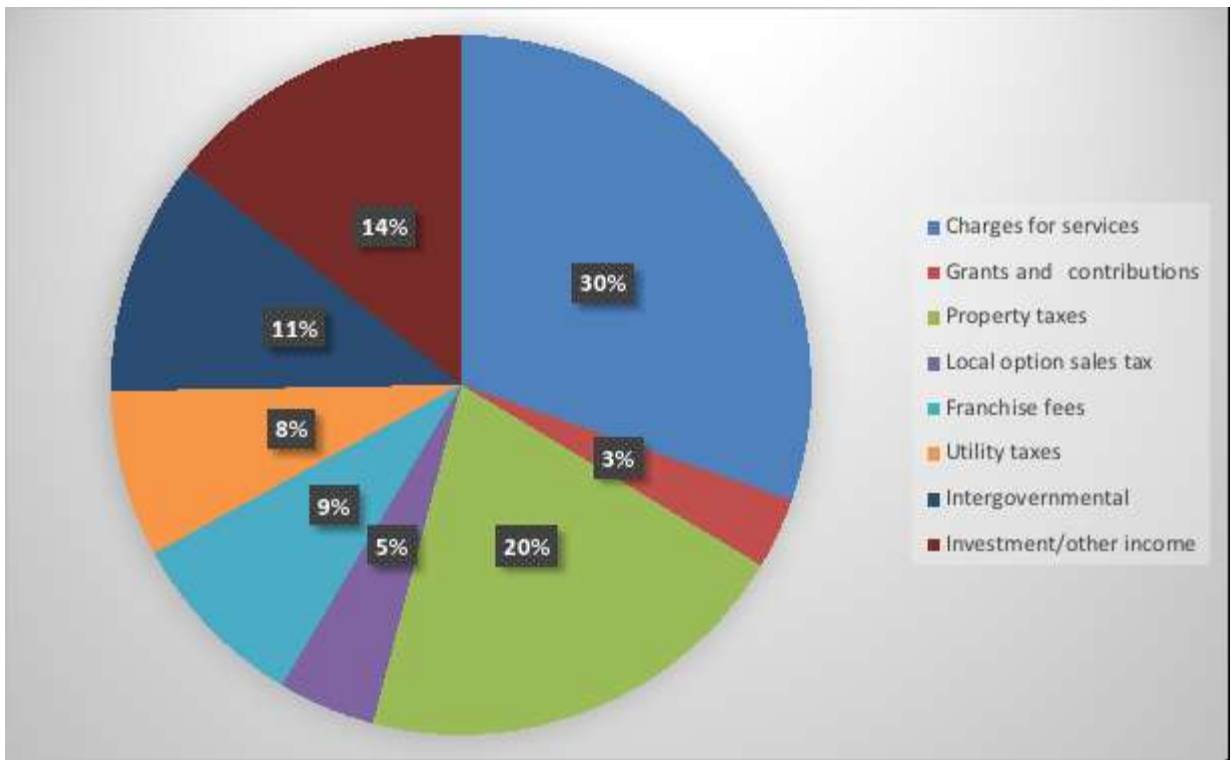
**Governmental Activities.**

- For fiscal year 2024, total revenues declined from the prior year by \$954,057, largely due increased property taxes resulting from increased values and a one-time tree mitigation grant of \$746,865.
- Total expenses increased by \$521,496 or about 9%, largely reflecting an increase in general government expenses and public works efforts.

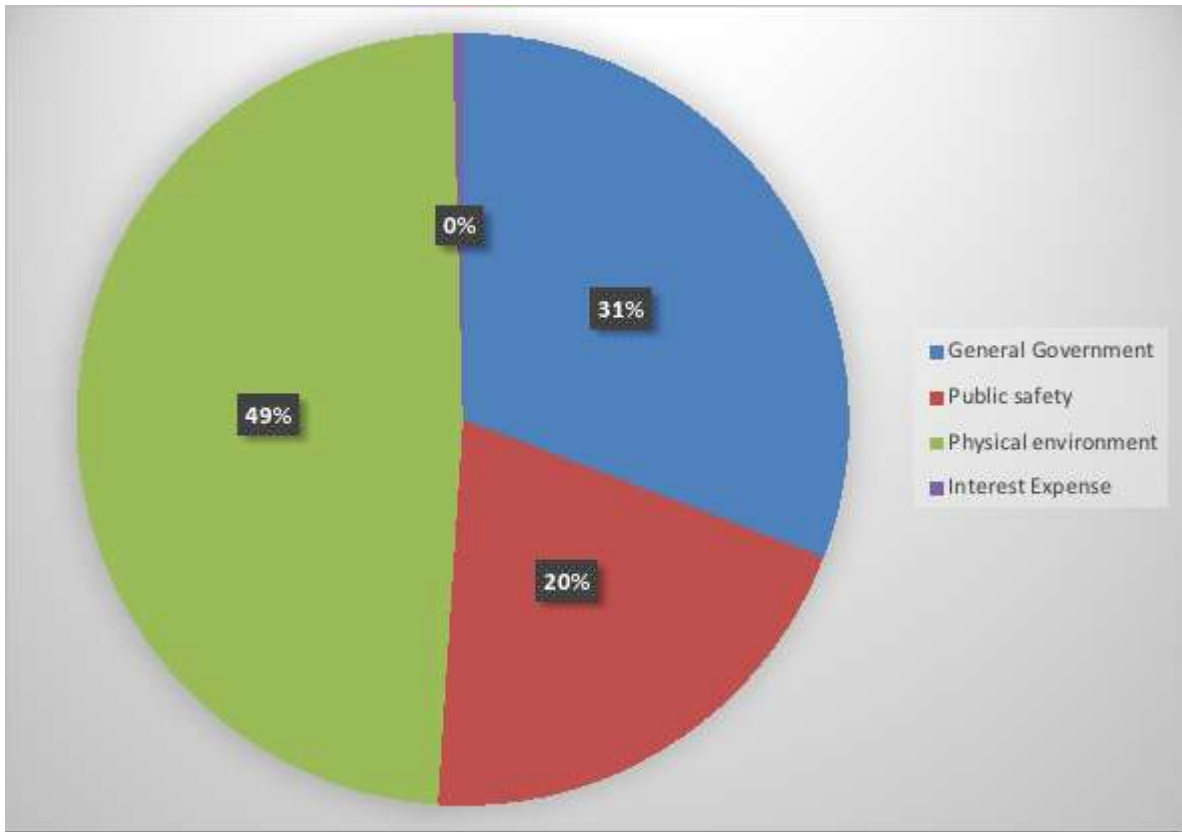
**Business Activities.**

- Revenue earned by business-type activities is generated by charges for services through special assessments for the Town’s solid waste collection and recycling services totaled \$586,929, or about the same amount for FY2023. Operating revenues decreased slightly by (\$74,495) from FY2023. The rates charged to remained at \$400 per residential unit.
- Expenses of business-type activities arise from the Town’s solid waste collection and recycling services contract which totaled \$714,311 in fiscal year 2024. This was nearly identical from the FY2023 operations.

**Figure A-2**  
**Town of Loxahatchee Groves**  
**Revenues by Source – Governmental Activities**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**



**Figure A-3**  
**Town of Loxahatchee Groves**  
**Expenses – Governmental Activities**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**



**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT’S FUNDS**

The Town maintains five governmental funds: the General Fund, the Roads and Drainage Fund, the Transportation Fund, the Local Option Sales Tax fund, and the Capital Improvement Program Fund.

The Town adopts an annual appropriated budget for the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, the Local Option Sales Tax fund and the Roads and Drainage fund. The General Fund provides revenues and resources for basic governmental services. The Roads and Drainage Fund is funded thru special assessments and accounts for the operations of the Town’s dependent special district. The Transportation Fund is funded through a dedicated local option gas tax and can only be used for allowable transportation related expenses such as road, street maintenance, and construction. Likewise, the Local Option Sales Tax Fund is funded through an additional voter-approved local option sales tax dedicated for infrastructure projects to occur over the next decade.

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

**Governmental funds.** The focus of the Town’s *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town’s financing requirements. In particular, the *unassigned fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of the government’s net resources available for spending at the end of a fiscal year.

**General Fund.** The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the Town. At the end of the fiscal year, the Town's General Fund reported an unassigned fund balance of \$1,580,119, a decrease of \$567,532 in comparison with the prior fiscal year. Much of the decrease was the use of fund balance for the subsequent year's budget.

A summary of the General Fund's condensed balance sheet and statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for September 30, 2024, and 2023 is shown below:

**Table 3**  
**Town of Loxahatchee Groves**  
**Summary of General Fund Balance Sheet**

	2024	2023	Change	% Change
<b>Assets</b>	<u>\$ 6,803,007</u>	<u>\$ 6,382,422</u>	<u>\$ 420,585</u>	<u>7%</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<u>\$ 1,796,718</u>	<u>\$ 1,853,393</u>	<u>\$ (56,675)</u>	<u>-3%</u>
<b>Deferred inflows</b>	<u>334,203</u>	<u>41,659</u>	<u>292,544</u>	<u>702%</u>
<b>Fund balance</b>				
Nonspendable fund balance	-	-	-	
Restricted fund balance	1,655,389	1,736,643	(81,254)	-5%
Assigned fund balance	1,912,045	1,170,608	741,437	63%
Unassigned fund balance	<u>1,104,652</u>	<u>1,580,119</u>	<u>(475,467)</u>	<u>-30%</u>
<b>Total fund balance</b>	<u>4,672,086</u>	<u>4,487,370</u>	<u>184,716</u>	<u>4%</u>
<b>Total liabilities, deferred inflows, and fund balance</b>	<u>\$ 6,803,007</u>	<u>\$ 6,382,422</u>	<u>\$ 420,585</u>	<u>7%</u>

During the fiscal year 2024, the General Fund assets increased by \$420,585 or 7%. The increase is mainly due to increases in intergovernmental revenue and other receivables. Liabilities decreased by (\$56,675) or -3%, mainly due to the number of deposits held by the Town. Total fund balance increased by \$420,585 or 7% owing in large part to a one-time contribution for tree mitigation of \$746,865.

(continued next page)

**Table 4**  
**Town of Loxahatchee Groves**  
**Summary of General Fund Statement of Revenues,**  
**Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$ 4,885,080	\$ 4,094,368	\$ 790,712	19%
<b>Expenditures</b>	3,181,715	2,979,929	201,786	7%
<b>Other Financings Sources and Uses</b>	<u>(1,320,853)</u>	<u>(1,175,912)</u>	<u>(144,941)</u>	<u>12%</u>
<b>Net change in fund balance</b>	382,512	(61,473)	443,985	-722%
<b>Fund balance, beginning</b>	<u>2,086,178</u>	<u>2,147,551</u>	<u>(61,373)</u>	<u>-3%</u>
<b>Fund balance, ending</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,468,690</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,086,078</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 382,612</u></u>	<u><u>18%</u></u>

The Town of Loxahatchee Groves General Fund revenues increased over the prior year by \$790,712 or 19%, mostly the result of the use of a one-time developer contribution of \$746,865. Total expenditures increased over the prior year by \$201,786 or 7%, largely related to an increase in general governmental. The Town’s Other financing sources and uses increased by 12%, largely due to transfers to the Capital Improvements Fund.

**General Fund**

The Town adopts annual budgets by fund, department function and object in compliance with Florida State Statute Section 200.065 (commonly referred to as the Truth-in Millage Legislation). The law requires municipal organizations to prepare and adopt annual operating budgets for the General, Special Revenue and Debt Service Funds following uniform time frames related to property tax levies. The balanced budgets may be revised throughout the year. The Town’s code allows for intra-department level budget transfers between expenditure categories without Council approval; however, inter-department and fund total changes require Council-approved budget amendments adopted by resolution.

The Town’s policy is to adopt the budget following the second public hearing of each fiscal year, held in September for an October 1<sup>st</sup> year. Budget amendments may be presented to Council at any time during the fiscal year and up to 60 days after the fiscal year ends.

Over the course of the year, the Town did not amend the General Fund budget but had positive variances in revenues which more than offset the negative variance in expenditures.

The budget versus actual schedule is presented on page 44 for the General Fund. The significant Variances to the final adopted budget, which was the same as the originally adopted budget, were due to development-related activities, primarily tree mitigation amounts. This was for both revenues and expenditures.

### **Roads and Drainage Special Revenue Fund**

The Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District became a dependent special district on June 26, 2018, and the operations have since been reported as the Roads and Drainage Special Revenue Fund. The actual revenues were slightly higher than budgeted, but expenditures were greater than anticipated by \$309,852. The fund contributed significantly to road and drainage improvements accounted for in the CIP fund.

The budget versus actual schedules is presented on page 45 for the Roads and Drainage Special Revenue Fund.

### **Transportation Special Revenue Fund**

The fund balance of the Transportation Special Revenue Fund remained at \$0.00, as was the prior year. All the funds were transferred out to support activities in other funds. The fund balance declined largely due to capital asset activity and increased maintenance efforts for this activity.

### **Local Option Sales Tax Special Revenue Fund**

In 2016, a one-cent infrastructure surtax or Local Option Sales Tax was approved by the voters in Palm Beach County for no more than ten years. The distribution is 50% for the School Board, 30% for the County, and 20% to be distributed to the Municipalities. Accordingly, the Town established the Local Option Sales Tax Fund to account for these funds which will enable the Town to initiate at least a portion of long-overdue roadway improvement projects. In FY2024, the total revenue received was \$386,243, all of which was transferred for use to the CIP fund. The fund balance declined largely due to capital asset activity in the Capital Improvement Fund.

### **Capital Improvement Fund**

The Capital Improvement Fund showed \$1,640,010 in investments to the community's infrastructure, which was funded with transfers from other funds, carryover from prior years, and contributions from private sources. The balance increased due to transfers and revenues provided for a continued improvement in primarily road and drainage projects that were underway at fiscal year-end. This activity will continue through FY2025.

### **Capital Assets**

As of September 30, 2024, the Town's capital assets amounted to \$9,299,656 (net of accumulated depreciation). This was \$626,292 more than the prior year. More details relating to capital assets can be found on Note 4 of the Notes to the Financial Statements.

### **Long-Term Liabilities**

As of the end of the fiscal year the only long-term liabilities of the Town were for accumulated compensated absences owed to employees upon separation from service, leases for equipment, and net pension liabilities owed to retirees, present and future. The Total amount of these liabilities amounted to \$1,921,313, of which \$119,142 was estimated to be due during FY2025. The Town's Lease Liability increased, net, by \$147,601 due to the acquisition of new heavy equipment financed by a lease. The Town's Net pension liability increased by \$159,687 due to its share of activities in the Florida Retirement System.

## **ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES**

The State of Florida, by constitution, does not have a state personal income tax and therefore, the State operates primarily using sales, gasoline and corporate income taxes. Local governments (cities, counties and school boards) primarily rely upon property taxes and a limited array of permitted other taxes (sales, telecommunication, gasoline, utilities services, etc.) and fees (franchise, building permits, occupational license, etc.) for funding of their governmental activities. In addition, there are a limited number of state-shared revenues and recurring and non-recurring (one-time) grants from both the state and federal governments.

During 2007 the Florida Legislature passed property tax reform legislation limiting the property tax levies of local governments. The maximum tax levy allowed by a majority vote of the governing body is based on a percentage reduction applied to the prior year property tax revenue. The percentage reduction is calculated based on the compound annual growth rate in the per capita property taxes levied. The law allows local governments to adopt a higher millage rate based on the following approval of the governing body: 1) a majority vote to adopt a rate equal to the prior year rolled-back millage rate, plus an adjustment for growth in per capita personal income; 2) a two-thirds vote to adopt a rate equal to the prior year adjusted millage rate plus 10%; or 3) any millage rate approved by unanimous vote or referendum. Future property tax growth is limited to the annual growth rate of per capita personal income, which is currently 3% to 4%, plus the value of new construction.

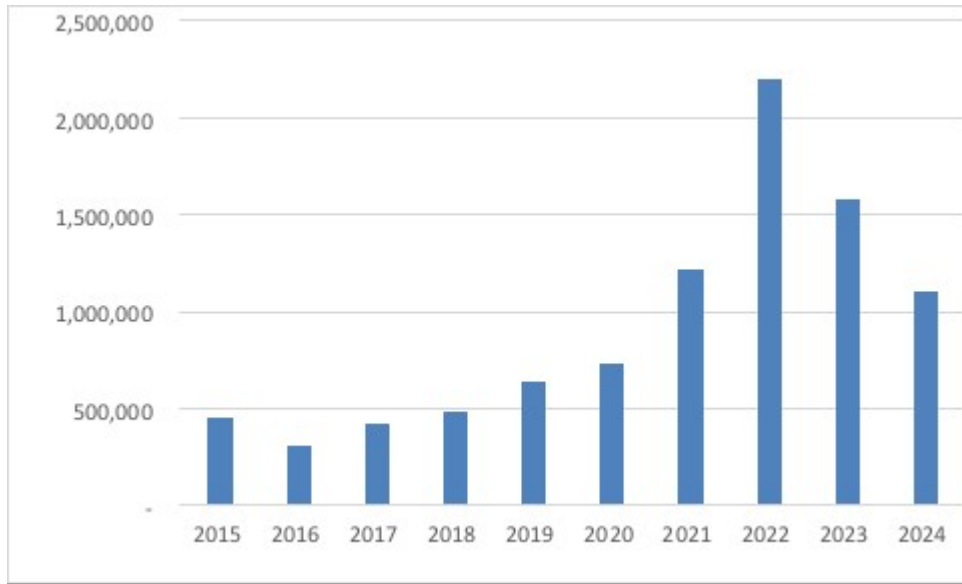
On January 29, 2008, the Florida electorate approved an amendment to the Florida Constitution relative to property taxation. This amendment (referred to as Amendment 1) was placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature at a special session held in October 2007. With respect to homestead property, Amendment 1 increases the current \$25,000 homestead exemption by another \$25,000 (for property values between \$50,000 - \$75,000), except for school district taxes. Since the new \$25,000 homestead exemption does not apply to school district taxes, this effectively amounts to a \$15,000 increase to the existing homestead exemption. Amendment 1 also allows property owners to transfer (make portable) up to \$500,000 of their Save Our Homes benefits to their next homestead when they move. Save Our Homes became effective in 1995 and limits (caps) the annual increase in assessed value for homestead property to three percent (3%) or the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less.

With respect to non-homestead property, Amendment 1 limits (caps) the annual increase in assessed value for non-homestead property (businesses, industrial property, rental property, second homes, etc.) to ten percent (10%), except for school district taxes. The Amendment also provides a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property. Amendment 1 became effective on October 1, 2008, except for the ten percent (10%) assessment cap on non-homestead property which became effective on January 1, 2009.

Additional tax relief bills were introduced at the 2018 legislative session which could further limit the extent to which municipalities can levy taxes. Along with all Florida municipalities, the Town faces the unknown negative financial impact of a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 8, 2018, ballot which was approved, which created an additional \$25,000 exemption for homestead properties for the purposes of non-school (city, county and special district) property taxes. It has been estimated that the new homestead exemption will have a collective negative fiscal impact on all Florida cities, counties and special districts of roughly \$750 million in the first year growing to nearly \$820 million by the fifth year.

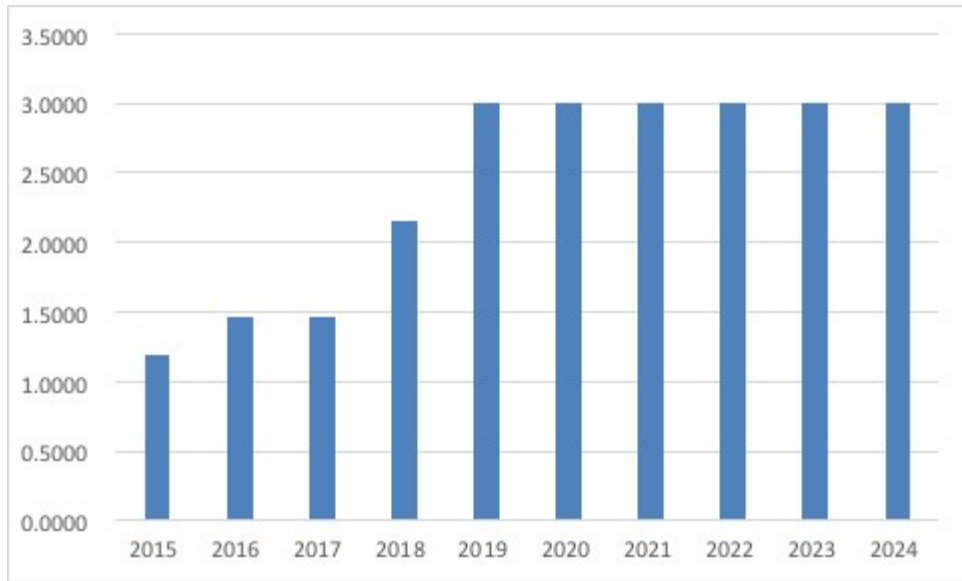
- In setting its fiscal 2023-2024 and 2024-2024 budgets, the Town adopted a millage rate of 3.0000.
- The Town of Loxahatchee Groves enjoyed increases in total assessed property value of over 14.7% for fiscal year 2024.

**General Fund Unassigned Surplus  
For the Fiscal Years ended September 30, 2013-2024**



In 1995, the state of Florida limited all local governments’ ability to increase property assessments of homestead property in any given year to 3 percent or cost of living, whichever is lower. The graph below shows the millage rates since 2012. The Town, just like many cities across the country, faces the challenge of keeping taxes and service charges as low as possible while providing residents with the level of service they have come to expect.

**Town of Loxahatchee Groves Millage  
For the Fiscal Years ended September 30, 2013-2024**



The operating millage rate for tax year 2023, which is collected in fiscal year 2024, is 3.0000 or \$3.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value. The operating millage rate remained the same as the prior fiscal year and resulted property tax revenue of \$1,527,667, an increase of \$236,404, or 18.3% over the prior year due to increased property values. Historically, the rollback rate has always been lower than the existing rate.

The Roads & Drainage Assessment remained unchanged at \$200 per unit. Similarly, the Solid Waste assessment rate remained at \$400 per unit.

### **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves' finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Town Manager, 155 F Road, Loxahatchee Groves, Florida 33470.

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

<u>ASSETS</u>	Governmental Activities	Business- Type Activities	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,128,303	\$ 308,026	\$ 3,436,329
Investments	1,056,415	-	1,056,415
Receivables:			
Planning and zoning	228,810	-	228,810
Franchise and utility taxes	126,607	-	126,607
Due from other governments	352,459	3,600	356,059
Restricted cash	746,865	-	746,865
Capital assets:			
Nondepreciable capital assets	573,337	-	573,337
Depreciable capital assets, net	9,189,136	-	9,189,136
Total assets	<u>15,401,932</u>	<u>311,626</u>	<u>15,713,558</u>
<u>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>			
Deferred outflow of resources relating to pensions	<u>684,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>684,385</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	426,515	67,479	493,994
Due to other governments	51,434	-	51,434
Deposits for planning and zoning	166,583	-	166,583
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Due within one year	119,182	-	119,182
Due in more than one year	1,802,131	-	1,802,131
Total liabilities	<u>2,565,845</u>	<u>67,479</u>	<u>2,633,324</u>
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>			
Deferred inflow of resources relating to pensions	165,089	-	165,089
Local business taxes	<u>88,463</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,463</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>253,552</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>253,552</u>
<u>NET POSITION</u>			
Net investment in capital assets	9,299,656	-	9,299,656
Restricted for:			
Roads and drainage	856,281	-	856,281
Tree Mitigation	746,865	-	746,865
Infrastructure	52,243	-	52,243
Unrestricted	<u>2,311,875</u>	<u>244,147</u>	<u>2,556,022</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 13,266,920</u>	<u>\$ 244,147</u>	<u>\$ 13,511,067</u>

See notes to basic financial statements



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	Major Funds					Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	Roads and Drainage	Transportation	Local Option Sales Tax	Capital Improvements	
<u>ASSETS</u>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 550,126	\$ 952,045	\$ 260,437	\$ -	\$ 1,365,695	\$ 3,128,303
Investments	153,130	-	-	903,285	-	1,056,415
Receivables						
Planning and zoning	228,810	-	-	-	-	228,810
Franchise and utility taxes	126,607	-	-	-	-	126,607
Due from other governments	45,779	8,871	31,200	20,869	245,740	352,459
Restricted cash	746,865	-	-	-	-	746,865
Due from other funds	1,163,548	-	-	-	-	1,163,548
Total assets	<u>3,014,865</u>	<u>960,916</u>	<u>291,637</u>	<u>924,154</u>	<u>1,611,435</u>	<u>6,803,007</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	239,695	104,635	-	-	70,823	415,153
Due to other governments	51,434	-	-	-	-	51,434
Deposits for planning and zoning	166,583	-	-	-	-	166,583
Due to other funds	-	-	291,637	871,911	-	1,163,548
Total liabilities	<u>457,712</u>	<u>104,635</u>	<u>291,637</u>	<u>871,911</u>	<u>70,823</u>	<u>1,796,718</u>
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>						
Local business taxes leived	88,463	-	-	-	-	88,463
Unavailable revenues	-	-	-	-	245,740	245,740
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>88,463</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>245,740</u>	<u>334,203</u>
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>						
Restricted for:						
Roads and drainage	-	856,281	-	-	-	856,281
Infrastructure	-	-	-	52,243	-	52,243
Tree Mitigation	746,865	-	-	-	-	746,865
Assigned for:						
Capital projects	-	-	-	-	1,294,872	1,294,872
Subsequent year's budget	617,173	-	-	-	-	617,173
Unassigned	1,104,652	-	-	-	-	1,104,652
Total fund balances	<u>2,468,690</u>	<u>856,281</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,243</u>	<u>1,294,872</u>	<u>4,672,086</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	<u>\$ 3,014,865</u>	<u>\$ 960,916</u>	<u>\$ 291,637</u>	<u>\$ 924,154</u>	<u>\$ 1,611,435</u>	<u>\$ 6,803,007</u>

See notes to basic financial statements

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Total fund balances - governmental funds (Page 18) \$ 4,672,086

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different as a result of:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as assets in the governmental funds. The statement of net position includes those capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, in the net position of the government as a whole.

Cost of capital assets	\$ 16,800,897	
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(7,038,424)</u>	9,762,473

Liabilities not due and payable from current available resources are not reported as liabilities in the governmental fund statements. All liabilities, both current and long-term, are reported in the government-wide financial statements.

Net pension liability	(1,501,951)	
Lease payable	(391,994)	
Accrued interest	(11,362)	
Compensated absences	<u>(27,368)</u>	(1,932,675)

Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds

Deferred outflow of resources relating to pensions	684,385	
Deferred inflow of resources relating to pensions	<u>(165,089)</u>	519,296

Revenue collected outside of the period of availability is not available to pay for current period expenditures and therefore, is a deferred inflow in the funds.

Revenue collected outside of the period of availability is not available to pay for current period expenditures and therefore, is a deferred inflow in the funds.	\$ 245,740	
		<u>245,740</u>

Net position of governmental activities (Page 16)		<u><u>\$ 13,266,920</u></u>
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**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	Major Funds					Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	Roads and Drainage	Transportation	Local Option Sales Tax	Capital Improvements	
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Property taxes	\$ 1,527,667	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,527,667
Local option sales tax	-	-	-	335,791	-	335,791
Utility service taxes	575,043	-	-	-	-	575,043
Franchise fees	701,794	-	-	-	-	701,794
Intergovernmental revenues	436,740	-	382,994	-	-	819,734
Charges for services	514,075	-	-	-	-	514,075
Licenses and permits	316,888	-	-	-	-	316,888
Special assessments	-	1,517,154	-	-	-	1,517,154
Fines and forfeitures	773,921	-	-	-	-	773,921
Miscellaneous revenues	1,860	-	-	-	63,600	65,460
Interest	37,092	5,376	-	50,452	-	92,920
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>4,885,080</b>	<b>1,522,530</b>	<b>382,994</b>	<b>386,243</b>	<b>63,600</b>	<b>7,240,447</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
<b>Current:</b>						
General government	1,572,114	-	-	-	-	1,572,114
Public safety	1,596,191	-	-	-	-	1,596,191
Physical environment	-	2,155,802	-	-	-	2,155,802
<b>Debt service:</b>						
Principal	3,261	88,484	-	-	-	91,745
Interest	24	15,963	-	-	-	15,987
Capital outlay	10,125	324,546	-	-	1,574,267	1,908,938
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>3,181,715</b>	<b>2,584,795</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,574,267</b>	<b>7,340,777</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	<b>1,703,365</b>	<b>(1,062,265)</b>	<b>382,994</b>	<b>386,243</b>	<b>(1,510,667)</b>	<b>(100,330)</b>
<b>Other financing sources:</b>						
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	-	163,700	-	-	-	163,700
Issuance of debt - leases	-	239,346	-	-	-	239,346
Transfers in	-	263,548	-	-	2,140,990	2,404,538
Transfers out	(1,320,853)	(484,691)	(382,994)	(334,000)	-	(2,522,538)
<b>Total other financing sources</b>	<b>(1,320,853)</b>	<b>181,903</b>	<b>(382,994)</b>	<b>(334,000)</b>	<b>2,140,990</b>	<b>285,046</b>
<b>Net change in fund balances</b>	<b>382,512</b>	<b>(880,362)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,243</b>	<b>630,323</b>	<b>184,716</b>
Fund balance - beginning of year	2,086,178	1,736,643	-	-	664,549	4,487,370
<b>Fund balance - ending</b>	<b>\$ 2,468,690</b>	<b>\$ 856,281</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 52,243</b>	<b>\$ 1,294,872</b>	<b>\$ 4,672,086</b>

See notes to basic financial statements

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND STATEMENT OF**  
**REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE TO THE**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Page 18) \$ 184,716

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement  
of activities are different as a result of:

Governmental funds report capital outlay as an expenditure. However, the cost of  
those capital assets is eliminated in the statement of activities and capitalized  
in the statement of net position.

Expenditures for capital assets	1,908,938	
Less current year depreciation	(1,058,090)	
Amounts reported as capital outlay not included in capital assets (not capitalized)	(6,132)	844,716

Debt issued provides current financial resources to governmental funds, but issuing  
debt increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. Repayment  
of debt principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment  
reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.

Issuance of debt - leases	(239,346)	
Leases repayments	91,745	(147,601)

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting used in the governmental funds,  
revenues are not recognized until funds are measurable and available to finance  
current expenditures. In the statement of activities, however, which is presented  
on the accrual basis, revenues are reported when earned.

	245,740	245,740
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Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of  
financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the  
governmental funds.

Change in net pension liability and related deferred amounts	(156,687)	
Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	(38,044)	
Deferred inflow of resources related to pensions	69,399	
Accrued interest expense	(11,362)	
Current change in compensated absences	(2,004)	(138,698)

Change in net position of governmental activities (Page 17) \$ 988,873

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**PROPRIETARY FUND - SOLID WASTE**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	308,026
Due from other governments		3,600
Total assets		311,626
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable		67,479
Total current liabilities		67,479
<u>NET POSITION</u>		
Unrestricted		244,147
Total net position	\$	244,147

See notes to basic financial statements

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES**  
**AND CHANGE IN NET POSITION**  
**PROPRIETARY FUND - SOLID WASTE**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Operating revenues:	
Charges for services	\$ 586,929
Total operating revenues	<u>586,929</u>
Operating expenses:	
Solid waste contractor	680,186
Other expenses	<u>34,125</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>714,311</u>
Operating loss	<u>(127,382)</u>
Loss before transfers	(127,382)
Transfers in	<u>118,000</u>
Change in net position	<u>(9,382)</u>
Net position, beginning of year	<u>253,529</u>
Net position, ending	<u><u>\$ 244,147</u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**PROPRIETARY FUND**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u>Solid Waste Fund</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 586,929
Payments to suppliers	(702,353)
Operating grants	(691)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(116,115)</u>
Cash flows (used) by noncapital financing activities:	
Transfers from other funds	<u>118,000</u>
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>118,000</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,885
Cash and cash equivalents, October 1	<u>306,141</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, September 30	<u>\$ 308,026</u>
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to cash and cash equivalents used in operating activities:	
Operating income (loss)	<u>\$ (127,382)</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash used in operating activities:	
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
(Increase) decrease in:	
Due from other governments	(691)
Increase (decrease) in:	
Accounts payable	<u>11,958</u>
Total adjustments	<u>11,267</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u><u>\$ (116,115)</u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida (the “Town”) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The Town’s significant accounting policies are described below.

Reporting Entity

The Town was incorporated on November 1, 2006, as a municipal corporation, in accordance with Chapter 2006-328 under the Laws of the State of Florida, and was established to conduct a government, perform municipal functions, and provide services to its citizens, as provided by the Constitution of the State of Florida. The Town operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Town Council is responsible for legislative and fiscal control of the Town. A Town Manager is appointed by the Town Council and is responsible for the administration of all Town affairs placed in the manager’s charge by charter or action of the Town Council.

As required by generally accepted accounting principles, these financial statements include the Town (the primary government) and its component units. Component units are legally separate entities for which the Town is financially accountable. The Town is financially accountable if:

1. it appoints a voting majority of the organization’s governing board and (1) it is able to impose its will on the organization, or (2) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the Town,

or

2. the organization is fiscally dependent on the Town and (1) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to the Town or (2) impose specific financial burdens on the Town.

Organizations for which the Town is not financially accountable are also included when doing so is necessary in order to prevent the Town’s financial statements from being misleading.

Based upon application of the above criteria, the Town of Loxahatchee Groves has determined that the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District of Palm Beach County, Florida (District) is the only legally separate entities to consider as a potential component unit.

Although the District is legally separate from the Town, effective June 26, 2018, the District became a dependent district of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida with the Town Council acting as the Board of Supervisors, therefore the District meets the first test of financial accountability. The District does not issue separate financial statements and is reported as a blended component unit as the Roads and Drainage Fund, a special revenue fund type.

Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

The basic financial statements include both government-wide and fund financial statements. The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of inter-fund activity has been removed from these statements, except for inter-fund services provided and used. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely on fees and charges for support.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Taxes and other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Town’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and proprietary funds. Major individual governmental funds and the major individual enterprise fund are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

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

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. The Town does not accrue property tax revenues since the collection of these taxes coincides with the fiscal year in which levied, and since the Town consistently has no material uncollected property taxes at year end. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental Funds

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough afterwards to pay liabilities of the current period.

The Town considers revenues collected within 60 days of the year end to be available to pay liabilities of the current period.

Expenditures are generally recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures relating to compensated absences and claims and judgments are recorded only when payment is due. Property taxes, franchise taxes, licenses, interest revenue, intergovernmental revenues, and charges for services associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the Town.

The Town reports the following major governmental funds:

**General Fund** -This fund is the Town's primary operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**Transportation Fund** – This fund accounts for the revenues and expenditures related to the Town's share of the State's 5th and 6th cent gas tax funds.

**Local Option Sales Tax Fund** – This fund accounts for the revenues and expenditures related to the Town's share of the 1 percent voter-approved local option sales tax levied county-wide.

**Road and Drainage Fund** – This fund accounts for the activities of the Town's dependent water control district.

**Capital Improvement Fund** – This fund accounts for the activity of long-lived capital improvements within the Town.

Proprietary Fund

The Town reports one major proprietary fund, the Solid Waste Fund, to account for the Town's residential solid waste operations, which are financed primarily by user charges.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the Town's Solid Waste Fund are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses for the Enterprise Fund include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include amounts on deposit in demand accounts, money market accounts and certificate of deposits.

Statement of Cash Flows

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Town considers all short-term investments that are highly liquid to be cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are readily convertible to a known amount of cash, and at the day of purchase, have a maturity date no longer than three months.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

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

Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the government-wide and fund financial statements. Prepaid items in governmental funds are accounted for using the consumption method.

Interfund Transactions

Activity between funds that is representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either “due to” or “due from other funds”. Any residual balance outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as internal balances.

Transfers and interfund balances totally within governmental activities and those that are totally within business-type activities are eliminated and not presented in the government-wide financial statements. Transfers and balances between governmental and business-type activities are presented in the government-wide financial statements.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets, excluding infrastructure assets, are defined by the Town as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets, donated works of art and similar items, and capital assets received in a service concession arrangement are recorded at acquisition value.

Depreciation has been provided over the useful lives using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Equipment	4 to 10 years
Buildings	15 to 40 years
Infrastructure	5 to 50 years

Compensated Absences

It is the Town’s policy to permit employees to accumulate, within certain limits, earned but unused paid time off benefits, which will be paid to employees upon separation from the Towns’ service. The Town uses the vesting method to accrue paid time off for employees who are eligible to receive payments upon separation, as well as those expected to become eligible in the future. A liability for accrued compensated absences of the governmental activities is not reported in the balance sheet of the governmental funds and, accordingly, represents a reconciling item between the fund and government-wide presentations.

Compensated absences are accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental fund only if they have matured.

Deferred Outflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and thus, will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Town reports deferred outflows for pension items in connection with its participation in the Florida Retirement System in the government-wide statement of net position. These deferred pension charges are either (a) recognized in the subsequent period as a reduction of the net pension liability (which includes pension contributions made after the measurement date) or (b) amortized in a systematic and rational method as pension expense in future periods.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

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

*Deferred Inflows of Resources*

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. There are three types of items that qualify for reporting in this category:

1. Pension items in connection with the Town's participation in the Florida Retirement System are reported in the government-wide statement of net position. These deferred pension charges are amortized in a systematic and rational method as pension expense in future periods.
2. Business tax receipts that are received by the Town prior to the period for which the taxes are levied are reported as deferred inflows on both the government-wide statement of net position and on the governmental funds balance sheet.
3. Special assessments that are not received within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year do not meet the availability criterion of the modified accrual basis of accounting, and therefore are reported as deferred inflows only on the governmental funds balance sheet.

*Assessments*

Maintenance assessments are non-ad valorem assessments on all platted lots within the District. Assessments are levied each November 1 on property as of the previous January 1 to pay for the operations and maintenance of the District. The fiscal year for which annual assessments are levied begins on October 1 with discounts available for payments through February 28 and become delinquent on April 1. Assessments and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period.

Debt assessments are non-ad valorem assessments on certain benefited property within the District. Debt assessments were levied over ten years to pay for the debt service related to the Series 2011 Note which was issued to pay for four roadway pavement projects and a roadway bridge culvert crossing. Debt assessments receivable recorded in the Roads and Drainage Fund represent the balance of outstanding assessments levied by the Town to repay the outstanding debt. Debt assessments receivable are collected in annual installments in amounts sufficient to meet the annual debt service requirements in the same manner as maintenance assessments. Only the portion of assessments receivable due within the current fiscal period is considered to be susceptible to accrual as revenue of the current period.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets, deferred outflows and inflows, liabilities, disclosure of contingent liabilities, revenues, and expenditures/expenses reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. These estimates include assessing the collectability of receivables and the useful lives of capital assets. Although those estimates are based on management's knowledge of current events and actions it may undertake in the future, they may ultimately differ from actual results.

*Net Position*

Net position is the residual of all other elements presented in a statement of financial position. Net position is displayed in three categories: 1) net investment in capital assets, 2) restricted, 3) unrestricted. Net position invested in capital assets consists of capital assets reduced by accumulated depreciation. Net position is reported as restricted when there are legal limitations imposed on their use by Town legislation or external restrictions by other governments, creditors, or grantors. Unrestricted net position consists of all net position that does not meet the definition of either of the other two components.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

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

*Fund Balance*

There are five possible classifications of fund balance:

- Nonspendable fund balance represents amounts that are not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted fund balance represents amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes stipulated by external providers (e.g. creditors, grantors, contributor, or laws or regulations of other governments) or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- Committed fund balance represents amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by Town Council by the adoption of an ordinance, the Town's highest level of decision making authority. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Town removes or changes the specified use by the adoption of an ordinance.
- Assigned fund balance includes spendable fund balance amounts that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are considered neither restricted nor committed. In accordance with the Town's fund balance policy, the Town Council or Town Manager may make assignments.
- Unassigned fund balance is the residual fund balance classification for the general fund. It is also used to report negative fund balances in other governmental funds.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Town's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed. The Town will first use committed fund balance, then assigned fund balance, and then unassigned fund balance when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

*Unassigned Fund Balance/Unrestricted Net Position*

Maintaining an adequate fund balance or net position is essential to the Town's financial health. The unassigned fund balance and unrestricted net position will be considered adequate between a minimum of 25% and a maximum of 30% of the current year's operating appropriations, including transfers, for the General Fund; and minimum of 0% and a maximum of 25% of the current year's operating appropriations, including transfers, will be considered adequate unrestricted net position for the Enterprise Funds.

In the event that sufficient unassigned fund balance/unrestricted net position targets are not met, a proposed revenue enhancement and/or service level reduction plan to achieve the target will be submitted to the Council for the subsequent year budget consideration. The replenishment to the expected minimum level shall be completed within five years.

**NOTE 2 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

*Budgetary Data*

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

1. Prior to September 1, the Town Manager submits to the Town Council a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following October 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
2. Public hearings are conducted to obtain taxpayer comments.
3. Prior to October 1, the budget is legally enacted through passage of two resolutions – one establishing a milage rate and another adopting the final budget.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CONTINUED)**

Budgetary Data (Continued)

4. The Town prepares and adopts budgets for the General Fund, Roads and Drainage Fund, Local Option Sales Tax Fund, and Transportation Fund. No differences exist between the budgetary and GAAP basis of accounting. Budgeted amounts are as originally adopted, or as amended by the Town Council. If, at any time during the fiscal year, it appears probable to the Town Manager that the revenues available will be insufficient to meet the amount appropriated, the Town Manager shall report to the Council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken, and recommendations as to any other steps that should be taken. The Council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent or minimize any deficit and, for that purpose, the council may by resolution reduce one or more appropriations accordingly. The legal level of control (level of which expenditures may not exceed the budget) is at the fund level for the General Fund, Roads and Drainage Fund, Local Option Sales Tax Fund, and Transportation Fund.
5. Appropriations along with encumbrances lapse on September 30.
6. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, there were no supplemental appropriations.

At September 30, 2024, there were \$731,632 of encumbrances in the Capital Improvement Program Fund.

Property Taxes

Under Florida law, the assessment of all properties and the collection of all county, municipal, and school board property taxes are consolidated in the offices of the County Property Appraiser and County Tax Collector. The laws of the State regulating tax assessment are also designed to assure a consistent property valuation method statewide.

The tax levy of the Town is established by the Town Council prior to October 1 of each year, and the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser incorporates the Town's millages into the total tax levy, which includes Palm Beach County and Palm Beach County School Board tax requirements. State statutes permit municipalities to levy property taxes at a rate of up to 10 mills (\$10 per \$1,000 of assessed taxable valuation). The tax rate for the Palm Beach County Fire/Rescue Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) is included in the 10 mills. On September 30, 2024, the MSTU millage rate was 3.4581 mills and the millage rate assessed by the Town was 3.0 for a total of 6.4581 mills (\$6.4581 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed valuation).

All property is reassessed according to its fair market value January 1 of each year, which is also the lien date. In November 1992, a Florida constitutional amendment was approved by the voters which provides for limiting the increases in homestead property valuations for Ad Valorem tax purposes to a maximum of 3% annually and also provides for reassessment of market values upon changes in ownership. Each assessment roll is submitted to the Executive Director of the State Department of Revenue for review to determine if the rolls meet all the appropriate requirements of state statutes.

All taxes are due and payable on November 1 of each year or as soon thereafter as the assessment roll is certified and delivered to the Tax Collector. Taxes may be paid less a discount beginning November 1. Discounts are allowed for early payment at the rate of 4% in the month of November, 3% in the month of December, 2% in the month of January and 1% in the month of February.

The taxes paid in March are without discount. All unpaid taxes become delinquent on April 1, following the year in which they are assessed. On or prior, to June 1 following the tax year, certificates are sold for all delinquent taxes on real property. After the sale, tax certificates bear interest of 18% per year or any lower rate bid by the buyer. Application for a tax deed on any unredeemed tax certificates may be made by the certificate holder after a period of two years. Delinquent taxes on personal property bear interest of 18% per year until the tax is satisfied either by seizure and sale of the property or by the five year statute of limitations.

**NOTE 3 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

Deposits

As of September 30, 2024, the carrying amounts of the Town's deposits and bank balances were \$4,171,097. All cash deposits are covered by FDIC insurance or the multiple financial institution collateral pool administered by the State of Florida. The collateral pool was created pursuant to the Florida Security for Deposits Act, Chapter 280, Florida Statutes. The Town also had \$300 of petty cash.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

Deposits (continued)

The collateral pool consists of assets pledged to the State Treasurer by financial institutions that comply with the requirements of Florida Statutes and have been thereby designated as "qualified public depositories". Therefore, the Town's entire bank balance \$4,171,097 is insured either by Federal depository insurance or is collateralized with securities pursuant to the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act. The Town's deposits at year end are considered insured for custodial credit risk purposes.

Investments

The Town adopted an investment policy on August 5, 2008, which is consistent with the requirements of State Statute 218.415. In accordance with Section 218.415 of the Florida Statutes, the Town is authorized to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, its agencies and instrumentalities and in the Local Government Surplus Trust Funds administered by the State Board of Administration (SBA). The policy was subsequently amended to include the Florida Municipal Investment Trust administered by the Florida League of Cities.

The Florida Municipal Investment Trust (FMIvT) was created under the laws of the State of Florida to provide eligible units of local government with an investment vehicle to pool their surplus funds and to reinvest such funds in one or more investment portfolios under the direction and daily supervision of an investment advisor. The Florida League of Cities serves as the administrator, investment manager and secretary-treasurer of the Trust.

The FMIvT is a Local Government Investment Pool and is considered an external investment pool for GASB reporting purposes. The Town reports its investment in the FMIvT at fair value in accordance with the GASB 72 fair value hierarchy.

GASB 72 requires governments to disclose the fair value hierarchy for each type of asset or liability measured at fair value in the notes to the financial statements. The standard also requires governments to disclose a description of the valuation techniques used in the fair value measurement and any significant changes in valuation techniques. GASB 72 establishes a three tier fair value hierarchy. The hierarchy is based on valuation inputs used to measure the fair value as follows:

Level 1: Inputs are directly observable, quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Inputs are other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These inputs are derived from or corroborated by observable market data through correlation or by other means.

Level 3: Inputs are unobservable inputs used only when relevant Level 1 and Level 2 inputs are unavailable.

The level in which an asset is assigned is not indicative of its quality but an indication of the source of valuation inputs.

As of September 30, 2024, the Town had \$1,056,415 invested in the FMIvT 0-2 Year High Quality Bond Fund, which was categorized as Level 2 and was valued using a matrix pricing technique. Matrix pricing values securities based on the securities relationship to benchmark quoted prices. The weighted average maturity was 0.9 years and the fund was rated AAAf/S1 by Fitch.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Town's investment policy states that interest rate risk will be minimized by:

1. Structuring the investment portfolio so that the securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity.
2. Investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS**

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

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets, not being depreciated nor amortized:				
Land	\$ 573,337	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 573,337
Construction in progress	1,045,942	-	(1,045,942)	-
Total capital assets, not being depreciated nor amortized	1,619,279	-	(1,045,942)	573,337
Capital assets, being depreciated and amortized:				
Building	563,256	-	-	563,256
Equipment	1,504,782	89,195	-	1,593,977
Equipment - leases	406,197	239,346	-	645,543
Infrastructure	10,804,577	2,620,207	-	13,424,784
Total capital assets, being depreciated and amortized	13,278,812	2,948,748	-	16,227,560
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization for:				
Building	(175,366)	(14,581)	-	(189,947)
Equipment	(1,092,855)	(93,744)	-	(1,186,599)
Equipment - leases	(131,445)	(137,095)	-	(268,540)
Infrastructure	(4,580,668)	(812,670)	-	(5,393,338)
Total accumulated depreciation and amortization	(5,980,334)	(1,058,090)	-	(7,038,424)
Total capital assets, being depreciated and amortized, net	7,298,478	1,890,658	-	9,189,136
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 8,917,757</u>	<u>\$ 1,890,658</u>	<u>\$ (1,045,942)</u>	<u>\$ 9,762,473</u>

Depreciation expense of \$14,230 was charged to the general government function and \$1,043,860 was charged to the physical environment functions of the Town.

**NOTE 5 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

The following is a summary of changes in the long-term liabilities during the fiscal year.

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Governmental activities:					
Compensated absences	\$ 25,364	\$ 2,004	\$ -	\$ 27,368	\$ 6,842
Net pension liability	1,345,264	156,687	-	1,501,951	-
Lease liability	244,393	239,346	(91,745)	391,994	112,340
	<u>\$ 1,615,021</u>	<u>\$ 398,037</u>	<u>\$ (91,745)</u>	<u>\$ 1,921,313</u>	<u>\$ 119,182</u>

Compensated absences and net pension liabilities are expected to be paid out of the General and Roads and Drainage funds.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 6 – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)**

At September 30, 2024, management has determined the amount of OPEB liabilities of the Town were not significant, therefore no liability or expense was recorded.

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

General Information

All full-time employees participate in the Florida Retirement System (FRS). The FRS was created in 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 (DROP) 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 Florida Retirement System 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.

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 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.

The State of Florida annually issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the FRS. The latest available report may be obtained by writing to the State of Florida Division of Retirement, Department of Management Services, P.O. Box 9000, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-9000 or calling toll free at 877-377-1737. The report is also available at the Florida Department of Management Services web site [www.dms.myflorida.com](http://www.dms.myflorida.com).

Significant Accounting Policies

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRSP) and the Florida Retirement System Health Insurance Subsidy Program and additions to/deduction from the FRSP and HIS fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by FRSP and HIS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Plan Description

The FRS Pension 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
- Senior Management Service Class

Employees enrolled in FRS prior to July 1, 2011, vest at six years of creditable service and employees enrolled in FRS on or after July 1, 2011, vest at eight 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.

Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under FRS to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS 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.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)**

***Pension Plan***

**Benefits Provided**

Benefits under FRS 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 highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the eight 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.

The following table shows the percentage value for each year of service credit earned:

<u>Class, Initial Enrollment, and Retirement Age / Years of Service</u>	<u>% Value</u>
<b>Regular Class members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011</b>	
Retirement up to age 62 or up to 30 years of service	1.60
Retirement up to age 63 or with 31 years of service	1.63
Retirement up to age 64 or with 32 years of service	1.65
Retirement up to age 65 or with 33 or more years of service	1.68
<b>Regular Class members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011</b>	
Retirement up to age 65 or up to 33 years of service	1.60
Retirement up to age 66 or with 34 years of service	1.63
Retirement up to age 67 or with 35 years of service	1.65
Retirement up to age 68 or with 36 or more years of service	1.68
<b>Special Risk Class</b>	
Service from December 1,1970 through September 30,1974	2.00
Service on or after October 1,1974	3.00
<b>Senior Management Service Class</b>	2.00

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 percent 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 percent determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3 percent. Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011 will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

**Contributions**

Effective July 1, 2011, all enrolled members of the FRS, other than DROP participants, are required to contribute three percent of their salary to the FRS. In addition to member contributions, governmental employers are required to make contributions to the FRS based on state-wide contribution rates established by the Florida Legislature. These rates are updated as of July 1 of each year.

The employer contribution rates by job class For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 were as follows:

Class	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024
Regular class	13.57%	13.63%
Senior management service class	34.52%	34.52%
Special risk class	32.67%	32.79%
DROP	21.13%	21.13%

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)**

***Pension Plan (Continued)***

*Contributions (continued)*

Except for the DROP, the employer contribution rates include a 2.00% HIS Plan subsidy. The rates also include 0.06% for administrative costs of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the Town made contributions of \$155,527 to the Pension Plan and the Town's employees made contributions of \$25,298, for total contributions of \$180,825.

*Pension Liabilities and Pension Expense*

At September 30, 2024, the Town reported a liability of \$1,018,064 for its proportionate share of the Pension Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2024. The Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the Town's 2023-2024 plan year contributions relative to the 2023-2024 plan year contributions of all participating members. At June 30, 2024, the Town's proportionate share was 0.002631695 percent, which was an increase of 0.000170331 percent from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the Town recognized pension expense of \$235,085 related to FRS.

*Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions*

The Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 102,852	\$ -
Change of assumptions	139,535	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on FRS pension plan investments	-	67,666
Changes in proportion and differences between Authority FRS contributions and proportionate share of contributions	182,520	13,741
Authority FRS contributions subsequent to measurement date	30,500	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 455,407</b>	<b>\$ 81,407</b>

The deferred outflows of resources totaling \$30,500 resulting from Town contributions to FRS subsequent to the measurement date but before the end of the Town's reporting period will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year End	Deferred Outflows/(Inflows), net
2025	\$ 68,195
2026	206,113
2027	42,243
2028	14,650
2029	12,299
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 343,500</b>

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)**

***Pension Plan (Continued)***

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2024 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions:

Valuation date	July 1, 2024
Measurement date	June 30, 2024
Inflation	2.40%
Salary Increases	3.50%, average, including inflation
Investment rate of return	6.70%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Mortality	PUB-2010 base table varies by member category and sex; projected generationally with Scale MP-2018
Actuarial cost method	Individual Entry Age

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2024, valuation were based on the certain results of an actuarial experience study of the FRS for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019.

The long-term expected rate of return assumption of 6.70% consists of two building block components: 1) a real return of 4.20%; and 2) a long-term average annual inflation assumption of 2.40% as adopted in October 2024 by the FRS Actuarial Assumption Conference.

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic and geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Target Allocation <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Annual Arithmetic Return</b>	<b>Compound Annual (Geometric) Return</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Cash	1.0%	3.3%	3.3%	1.1%
Fixed income	29.0%	5.7%	5.6%	3.9%
Global equity	45.0%	8.6%	7.0%	18.2%
Real estate	12.0%	8.1%	6.8%	16.6%
Private equity	11.0%	12.4%	8.8%	28.4%
Strategic investments	2.0%	6.6%	6.2%	8.7%
	<u>100%</u>			
Assumed inflation-Mean			2.4%	1.5%

Note: (1) As outlined in the Plan's investment policy

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.70%. The Pension Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the discount rate for calculation the total pension liability is equal to the long-term expected rate of return.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)**

***Pension Plan (Continued)***

*Sensitivity of the Town’s Proportionate Share of the Net Position Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate*

The following represents the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.70%, as well as what the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (5.70%) or one percentage point higher (7.70%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 5.70%	Current Discount Rate 6.70%	1% Increase 7.70%
Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,790,738	\$ 1,018,064	\$ 370,785

*Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position*

Detailed information regarding the Pension Plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued FRS Pension Plan and Other State-Administered Systems Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

*Payables to the Pension Plan*

At September 30, 2024, the Town did not have a payable for outstanding contributions to the Pension Plan for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

*Plan Description*

The 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.

***Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program***

*Benefits Provided*

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, 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. To be eligible to receive these benefits, a retiree under a State-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

*Contributions*

The HIS Plan is funded by required contributions from FRS participating employers as set by the Florida Legislature. Employer contributions are a percentage of gross compensation for all active FRS members. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the HIS contribution was 2.00%. The Town contributed 100% of its statutorily required contributions for the current and preceding three years. HIS Plan contributions are deposited in a separate trust fund from which payments are authorized. HIS Plan benefits are not guaranteed and are subject to annual legislative appropriation. In the event legislative appropriation or available funds fail to provide full subsidy benefits to all participants, benefits may be reduced or cancelled.

The Town’s contributions to the HIS Plan totaled \$27,734 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)**

***Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program (Continued)***

*Pension Liabilities and Pension Expense*

At September 30, 2024, the Town reported a liability of \$483,887 for its proportionate share of the HIS Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2024.

The Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the Town's 2023-2024 plan year contributions relative to the 2023-2024 plan year contributions of all participating members. At June 30, 2024, the Town's proportionate share was 0.003225705 percent, which was an increase of 0.000930653 percent from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2024.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the Town recognized pension expense of \$23,637.

*Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions*

In addition, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred in flows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 4,672	\$ 929
Change of assumptions	8,564	57,286
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on FRS pension plan investments	-	175
Changes in proportion and differences between Authority FRS contributions and proportionate share of contributions	209,712	25,292
Authority FRS contributions subsequent to measurement date	6,030	-
	\$ 228,978	\$ 83,682

The deferred outflows of resources totaling \$6,030 resulting from Town contributions to HIS subsequent to the measurement date but before the end of the Town's reporting period will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year End	Deferred Outflows/(Inflows), net
2025	\$ 35,691
2026	36,465
2027	21,460
2028	19,570
2029	20,109
Thereafter	5,971
Total	\$ 139,266

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)**

***Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program (Continued)***

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions:

Valuation date	July 1, 2024
Measurement date	June 30, 2024
Inflation	2.40%
Salary Increases	3.50%, average, including inflation
Municipal bond rate	3.93%
Investment rate of return	N/A
Mortality	Generational PUB-2010 base table varies by member category and sex; projected generationally with Scale MP-2018
Actuarial cost method	Individual Entry Age

For the July 1, 2024 valuation date the municipal bond rate changed from 3.65% to 3.93%.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2024, valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 3.93%, which increased from the discount rate of 3.65% as of June 30, 2023. In general, the discount rate for calculating the total pension liability is equal to the single rate equivalent to discounting at the long-term expected rate of return for benefit payments prior to the projected depletion date.

Because the HIS benefit is essentially funded on a pay-as-you-go basis, the depletion date is considered to be immediate, and the single equivalent discount rate is equal to the municipal bond rate selected by the HIS Plan sponsor. The Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index was adopted as the applicable municipal bond index.

Sensitivity of the Town's Proportionate Share of the Net Position Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following represents the Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 3.93%, as well as what the Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (2.93%) or one percentage point higher (4.93%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 2.93%	Current Discount Rate 3.93%	1% Increase 4.93%
Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 550,843	\$ 483,887	\$ 428,303

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information regarding the HIS Plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued FRS Pension Plan and Other State-Administered Systems Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Payables to the Pension Plan

At September 30, 2024, the Town did not have a payable for outstanding contributions to the HIS Plan for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)**

***Summary Data***

The following table provides a summary of significant information related to the Florida Retirement System defined benefit plans for the year ended September 30, 2024.

Plan	NET PENSION LIABILITY	DEFERRED OUTFLOW OF RESOURCES	DEFERRED INFLOW OF RESOURCES	PENSION EXPENSE
Florida Retirement System (FRS)	\$ 1,018,064	\$ 455,407	\$ (81,407)	\$ 235,085
Florida Retirement System (HIS)	483,887	228,978	(83,682)	23,637
Totals	<u>\$ 1,501,951</u>	<u>\$ 684,385</u>	<u>\$ (165,089)</u>	<u>\$ 258,722</u>

***Investment Plan***

*Plan Description*

The Florida Retirement System Investment Plan is a defined contribution retirement plan qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Florida Legislature enacted the plan during the 2000 legislative session, and amendments to the plan can only be made by an act of the Florida Legislature. The Investment Plan is administered by the State Board of Administration of Florida. The Investment Plan is reported in the SBA’s annual financial statements and in the State of Florida Annual Comprehensive 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. Town 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.

*Funding Policy*

The Investment Plan is funded with the same employer and employee contribution rates that are based on salary and membership class (Regular Class, Elected Officers, etc.), as the defined benefit Pension 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 the Investment Plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06 percent of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

Participating employers are required to make contributions based upon statewide contributions rates. The contribution rates by job class for the Town’s employees for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, are as follows:

Class	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024
Regular class	13.57%	13.63%
Senior management service class	34.52%	34.52%

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 – FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)**

***Investment Plan (Continued)***

For all membership classes, employees are immediately vested in their own contributions and are vested after one year of service for employer contributions and investment earnings. If an accumulated benefit obligation for service credit originally earned under the Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for 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 five-year period, the employee will regain control over their account. If the employee does not return within the five-year period, the employee will forfeit the accumulated account balance. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, 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 Town.

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 Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the Pension Plan or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

The Town's Investment Plan pension expense totaled \$81,198 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

**NOTE 8 – INTERFUND ACTIVITY**

***Receivables and Payables***

The composition of interfund balances as of September 30, 2024 is as follows:

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount
General	Transportation	\$ 291,637
General	Local Option Sales Tax	871,911
	Total	\$ 1,163,548

The interfund balances resulted from the time lag between the dates that (1) interfund goods and services are provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, (2) transactions are recorded in the accounting system, and (3) payments between funds are made. All of the above amounts are expected to be repaid shortly after year-end from available current assets and next year funding.

***Transfers***

Interfund transfers during the year ended September 30, 2024, are as follows:

Transfers Out	Transfers In	Amount	Purpose
General	Capital Improvements	\$ 1,202,853	To provide capital funds
General	Solid Waste	118,000	To provide operational funds
Transportation	Roads and Drainage	263,548	To provide operational funds
Transportation	Capital Improvements	119,446	To provide capital funds
Roads and Drainage	Capital Improvements	484,691	To provide capital funds
Local Option Sales Tax	Capital Improvements	334,000	To provide capital funds
		\$ 2,522,538	

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 9 – LEASES**

In July 10, 2021, the Town entered into a three (3) year lease as lessee for a utility tractor. A lease liability was recorded as of July 10, 2021 in the amount of \$157,812. The Town is required to make annual fixed payments of \$55,426. The lease has a fixed interest rate of 3.54%.

In January 1, 2023, the Town entered into a three (3) year lease as lessee for a motor grader. A lease liability was recorded as of January 1, 2023 in the amount of \$236,620. The Town is required to make annual fixed payments of \$49,021. The lease has an imputed interest rate of 7.50%.

In June 18, 2019, the Town entered into a five (5) year lease as lessee for a copier. A lease liability was recorded as of October 1, 2021 in the amount of \$11,765. The Town is required to make monthly fixed payments of \$365. The lease has an imputed interest rate of 1.77%.

In January 10, 2024, the Town entered into a three (3) year lease as lessee for a utility vehicle. An initial lease liability was recorded in the amount of \$239,346. The Town is required to make monthly fixed payments of \$90,476. The lease has an imputed interest rate of 6.56%.

The following schedule details minimum lease payments to maturity for the Town’s leases payable at September 30, 2024:

Year Ending September 30,	Principal	Interest	Total Debt Service
2025	\$ 112,340	\$ 27,158	\$ 139,498
2026	194,752	19,433	214,185
2027	84,902	5,575	90,477
	\$ 391,994	\$ 52,166	\$ 444,160

**NOTE 10 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The Town has joined with other municipalities in the State participating in the Florida League of Cities Municipal Self Insurance Program, (the Program) a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program. The inter-local agreement with the Florida League of Cities Municipal Self Insurance Program provides that the Program will be self-sustaining through member premiums and will reinsure through commercial companies.

Florida Statutes limit the Town’s maximum loss for most liability claims to \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per occurrence under the Doctrine of Sovereign Immunity. However, under certain circumstances, a plaintiff can seek to recover damages in excess of statutory limits by introducing a claims bill to the Florida Legislature. The limits addressed in Florida Statutes do not apply to claims filed in Federal courts. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage in the prior year. No settlements exceeded insurance coverage for the past three years.

The Town is a defendant in various lawsuits arising in the ordinary course of normal operations. Although the ultimate outcome of these lawsuits cannot be determined at the present time, it is the opinion of legal counsel that the likelihood of unfavorable outcome and the amounts of potential losses cannot be reasonably determined for all claims at this time.

**NOTE 11 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

Agreement with Palm Beach County for Law Enforcement Services

On June 6, 2017, the Town executed a new agreement with Palm Beach County for law enforcement services, for an annual amount of \$610,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. Absent a notice of termination, the agreement renews annually subject to the costing proposal by the Sheriff. Effective October 1, 2018, the first amendment to the contract was for an annual amount of \$622,200 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. The second amendment was approved September 27, 2019 for an additional twelve months at the same amount. The third amendment was approved September 8, 2020 for an additional twelve months at the same amount. The fourth amendment was approved August 8, 2021 for an additional twelve months at the same amount.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**NOTE 11– COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (CONTINUED)**

*Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services*

The Town has opted into the County's Fire-Rescue Municipal Services Taxing Unit ("MSTU") for the provision of fire rescue, fire protection, and related services from the County. The tax for the MSTU is included in the maximum 10 mills the Town is legally allowed to assess. On September 30, 2024, the MSTU millage rate was 3.4581 mills.

*Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Franchise Agreement*

In September 2019, the contract for waste and recycling collection services was awarded to Coastal Waste & Recycling of Palm Beach County, LLC effective October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2026. There are two renewal options in this agreement each for an additional two-year period. The contract also grants the contractor the exclusive right to provide service directly to commercial operations. The contract provides for the ability to adjust rates; accordingly, commercial rates were increased to market values based on local rates for commercial solid waste services in neighboring municipalities effective October 1, 2022 resulting in a corresponding decrease in residential rates to \$400 per unit effective January 1, 2023.

*Lines of Credit*

On December 10, 2020, the Town entered into a \$500,000 Emergency Revolving Line of Credit with Bank United, at a variable interest rate equal to Prime Rate, but not less than 3.25% adjusted on the 1st day of each month. The Emergency Revolving Line of Credit is to provide emergency funds until such time as FEMA or State proceeds are received or is to be repaid by budgeted non-ad valorem revenues. The Emergency Revolving Line of Credit is valid for twelve months unless renewed. There have been no draws on the line of credit.

On June 7, 2022, the line was renewed for an additional thirty-six months at an interest rate of the Bank United Prime Rate.

*Approved Bonds*

On March 15, 2017, a referendum to use gas tax funds and if necessary, infrastructure sales tax funds, in support of issuing bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 for new road construction was approved. On June 6, 2017, the Town Council approved Resolution No. 2017-31 authorizing the issuance of Roadway Improvement Revenue Bonds not exceeding \$6,000,000 and pledging the Town's Gas Tax Revenues and Sales Surtax Revenues; however, no Bonds have been issued as of April 30, 2025.

On March 12, 2019, a referendum authorizing the issuance of Bonds not to exceed \$4,000,000 to finance the fifty percent owner contribution portion of the costs of roadway improvements to be repaid by special assessments from the affected property owners, known as the 50% bonds; however, no Bonds have been issued as of April 30, 2025.

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**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN**  
**FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive/(Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 1,502,208	\$ 1,502,208	\$ 1,527,667	\$ 25,459
Utility service taxes	496,000	496,000	575,043	79,043
Franchise fees	636,800	636,800	701,794	64,994
Intergovernmental revenues	422,000	422,000	436,740	14,740
Charges for services	391,500	391,500	514,075	122,575
Licenses and permits	260,000	260,000	316,888	56,888
Fines and forfeitures	10,000	10,000	773,921	763,921
Miscellaneous revenues	1,000	1,000	1,860	860
Interest	5,000	5,000	37,092	32,092
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>3,724,508</b>	<b>3,724,508</b>	<b>4,885,080</b>	<b>1,160,572</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General government	1,487,056	1,487,056	1,630,601	(143,545)
Law enforcement	661,000	661,000	660,092	908
Planning, zoning, and code enforcement	700,330	700,330	887,737	(187,407)
Debt service				
Principal	-	-	3,261	(3,261)
Interest	-	-	24	(24)
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>2,848,386</b>	<b>2,848,386</b>	<b>3,181,715</b>	<b>(333,329)</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures before other financing uses</b>	<b>876,122</b>	<b>876,122</b>	<b>1,703,365</b>	<b>827,243</b>
<b>Other financing sources:</b>				
Transfer in	506,059	506,059	-	506,059
Transfer out	(1,382,181)	(1,382,181)	(1,320,853)	(61,328)
<b>Total other financing sources</b>	<b>(876,122)</b>	<b>(876,122)</b>	<b>(1,320,853)</b>	<b>444,731</b>
<b>Net change in fund balance</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>382,512</b>	<b>\$ (382,512)</b>
Fund balance - beginning of year			2,086,178	
Fund balances - ending			<b>\$ 2,468,690</b>	

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL - SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - ROADS AND DRAINAGE FUND**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive/(Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Special assessments	\$ 1,530,757	\$ 1,530,757	\$ 1,517,154	\$ (13,603)
Miscellaneous revenues	5,000	5,000	-	(5,000)
Interest	-	-	5,376	5,376
Total revenues	<u>1,535,757</u>	<u>1,535,757</u>	<u>1,522,530</u>	<u>(13,227)</u>
Expenditures:				
Public works	2,262,610	2,262,610	2,155,802	106,808
Debt service				
Principal	-	-	88,484	(88,484)
Interest	-	-	15,963	(15,963)
Capital outlay	12,333	12,333	324,546	(312,213)
Total expenditures	<u>2,274,943</u>	<u>2,274,943</u>	<u>2,584,795</u>	<u>(309,852)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures before other financing uses	<u>(739,186)</u>	<u>(739,186)</u>	<u>(1,062,265)</u>	<u>(323,079)</u>
Other financing sources:				
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	-	-	163,700	(163,700)
Issuance of debt - leases	-	-	239,346	(239,346)
Transfer in	1,223,877	1,223,877	263,548	960,329
Transfers out	<u>(484,691)</u>	<u>(484,691)</u>	<u>(484,691)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>739,186</u>	<u>739,186</u>	<u>181,903</u>	<u>557,283</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(880,362)</u>	<u>\$ 880,362</u>
Fund balance - beginning of year			<u>1,736,643</u>	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 856,281</u>	

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL - SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - TRANSPORTATION FUND**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive/(Negative)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental revenues	\$ 406,386	\$ 406,386	\$ 382,994	\$ (23,392)
Total revenues	<u>406,386</u>	<u>406,386</u>	<u>382,994</u>	<u>(23,392)</u>
Expenditures:	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures before other financing uses	<u>406,386</u>	<u>406,386</u>	<u>382,994</u>	<u>(23,392)</u>
Other financing sources:				
Transfers out	<u>(406,386)</u>	<u>(406,386)</u>	<u>(382,994)</u>	<u>(23,392)</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>(406,386)</u>	<u>(406,386)</u>	<u>(382,994)</u>	<u>(23,392)</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Fund balance - beginning of year			<u>-</u>	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ -</u>	

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL - SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive/(Negative)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues:				
Local option sales tax	\$ 334,000	\$ 334,000	\$ 335,791	\$ 1,791
Interest	-	-	50,452	50,452
Total revenues	<u>334,000</u>	<u>334,000</u>	<u>386,243</u>	<u>52,243</u>
Expenditures:	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures before other financing uses	<u>334,000</u>	<u>334,000</u>	<u>386,243</u>	<u>52,243</u>
Other financing sources:				
Transfers out	<u>(334,000)</u>	<u>(334,000)</u>	<u>(334,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>(334,000)</u>	<u>(334,000)</u>	<u>(334,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>52,243</u>	<u>\$ (52,243)</u>
Fund balance - beginning of year			<u>-</u>	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 52,243</u>	

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**Note 1 - Basis of Accounting**

Budgetary comparison schedules are presented for the General, Roads and Drainage, Local Option Sales Tax, and Transportation Funds, as required by generally accepted accounting principles. The budgetary process is described in Note 2 to the financial statements. Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Note 2 - Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability**

Appropriations are legally controlled at the fund level for all funds. Expenditures may not legally exceed budgeted appropriations at that level. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, expenditures exceeded appropriations in the following:

General Fund	
General Government	\$ 139,891
Planning, zoning, and code enforcement	191,061
Principal	3,261
Interest	24
Roads and Drainage Fund	
Principal	88,484
Interest	15,963
Capital Outlay	31,213

The increase in the General Fund for general government expenditures was caused by a greater than anticipated need for legal services. The increase in the General Fund for Planning, zoning, and code enforcement was caused by a greater than anticipated need for cost recovery expenditures and professional services. The debt service expenditures and capital outlay unfavorable variances were caused by the adoption of GASBS 87.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM PENSION PLAN (FRS)**

**Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Contractually required FRS contribution	\$ 32,722	\$ 34,576	\$ 10,252	\$ 7,440	\$ 18,804	\$ 31,920	\$ 39,460	\$ 78,346	\$ 98,784	\$ 155,527
FRS contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(32,722)	(34,576)	(10,252)	(7,440)	(18,804)	(31,920)	(39,460)	(78,346)	(98,784)	(155,527)
FRS contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Town's covered payroll	251,455	226,503	172,507	101,638	194,113	208,324	259,237	486,879	586,004	843,243
FRS contribution as a percentage of covered payroll	13.01%	15.27%	5.94%	7.32%	9.69%	15.32%	15.22%	16.09%	16.86%	18.44%

Note: Additional years will be presented as they become available. The Loxahatchee Water Control District became a dependent special district of the Town effective June 26, 2018, fiscal year 2018 and earlier are for the District as the Town did not have any employees.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE**  
**OF NET PENSION LIABILITY**  
**FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM PENSION PLAN (FRS)**

**Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Town's proportion of the FRS net pension liability	0.135400%	0.001291%	0.001154%	0.000988%	0.000639%	0.001917%	0.001944%	0.002223%	0.002461%	0.002632%
Town's proportionate share of the FRS net pension liability	\$ 174,891	\$ 326,010	\$ 341,211	\$ 297,710	\$ 220,163	\$ 830,747	\$ 146,815	\$ 827,034	\$ 980,776	\$ 1,018,064
Town's covered payroll	248,765	246,765	172,507	137,170	126,272	164,358	186,642	456,111	517,012	863,052
Town's proportionate share of the FRS net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	70.30%	132.11%	197.80%	217.04%	174.36%	505.45%	78.66%	181.32%	189.70%	117.96%
FRS Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	92.00%	84.88%	83.89%	84.26%	82.61%	78.85%	96.40%	82.89%	82.38%	83.70%
Assumption changes discount rate	7.65%	7.60%	7.10%	7.00%	6.90%	6.80%	6.80%	6.70%	6.70%	6.70%

Note: The above amounts are as of the plan fiscal year, which ends on June 30.

The Loxahatchee Water Control District became a dependent special district of the Town effective June 26, 2018, fiscal year 2018 and earlier are for the District as the Town did not have any employees. The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the June 30 measurement date. The Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability is published in the Plan's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM (HIS)**

**Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Contractually required HIS contribution	\$ 4,174	\$ 3,760	\$ 2,863	\$ 4,666	\$ 7,696	\$ 11,377	\$ 11,906	\$ 13,929	\$ 16,894	\$ 27,734
HIS contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(4,174)	(3,760)	(2,863)	(4,666)	(7,696)	(11,377)	(11,906)	(13,929)	(16,894)	(27,734)
HIS contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Town's covered payroll	251,455	226,503	172,507	281,084	463,608	685,328	717,238	839,121	954,324	1,386,694
HIS contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	1.66%	1.66%	1.66%	1.66%	1.66%	1.66%	1.66%	1.66%	1.77%	2.00%

Note: The Loxahatchee Water Control District became a dependent special district of the Town effective June 26, 2018, fiscal year 2018 and earlier are for the District as the Town did not have any employees.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE**  
**OF NET PENSION LIABILITY**  
**FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM (HIS)**

**Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Town's proportion of the HIS net pension liability	0.001407%	0.001433%	0.001379%	0.001063%	0.000925%	0.001982%	0.001860%	0.002193%	0.002295%	0.003226%
Town's proportionate share of the HIS net pension liability	\$ 143,455	\$ 167,037	\$ 147,409	\$ 112,557	\$ 103,460	\$ 241,949	\$ 228,185	\$ 232,314	\$ 364,485	\$ 483,887
Town's covered payroll	248,765	246,765	172,507	347,343	305,943	530,083	503,314	815,814	909,241	1,372,707
Town's proportionate share of the HIS net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	57.67%	67.69%	85.45%	32.41%	33.82%	45.64%	45.34%	28.48%	40.09%	35.25%
HIS Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	0.50%	0.97%	1.64%	2.15%	2.63%	3.00%	3.56%	4.81%	4.12%	4.80%
Assumption changes discount rate	3.80%	2.85%	3.58%	3.87%	3.50%	2.21%	2.16%	3.54%	3.65%	3.93%

Note: The above amounts are as of the plan fiscal year, which ends on June 30.

The Loxahatchee Water Control District became a dependent special district of the Town effective June 26, 2018, fiscal year 2018 and earlier are for the District as the Town did not have any employees. The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the June 30 measurement date. The Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability is published in the Plan's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

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**STATISTICAL SECTION**

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**STATISTICAL SECTION**

*This part of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves' annual comprehensive financial report presents detailed unaudited information as a context for understanding what the information in the financial statement, note disclosures, and required supplementary information says about the Town's overall financial health.*

**Contents**

**Page**

**Financial Trends**

*These schedules contain trend information to help the reader understand how the Town's financial performance and well-being have changed over time. These schedules include:*

Net Position by Component	53
Changes in Net Position	54
Fund Balances of Governmental Funds	55
Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds	56
General Governmental Revenues by Source	57

**Revenue Capacity**

*These schedules contain information to help the reader assess the Town's most significant local revenue source, the property tax.*

Assessed Value and Estimated Actual Value of Taxable Property	58
Property Tax Rates Direct and Overlapping Governments	59
Principal Property Tax Payers	60
Property Tax Levies and Collections	61

**Debt Capacity**

*These schedules present information to help the reader assess the affordability of the Town's current levels of outstanding debt and the Town's ability to issue additional debt in the future.*

Direct and Overlapping Governmental Activities Debt	62
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**Demographic and Economic Information**

*These schedules offer demographic and economic indicators to help the reader understand the environment within which the Town's financial activities take place.*

Demographic and Economic Statistics	63
Principal Employers-Palm Beach County	64

**Operating Information**

*These schedules contain service and infrastructure data to help understand how the information in the Town's financial report relates to the services the Town provides and the activities it performs.*

Full-Time Equivalent Town Government Employees by Function	65
Operating Indicators by Function	66

*Sources: Unless otherwise noted, the information in these schedules is derived from the annual comprehensive financial reports for the relevant year.*

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Net Position By Component  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years  
 (accrual basis of accounting)

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Governmental activities:</b>					
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 1,856,215	\$ 3,165,292	\$ 3,962,198	\$ 4,652,258	\$ 4,989,272
Restricted	1,266,673	1,035,067	1,163,010	1,973,806	2,481,866
Unrestricted	1,633,875	2,101,301	1,302,320	331,416	560,522
Total governmental activities net position	<u>\$ 4,756,763</u>	<u>\$ 6,301,660</u>	<u>\$ 6,427,528</u>	<u>\$ 6,957,480</u>	<u>\$ 8,031,660</u>
<b>Business-type activities</b>					
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 29,594</u>	<u>\$ 28,097</u>	<u>\$ (20,435)</u>	<u>\$ (8,655)</u>	<u>\$ 83,372</u>
<b>Primary government:</b>					
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 1,856,215	\$ 3,165,292	\$ 3,962,198	\$ 4,652,258	\$ 4,989,272
Restricted	1,266,673	1,035,067	1,163,010	1,973,806	2,481,866
Unrestricted	1,663,469	2,129,398	1,281,885	322,761	643,894
Total primary government net position	<u>\$ 4,786,357</u>	<u>\$ 6,329,757</u>	<u>\$ 6,407,093</u>	<u>\$ 6,948,825</u>	<u>\$ 8,115,032</u>
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Governmental activities:</b>					
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 4,793,434	6,675,768	7,991,594	8,673,364	9,299,656
Restricted	2,675,011	2,412,085	2,308,278	1,112,530	1,655,389
Unrestricted	575,736	427,730	1,493,951	2,492,153	2,311,875
Total governmental activities net position	<u>\$ 8,044,181</u>	<u>\$ 9,515,583</u>	<u>\$ 11,793,823</u>	<u>\$ 12,278,047</u>	<u>\$ 13,266,920</u>
<b>Business-type activities</b>					
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 129,307</u>	<u>\$ 211,883</u>	<u>\$ 246,550</u>	<u>\$ 253,529</u>	<u>\$ 244,147</u>
<b>Primary government:</b>					
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 4,793,434	6,675,768	7,991,594	8,673,364	9,299,656
Restricted	2,675,011	2,412,085	2,308,278	1,112,530	1,655,389
Unrestricted	705,043	639,613	1,740,501	2,745,682	2,556,022
Total primary government net position	<u>\$ 8,173,488</u>	<u>\$ 9,727,466</u>	<u>\$ 12,040,373</u>	<u>\$ 12,531,576</u>	<u>\$ 13,511,067</u>

The Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District became a dependent special district on June 26, 2018, transferring in \$1,269,175 of net position as of that date.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Changes in Net Position  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years  
 (accrual basis of accounting)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Governmental activities:										
General government	\$ 916,445	\$ 914,583	\$ 963,530	\$ 1,042,085	\$ 1,452,992	\$ 1,111,638	\$ 1,129,525	\$ 1,352,540	\$ 1,711,966	\$ 1,962,627
Public safety (1)	285,459	290,048	294,621	610,000	622,412	1,002,044	1,119,128	1,346,755	1,442,314	1,289,290
Physical environment	402,114	1,061,666	805,928	1,030,000	1,417,732	2,449,872	1,227,929	2,068,776	2,690,070	3,090,301
Interest expense	-	-	-	9,272	33,024	26,973	2,709	-	3,721	27,349
<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<b>1,604,018</b>	<b>2,266,297</b>	<b>2,064,079</b>	<b>2,691,357</b>	<b>3,526,160</b>	<b>4,590,527</b>	<b>3,479,291</b>	<b>4,768,071</b>	<b>5,848,071</b>	<b>6,369,567</b>
Business-type activities:										
Solid Waste	440,786	435,614	553,265	814,671	550,288	703,481	699,311	673,203	714,111	714,311
<b>Total primary government expenses</b>	<b>2,044,804</b>	<b>2,701,911</b>	<b>2,617,344</b>	<b>3,506,028</b>	<b>4,076,448</b>	<b>5,294,008</b>	<b>4,178,602</b>	<b>5,441,274</b>	<b>6,562,182</b>	<b>7,083,878</b>
<b>PROGRAM REVENUES</b>										
Governmental activities:										
Charges for services:										
General government	132,333	204,519	110,820	104,397	160,658	181,640	337,781	798,632	797,706	755,577
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	1,543,093	1,554,737	1,520,542	1,546,426	1,532,766	1,513,649
Operating grants and contributions	-	-	-	45,178	-	70,741	40,141	1,439,774	359,793	-
Capital grants and contributions	-	1,997,697	260,404	-	92,897	20,000	92,406	-	-	245,740
<b>Total governmental activities program revenues</b>	<b>132,333</b>	<b>2,202,216</b>	<b>371,224</b>	<b>149,575</b>	<b>1,796,648</b>	<b>1,827,118</b>	<b>1,990,870</b>	<b>3,784,832</b>	<b>2,690,265</b>	<b>2,514,966</b>
Business-type activities:										
Charges for services-Sanitation	431,421	339,620	357,835	364,869	642,315	645,523	653,665	660,895	585,725	586,929
Operating grants and contributions	-	-	54,351	51,582	-	103,893	50,272	(675)	-	-
<b>Total business-type program revenues</b>	<b>431,421</b>	<b>339,620</b>	<b>412,186</b>	<b>416,451</b>	<b>642,315</b>	<b>749,416</b>	<b>703,937</b>	<b>660,220</b>	<b>585,725</b>	<b>586,929</b>
<b>Total primary government program revenues</b>	<b>563,754</b>	<b>2,541,836</b>	<b>783,410</b>	<b>566,026</b>	<b>2,438,963</b>	<b>2,576,534</b>	<b>2,694,807</b>	<b>4,445,052</b>	<b>3,275,990</b>	<b>3,101,895</b>
<b>Net (expense) revenue</b>										
Governmental activities	(1,471,685)	(64,081)	(1,692,855)	(2,541,782)	(1,729,512)	(2,763,409)	(1,488,421)	(983,239)	(3,157,806)	(3,854,601)
Business-type activities	(9,365)	(95,994)	(141,079)	(398,220)	92,027	45,935	4,626	(12,983)	(128,386)	(127,382)
<b>Total primary government net (expenses) revenue</b>	<b>(1,481,050)</b>	<b>(160,075)</b>	<b>(1,833,934)</b>	<b>(2,940,002)</b>	<b>(1,637,485)</b>	<b>(2,717,474)</b>	<b>(1,483,795)</b>	<b>(996,222)</b>	<b>(3,286,192)</b>	<b>(3,981,983)</b>
<b>General revenues and Other Changes in Net Position:</b>										
Governmental activities:										
Property taxes	229,355	315,454	361,816	612,844	913,924	972,399	1,042,008	1,119,902	1,291,263	1,527,667
Local option sales tax	-	-	160,446	219,920	244,142	233,775	272,580	315,075	330,728	335,791
Utility taxes	349,103	353,221	372,182	388,641	474,036	442,683	442,871	469,441	531,900	575,043
Franchise fees based on gross receipts	221,246	312,064	262,181	214,497	321,215	321,674	372,660	524,169	649,469	631,736
Unrestricted intergovernmental revenue	709,241	722,300	741,009	748,944	755,583	754,758	834,038	848,230	846,416	819,734
Interest and other	200	436	13,636	27,713	94,792	50,641	35,356	32,332	182,342	1,071,503
Transfers	-	(94,497)	(92,547)	(410,000)	-	-	(77,950)	(47,650)	(135,365)	(118,000)
<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<b>1,509,145</b>	<b>1,608,978</b>	<b>1,818,723</b>	<b>1,802,559</b>	<b>2,803,692</b>	<b>2,775,930</b>	<b>2,921,563</b>	<b>3,261,499</b>	<b>3,696,753</b>	<b>4,843,474</b>
Business-type activities:										
Transfers	-	94,497	92,547	410,000	-	-	77,950	47,650	135,365	118,000
<b>Total business-type activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,497</b>	<b>92,547</b>	<b>410,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,950</b>	<b>47,650</b>	<b>135,365</b>	<b>118,000</b>
<b>Total primary government</b>	<b>1,509,145</b>	<b>1,703,475</b>	<b>1,911,270</b>	<b>2,212,559</b>	<b>2,803,692</b>	<b>2,775,930</b>	<b>2,999,513</b>	<b>3,309,149</b>	<b>3,832,118</b>	<b>4,961,474</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>										
Governmental activities	37,460	1,544,897	125,868	(739,223)	1,074,180	12,521	1,433,142	2,278,260	538,947	988,873
Business-type activities	(9,365)	(1,497)	(48,532)	11,780	92,027	45,935	82,576	34,667	6,979	(9,382)
<b>Total primary government</b>	<b>\$ 28,095</b>	<b>\$ 1,543,400</b>	<b>\$ 77,336</b>	<b>\$ (727,443)</b>	<b>\$ 1,166,207</b>	<b>\$ 58,456</b>	<b>\$ 1,515,718</b>	<b>\$ 2,312,927</b>	<b>\$ 545,926</b>	<b>\$ 979,491</b>

(1) In 2020 Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning were moved from General Government to Public Safety.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**

Fund Balances of Governmental Funds

Last Ten Fiscal Years

(modified accrual basis of accounting)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>General Fund</b>					
Nonspendable-prepays	\$ 26,562	\$ 28,293	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ 82,256
Restricted for tree mitigation	-	-	-	-	75,635
Restricted for transportation	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned for capital projects	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned for subsequent year's budget	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	454,232	307,413	425,225	485,224	638,242
<b>Total general fund</b>	<b>\$ 480,794</b>	<b>\$ 335,706</b>	<b>\$ 428,975</b>	<b>\$ 485,224</b>	<b>\$ 796,133</b>
<b>All other governmental funds</b>					
Nonspendable-prepays	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Restricted for infrastructure	-	-	160,446	380,366	624,508
Restricted for transportation	1,266,673	1,035,067	1,002,564	886,474	1,007,764
Restricted for roads and drainage	-	-	-	608,773	670,368
Restricted for road resurfacing	-	-	-	103,927	-
Restricted for debt service	-	-	-	-	107,943
Assigned for capital projects	1,153,081	1,119,740	862,642	162,667	162,668
<b>Total all other governmental funds</b>	<b>\$ 2,419,754</b>	<b>\$ 2,154,807</b>	<b>\$ 2,025,652</b>	<b>\$ 2,142,207</b>	<b>\$ 2,623,251</b>
<b>2020</b>					
<b>2021</b>					
<b>2022</b>					
<b>2023</b>					
<b>2024</b>					
<b>General Fund</b>					
Nonspendable-prepays	\$ 62,342	\$ 1,623	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Restricted for tree mitigation	153,635	153,635	-	-	746,865
Restricted for transportation	60,000	60,000	-	-	-
Assigned for capital projects	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned for subsequent year's budget	53,803	53,803	-	506,059	617,173
Unassigned	729,646	1,218,558	2,202,374	1,580,119	1,104,652
<b>Total general fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,059,426</b>	<b>\$ 1,487,619</b>	<b>\$ 2,202,374</b>	<b>\$ 2,086,178</b>	<b>\$ 2,468,690</b>
<b>All other governmental funds</b>					
Nonspendable-prepays	\$ 100,298	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Restricted for infrastructure	861,528	197,196	309,176	-	52,243
Restricted for transportation	1,244,226	914,479	336,667	-	-
Restricted for roads and drainage	242,271	1,058,331	1,370,076	1,736,643	856,281
Restricted for road resurfacing	-	28,444	-	-	-
Restricted for debt service	114,587	114,587	-	-	-
Assigned for capital projects	214,452	(391,669)	292,359	664,549	1,294,872
<b>Total all other governmental funds</b>	<b>\$ 2,777,362</b>	<b>\$ 1,921,368</b>	<b>\$ 2,308,278</b>	<b>\$ 2,401,192</b>	<b>\$ 2,203,396</b>

The Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District became a dependent special district on June 26, 2018, transferring in \$1,185,017 of restricted fund balance as of that date.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years  
 (modified accrual basis of accounting)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Property taxes	\$ 229,355	\$ 315,454	\$ 361,816	\$ 612,844	\$ 913,924
Local option sales tax	-	-	160,446	219,920	244,142
Utility taxes	349,103	353,221	372,182	388,641	474,036
Franchise fees	221,246	312,064	262,181	214,497	321,214
Intergovernmental revenue	709,241	722,300	741,009	748,944	790,155
Charge for services	105,179	158,546	64,727	43,258	240,539
Licenses and permits	20,140	34,622	23,524	51,897	39,209
Special assessments	-	-	-	-	1,814,093
Fines and forfeitures	7,014	11,351	22,569	9,242	36,911
Contributions from private sources	-	926,942	260,404	-	-
Interest and other	200	436	4,686	27,713	187,689
Total revenues	<u>1,641,478</u>	<u>2,834,936</u>	<u>2,273,544</u>	<u>2,316,956</u>	<u>5,061,912</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current:					
General government	909,330	900,292	948,468	1,027,261	1,576,510
Public safety	285,459	290,048	294,621	610,000	622,412
Physical environment	150,995	768,167	454,017	672,401	1,440,482
Capital outlay	621,654	1,191,967	519,777	322,842	313,525
Debt service:					
Principal	-	-	-	263,000	271,000
Interest	-	-	-	21,227	34,406
Other debt service costs	-	-	-	2,438	11,625
Total expenditures	<u>1,967,438</u>	<u>3,150,474</u>	<u>2,216,883</u>	<u>2,919,169</u>	<u>4,269,960</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
Issuance of debt- leases	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers in	40,000	378,638	-	1,086,898	-
Transfers out	(40,000)	(473,135)	(92,547)	(1,496,898)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>(94,497)</u>	<u>(92,547)</u>	<u>(410,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net change in fund balances</b>	<u>\$ (325,960)</u>	<u>\$ (410,035)</u>	<u>\$ (35,886)</u>	<u>\$ (1,012,213)</u>	<u>\$ 791,952</u>

Debt service as a percentage of noncapital expenditures

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
-	-	-	-	-

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Property taxes	\$ 972,399	\$ 1,042,008	\$ 1,119,902	\$ 1,291,263	\$ 1,527,667
Local option sales tax	233,775	272,580	315,075	330,728	335,791
Utility taxes	442,683	442,871	469,441	531,900	575,043
Franchise fees	321,674	337,993	524,169	649,469	701,794
Intergovernmental revenue	805,363	904,920	2,360,262	1,271,294	819,734
Charge for services	322,544	479,185	418,655	423,837	514,075
Licenses and permits	28,596	63,263	290,719	201,978	316,888
Special assessments	1,825,737	1,762,917	1,511,193	1,504,651	1,517,154
Fines and forfeitures	500	-	17,000	106,806	773,921
Contributions	47,908	88,178	-	-	-
Interest and other	22,733	4,336	67,565	210,457	158,380
Total revenues	<u>5,023,912</u>	<u>5,398,251</u>	<u>7,093,981</u>	<u>6,522,383</u>	<u>7,240,447</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current:					
General government	1,208,515	1,289,923	1,338,357	1,329,409	1,572,114
Public safety	1,002,044	1,119,128	1,332,244	1,645,519	1,596,191
Physical environment	1,472,757	1,071,158	1,239,168	1,613,629	2,155,802
Capital outlay	280,303	2,059,813	1,983,856	1,894,813	1,908,938
Debt service:					
Principal	611,000	242,375	56,797	105,007	91,745
Interest	30,089	3,945	6,009	3,820	15,987
Other debt service costs	1,800	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>4,606,508</u>	<u>5,786,342</u>	<u>5,956,431</u>	<u>6,592,197</u>	<u>7,340,777</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	-	-	-	-	163,700
Issuance of debt- leases	-	-	11,765	236,820	239,346
Transfers in	490,683	1,644,500	1,835,861	2,426,741	2,404,538
Transfers out	(490,683)	(1,722,450)	(1,883,511)	(2,562,106)	(2,522,538)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(77,950)</u>	<u>(35,885)</u>	<u>101,455</u>	<u>285,046</u>
<b>Net change in fund balances</b>	<u>\$ 417,404</u>	<u>\$ (466,041)</u>	<u>\$ 1,101,665</u>	<u>\$ 31,641</u>	<u>\$ 184,716</u>

Debt service as a percentage of noncapital expenditures

17.5%	7.1%	1.6%	2.4%	2.0%
17.5%	7.1%	1.6%	2.4%	2.0%

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 General Governmental Revenues by Source  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years  
 (modified accrual basis of accounting)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ad-Valorem Taxes General Purpose	\$ 229,355	\$ 315,454	\$ 361,816	\$ 612,844	\$ 913,924	\$ 972,399	\$ 1,042,008	\$ 1,119,902	\$ 1,291,263	\$ 1,527,667
Local Option Sales Tax (1)	-	-	160,446	219,920	244,142	233,775	272,580	315,075	330,728	335,791
Utility Tax	349,103	353,221	372,182	388,641	474,036	442,683	442,871	469,441	531,900	575,043
Intergovernmental	709,241	722,300	741,009	748,944	790,155	805,363	904,920	2,360,262	1,271,294	436,740
Franchise Tax	221,246	312,064	262,181	214,497	321,214	321,674	337,993	524,169	649,469	701,794
Charges for Service	105,179	158,546	64,727	43,258	240,539	322,544	479,185	418,655	423,837	514,075
License and Permits	20,140	34,622	23,524	51,897	39,209	28,596	63,263	290,719	201,978	316,888
Special Assessments	-	-	-	-	1,814,093	1,825,737	1,762,917	1,511,193	1,504,651	1,517,154
Fines and Forfeitures	7,014	11,351	22,569	9,242	36,911	500	-	17,000	106,806	773,921
Contributions	-	926,942	260,404	-	-	47,908	13,686	-	-	-
Interest/ Other	200	436	4,686	27,713	187,689	22,733	78,828	67,565	210,457	158,380

(1) The tax was started in 2017 and it will last ten years with the proceeds restricted for Infrastructure expenditures

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Assessed Value and Estimated Actual Value of Taxable Property  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

Fiscal Year	Real Property					Net Assessed Value	Total Direct Tax Rate	Estimated Actual Value	Net Assessed Value as a Percentage of Estimated Actual Value
	Residential Property	Commercial/Industrial Property	Agricultural Property	Gov't/Institutional Property	Personal Property				
2015	\$ 118,838,958	\$ 15,012,230	\$ 55,282,018	\$ 1,339,377.00	\$ 13,930,600	\$ 204,403,183	1.2000	\$ 361,603,906	56.53%
2016	161,229,749	21,299,409	63,489,636	1,308,383	15,502,799	262,829,976	1.4718	320,014,496	82.13%
2017	161,247,624	38,232,930	78,706,972	1,528,433	13,364,823	293,080,782	1.4718	356,117,093	82.30%
2018	160,049,414	37,400,435	78,664,760	2,360,928	13,380,833	291,856,370	2.1500	373,032,241	78.24%
2019	182,223,067	40,739,695	92,887,986	1,676,098	15,010,899	332,537,745	3.0000	425,594,621	78.13%
2020	188,930,066	53,869,260	97,564,863	1,787,150	16,017,731	358,169,070	3.0000	455,495,454	78.63%
2021	235,596,079	53,665,680	119,387,351	54,956,128	20,265,577	483,870,815	3.0000	671,723,234	72.03%
2022	257,979,104	58,507,552	141,511,200	60,883,580	26,537,152	545,418,588	3.0000	975,107,679	55.93%
2023	304,615,556	65,091,514	164,286,450	69,362,836	28,550,229	631,906,585	3.0000	1,158,497,734	54.55%
2024	339,342,612	89,808,501	185,541,870	75,111,118	32,738,371	722,542,472	3.0000	1,258,586,064	57.41%

Note: Property in the Town is reassessed each year. State law requires the Property Appraiser to appraise property at 100% of market value. The Florida Constitution was amended, effective January 1, 1995, to limit annual increases in assessed value of property with homestead exemption to 3% per year or the amount of the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less. The increase is not automatic since no assessed value shall exceed market value. Tax rates are per \$1,000 of assessed value.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Property Tax Rates  
 Direct and Overlapping Governments  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

Fiscal Year	OVERLAPPING RATES					OVERLAPPING RATES				
	Town Operating Millage	Palm Beach County School District	Palm Beach County General Government	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue	County Health Care District	Palm Beach County Library System	South Florida Water Management District	South Florida Children's Services Council	Florida Inland Navigation District	Total Direct and Overlapping Rates
2015	1.2000	7.5120	4.9729	3.4581	1.0800	0.5985	0.3842	0.6745	0.0345	19.9147
2016	1.4718	7.0700	4.9277	3.4581	1.0426	0.5933	0.3551	0.6677	0.0320	19.6183
2017	1.4718	6.7690	4.9142	3.4581	0.7808	0.5891	0.3307	0.6833	0.0320	19.0290
2018	2.1500	6.5720	4.9023	3.4581	0.7261	0.5901	0.3100	0.6590	0.0320	19.3996
2019	3.0000	7.1640	4.8980	3.4581	0.7261	0.5870	0.2936	0.6403	0.0320	20.7991
2020	3.0000	7.0100	4.8580	3.4581	0.7261	0.5833	0.2795	0.6497	0.0320	20.5967
2021	3.0000	7.0100	4.8124	3.4581	0.7261	0.5824	0.2675	0.6497	0.0320	20.5382
2022	3.0000	6.8750	4.8149	3.4581	0.7261	0.5833	0.2572	0.6233	0.0320	20.3699
2023	3.0000	6.4570	4.5188	3.4581	0.6761	0.5599	0.2301	0.4908	0.0288	19.4196
2024	3.0000	6.3140	4.5396	3.4581	0.6561	0.5589	0.2301	0.4908	0.0288	19.2764

Note: All millage rates are based are per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Source: Town of Loxahatchee Groves Finance Department and Palm Beach Property Appraiser's Office.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
Principal Property Taxpayers  
Last year and nine years ago

<u>2024</u>				<u>2015</u>			
<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Taxable Valuation</u>	<u>Taxes Paid Rank</u>	<u>Percentage Total Taxable Valuation</u>	<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Taxable Valuation</u>	<u>Taxes Paid Rank</u>	<u>Percentage Total Taxable Valuation</u>
ATLANTIC LAND INVESTMENTS LLC	22,013,770	1	3.63%	R BROKE NOW LLC	2,255,188	1	1.30%
PRIME STORAGE LOXAHATCHEE LLC	15,598,212	2	2.57%	GROVES MEDICAL PLAZA LLC	1,793,040	2	1.04%
C & C LOADER SERVICES	10,303,787	3	1.70%	YEES CORP	1,700,000	3	0.98%
FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT CO	6,352,863	4	1.05%	EVERGLADES FARM EQUIPMENT CO	1,628,455	4	0.94%
HEMINGWAY JOAN LLC	4,883,711	5	0.81%	SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT CORP	1,408,363	5	0.81%
DBE UTILITY SERVICES	5,758,151	6	0.95%	SUNSPORT GARDENS	1,109,017	6	0.64%
OAK SPRINGS GORILLA FARM LLC	4,588,072	7	0.76%	ROYALS OK LUNCH INC	923,000	7	0.53%
SOLAR SUNSPORTS INC	1,887,631	8	0.31%	PLANTE JULIEN	856,646	8	0.49%
R BROKE NOW LLC	4,676,638	9	0.77%	WELLINGTON HESS INC	824,884	9	0.48%
YEES CORP	3,211,109	10	0.53%	REID BRYON V	817,990	10	0.47%
	1,769,575		0.29%				
	<u><u>\$ 81,043,519</u></u>		<u><u>13.37%</u></u>		<u><u>\$ 13,316,583</u></u>		<u><u>7.68%</u></u>

Taxes Paid Rank lists the taxes and assessments paid during the tax year. Taxes are based upon the taxable value of the property, which is the assessed value less any exemptions. Assessments on property are derived from the special benefit afforded the property and are in addition to property taxes.  
source: Palm Beach County Tax Collector and Palm Beach County Property Appraiser

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Property Tax Levies and Collections  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

Fiscal Year	Total Taxes Levied for Fiscal Year	Collected Within the Fiscal Year of Levy		Collections in Subsequent Years	Total Collections to Date	
		Amount	Percent of Levy		Amount	Percent of Levy
2015	\$ 235,147	\$ 229,355	97.54%	n/a	\$ 229,355	97.54%
2016	311,616	315,454	101.23%	n/a	315,454	101.23%
2017	374,285	361,093	96.48%	n/a	361,093	96.48%
2018	627,445	612,844	97.67%	n/a	612,844	97.67%
2019	939,870	913,924	97.24%	n/a	913,924	97.24%
2020	1,000,138	972,399	97.23%	n/a	972,399	97.23%
2021	1,079,361	1,042,008	96.54%	n/a	1,042,008	96.54%
2022	1,166,479	1,119,902	96.01%	n/a	1,119,902	96.01%
2023	1,331,565	1,291,263	96.97%	n/a	1,291,263	96.97%
2024	1,747,852	1,527,667	87.40%	n/a	1,527,667	87.40%

Source: Palm Beach County Property Appraiser and Town of Loxahatchee Groves Finance Department

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Direct and Overlapping Governmental Activities Debt  
 Fiscal year ended September 30, 2024

<u>Government Unit</u>	<u>Net Debt Outstanding</u>	<u>Estimated Percentage Applicable(1)</u>	<u>Amount Applicable to Town of Loxahatchee Groves</u>
Debt repaid with property taxes:			
Palm Beach County School Board	\$ 1,525,000	0.17%	\$ 2,593
Palm Beach County	<u>\$ 104,915,000</u>	0.17%	<u>\$ 178,356</u>
Subtotal, overlapping debt	<u>\$ 106,440,000</u>		<u>\$ 180,949</u>
Other debt:			
Town of Loxahatchee Groves direct debt	\$ 391,994	100.00%	\$ 391,994
Total direct and overlapping debt	<u><u>\$ 106,831,994</u></u>		<u><u>\$ 572,943</u></u>

Sources: FY2023 and FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports

Note: Overlapping governments are those that coincide, at least in part, with the geographic boundaries of the Town. This schedule estimates the portion of the outstanding debt of those overlapping governments that is borne by the residents and businesses of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves. This process recognizes that, when considering the Town's ability to issue and repay long-term debt, the entire debt burden borne by the residents and businesses should be taken into account. However, this does not imply that every taxpayer is a resident, and therefore responsible for repaying the debt.

(1) For debt repaid with property taxes, the percentage of overlapping debt applicable is estimated using taxable assessed property values by taking the value that is within the Town's boundaries and dividing it by the County's and School Boards total taxable assessed value. This approach was also used for the other debt.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Demographic and Economic Statistics  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

Fiscal Year	Population (1)	Average Household Income (2)	Per Capita Personal Income (2)	Unemployment Rate (3)
2011	3,091	88,142	30,954	1.5%
2012	3,173	85,476	29,342	3.1%
2013	3,262	82,772	28,856	4.9%
2014	3,183	91,254	33,986	6.8%
2015	3,180	90,428	32,209	7.2%
2016	3,271	93,063	31,639	10.0%
2017	3,342	97,669	31,369	11.1%
2018	3,384	99,332	33,041	not available
2019	3,593	105,473	34,251	not available
2020	3,661	114,497	41,645	8.63%
2021	3,426	124,771	43,184	7.23%
2022	3,379	104,792	47,093	5.10%
2023	3,375	137,363	49,504	2.10%
2024	3,355	113,654	53,805	6.50%

(1) Population estimate as published by the University of Florida,  
 Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

(2) American Community Surveys, U.S. Census Bureau

(3) Esri 2024

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**

Principal Employers - Palm Beach County

Last year and ten years ago

September 30, 2024

Employer	2024			2015		
	EMPLOYEES	RANK	Percentage of Total County Employment	EMPLOYEES	RANK	Percentage of Total County Employment
Palm Beach County School District	22,218	1	2.97%	21,449	1	3.05%
Florida Atlantic University	6,335	2	0.85%	2,980	6	0.42%
Palm Beach County Government	5,873	3	0.79%	5,330	2	0.76%
Tenet Healthcare Corp.	5,734	4	0.77%	6,100	3	0.87%
			0.00%			
NextEra Energy (Florida Power & Light)	5,598	5	0.75%	3,804	4	0.54%
Wackenhut			0.00%	3,000	5	0.43%
Baptist Health/Bethesda Memorial	3,135	6	0.42%	2,643	9	0.38%
Veterans Health Administration	2,948	7	0.39%	2,700	8	0.38%
Hospital Corporation of America (HCA)	2,612	8	0.35%	2,250	7	0.32%
Jupiter Medican Center	2,540		0.34%			
The Breakers	2,300	9	0.31%			
Office Depot	2,000	10	0.27%	2,250	10	0.32%
Boca Raton Regional Hospital						
	<u>61,293</u>		<u>8.21%</u>	<u>52,506</u>		<u>16.55%</u>

Source: Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, 2014 ACFR

Note: The Town is not a significant area for employment but rather a residential community. Therefore, Palm Beach County statistics were used.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Full-Time Equivalent Town Government Employees by Function  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

<u>Function</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Legislative	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	-
Clerk	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	1
General government	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	4
Community Development	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	2
Public Works	(1)	(1)	(1)	4, (1)	5
Parks	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	-
Public Safety: Police	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

<u>Function</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
Legislative	-	-	-		
Clerk	1	1	1	1	1
General government	4	4	4	4	4
Community Development	2	2	2	2	2
Public Works	7	7	10	10	10
Parks	-	-	-	-	-
Public Safety: Police	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

(1) - Town Manager and Town Clerk as well as other managerial services are provided by a private management company.

(2) - Police services contracted through Palm Beach County.

Source: Town of Loxahatchee Groves Finance Department

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Operating Indicators by Function  
 Last Ten Fiscal Years (1)

Function/Program	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Public Safety</b>					
Police:					
Number of emergency calls for service	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of non-emergency calls for service	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of arrests	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of uniformed officers	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Building and Zoning:					
Number of building permits issued	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of certificates of use issued	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of occupational licenses issued	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

<b>Culture and Recreation</b>					
Number of parks	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

Function/Program	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Public Safety</b>					
Police:					
Number of emergency calls for service	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of non-emergency calls for service	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of arrests	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of uniformed officers	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Building and Zoning:					
Number of building permits issued	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of certificates of use issued	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of occupational licenses issued	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

<b>Culture and Recreation</b>					
Number of parks	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

(1) - The Town contracts with the County for these services.

(2) - The Town does not own any parks at this time.

Source: Town Clerk

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**OTHER INFORMATION SECTION**

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**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA**  
 Information Required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes  
 For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024  
 Unaudited

**As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes, the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District of Palm Beach County, Florida reported**

Required Information	Reported
The total number of district employees compensated in the last pay period of the District's fiscal year 2024.:	11
The total number of independent contractors to whom nonemployee compensation was paid in the last month of the District's fiscal year 2024:	4
All compensation earned by or awarded to employees, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency for fiscal year 2024:	664,714
All compensation earned by or awarded to nonemployee independent contractors, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency for fiscal year 2024:	823,728.00
Each construction project with a total cost of at least \$65,000 approved by the District that was scheduled to begin on or after October 1 of the fiscal year 2024, together with the total expenditures for such project:	
Project	Budget
none	
A budget variance based on the budget adopted under Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, before the beginning of the fiscal year 2023 being reported if the District amends a final adopted budget under Section 189.016(6), Florida Statutes:	See Page 44
The millage rate of ad valorem taxes imposed by the District for fiscal year 2024:	Not Applicable
The rate of non-ad valorem special assessments imposed by the District for fiscal year 2024:	200.00 to 827.16
The total amount of special assessments collected by or on behalf of the District for fiscal year 2024:	1,517,154
The total amount of outstanding bonds issued by the district and the terms of such bonds:	-

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**COMPLIANCE SECTION**

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Accountants  
Advisors

**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**

To the Honorable Mayor and Town Council  
Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities and each major fund of Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, (the Town), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 9, 2025.

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Town'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 opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town'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 Town's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town'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 Town'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 Town's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP*

Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP  
Boca Raton, Florida  
May 9, 2025



Accountants  
Advisors

## MANAGEMENT LETTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Honorable Mayor and Town Council  
Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida (the Town) as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated May 9, 2025.

### 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 Accountant's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with AICPA Professional Standards, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated May 9, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

### Prior Audit Findings

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

### 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. This information is disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements.

### Financial Condition and Management

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

Pursuant to Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8), Rules of the Auditor General, we applied financial condition assessment procedures for the Town. It is management's responsibility to monitor the Town's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information provided by same. This assessment was performed as of the fiscal year end.

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.

### **Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs**

Section 10.554(1)(i)6.a., Rules of the Auditor General, requires a statement as to whether a PACE program authorized pursuant to Section 163.081 or Section 163.082, Florida Statutes, did operate within the City's geographical boundaries during the fiscal year under audit. There was a PACE Program operating within the City's geographical boundaries during the fiscal year under audit.

As required by Section 10.554(1)(i)6.b, Rules of the Auditor General, the below is a list of all program administrators and third-party administrators that administered the program.

As required by Section 10.551(1)(i)6.c, Rules of the Auditor General, the full names and contact information of each such program administrator and third-party administrator are provided below.

### **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 have any such findings.

### **Purpose of this Letter**

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

*Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP*

Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP  
Boca Raton, Florida  
May 9, 2025



Accountants

Advisors

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 218.415 FLORIDA STATUTES

To the Honorable Mayor and Town Council  
Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida

We have examined the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, (the Town), compliance with the requirements of Section 218.415 Florida Statutes during the period of October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. Management of the Town is responsible for the Town's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Town's compliance based on our examination.

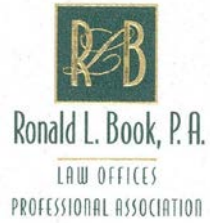
Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Town complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Town 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 Town's compliance with specified requirements. In our opinion, the Town complied, in all material respects, with the requirements of Section 218.415 Florida Statutes during the period of October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Mayor, the Town Council, others within the Town and the Auditor General of the State of Florida and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP*

Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP  
Boca Raton, Florida  
May 9, 2025



## Extended Session Report

### May / June 2025

**EXTENDED REGULAR SESSION AND BUDGET UPDATE:** As noted in earlier reports, the Florida Legislature has not yet passed a state budget. The Regular Legislative Session, which was scheduled to end at midnight May 2<sup>nd</sup>, was extended to June 6<sup>th</sup>. The Florida House has voted to extend through to June 30<sup>th</sup>, but to make the extension official, the Florida Senate would have to vote to do the same, and to date, has not.

There continues to be an unresolved dispute over levels of tax cuts to make and spending priorities. The House and Senate individually proposed budgets total approximately \$4 billion apart (\$112.95 billion vs. \$117.36 billion), with tax reductions as the primary sticking point. Without this, allocations cannot be set. Allocations are the first step of the budget conference, and are the total dollar amount allowed for each section of the budget. (Health Care, Education, Environment, as examples). Without allocations the budget conference cannot begin.

The original House Concurrent Resolution which extended the regular session, only carries forward for consideration the following: the General Appropriations Act (the state budget), budget implementing bills, budget conforming bills, the Senate President’s priority SB110 which is the rural communities bill, and the taxation/tax reduction bill.

All other bills that have not passed at this point are withdrawn from consideration and will not be heard.

The Speaker and Senate President have not announced a budget conference as of today. As noted, a budget must be finalized prior to the next state fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2025.

**FUNDING REQUEST UPDATE:** Without a budget, there is no funding request update. The funding request update sent on 4/9 remains the same and is included below.

\*\*Procedurally, since only one of the two requests has funding in one or the other of the two pre-conference budgets, only that one remains active to carry forward for final funding. We continue throughout to advocate for full funding of the Stormwater System Rehabilitation Phase 3 project and will continue to do so through the remainder of the budget process and budget conference.

Funding Request	Senate Amount	House Amount
<b>Loxahatchee Groves Stormwater System Rehabilitation Phase 3</b> (SF 1532, HF 2593) Requested: \$750,000      Match: 50% Sponsors: Senator Harrell, Representative Weinberger	-	\$375,000  Budget Line 1555
<b>Loxahatchee Groves Canal Pumps, Weirs, and Gate Upgrades</b> Requested: \$750,000      Match: 50% Sponsors: Senator Harrell, Representative Weinberger	-	-

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** We have worked throughout to advocate on behalf of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, and continue to do so going forward through the extended Session.

➤ **BILLS INCLUDED IN THE EXTENDED SESSION**

- **Sales Tax Rate Reduction:** HB 7031 Speaker Perez has included a .75% sales tax reduction overall, to in turn meet his goal of lowering state spending. As previously reported, the State economists predict an economic downturn in the next 3 to 5 years and rather than spend at the current rate, the Speaker has noted it is his responsibility to reduce spending now while it can be done gradually. The House version of the budget is drafted with this funding reduction. The Governor has since made it clear that any sales tax reduction would be vetoed.
- **Taxation/Tax Reduction and Tax Holidays:** HB 7033 Customarily the omnibus bill that addresses various taxes through cuts or elimination, includes the multiple sales tax holidays, among other issues. This bill would carry forward as part of the extended Session and must be agreed upon by the House and Senate as part of the budget conference.
- **Rural Communities:** SB 110 SB 110 has not passed; however, this bill will be included in the extended Session. It is important to note that while this is a priority of the Senate, if passed, the legislation will be a product of heavy negotiation between the House and Senate. Attached is the Senate summary of the legislation as passed by the Senate.

➤ **BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS**

- **Sovereign Immunity/Suits Against the Government:** SB 1570 by DiCeglie/HB 301 by McFarland

**DID NOT PASS.** After multiple versions of this bill, the last draft would have mandated the following:

- Set limits for individual and multiple related claims from October 1, 2025, to October 1, 2030: \$500,000 per individual claim and \$1 million for multiple claims from the same incident.
- Adjust limits for causes of action from October 1, 2030, onward: \$600,000 for individual claims and \$1.1 million for multiple related claims.

- **Local Option Tax:** SB 1664 by Trumbull/HB 1221 by Miller

**DID NOT PASS.** These bills generally would have provided for the following:

- Local discretionary sales surtax, tourist development tax, and local option food and beverage tax in effect on June 30, 2025, requiring a referendum, must be renewed by January 1, 2033.
- New levies of discretionary sales and tourist development taxes subject to referendum have an eight-year maximum limit, except for the .25 percent trauma center surtax (four-year limit in smaller counties) and levies for bond indebtedness.
- A similar eight-year limit applies to the local option food and beverage tax in Miami-Dade
- The changes do not affect the pension liability surtax and the bill would take effect on July 1, 2025.

- **Local Business Taxes:** SB 1196 by Truenow/HB 503 by Botana:

**DID NOT PASS.** The general provisions of this bill would have provided that if a local government receives more local business tax revenue than the revenue base allows, the local government must reduce its tax rates and must issue refunds or credits to taxpayers. Also, in the bill, the local business tax rate structures, classifications, and rates would not be able to be increased or changed unless it is for a repeal. The bill does not apply to local governments: that impose a business tax measured by gross receipts from the sale of merchandise or services, or both, to fiscally constrained counties, and to any municipality in a fiscally constrained county, while they continue to qualify the status.

- **Property Tax Elimination:** SB 852 by Martin

**DID NOT PASS.** The Governor has advocated multiple times that he supports the elimination of property taxes in Florida. Senator Martin filed SB 852 requiring a study on the Elimination of Property Taxes, this bill did not pass. However, the previous report outlined the newly created House Committee on Property Tax, included again below.

**House Select Committee on Property Taxes:** Speaker Perez created a new House Select Committee on Property Taxes, co-chaired by Representatives Vicki Lopez and Toby Overdorf. The committee will be tasked with reviewing the current state of property taxes in Florida and exploring policy solutions to reduce the financial burden on homeowners. The Select Committee is expected to hold its first meeting on Thursday, May 1st. It was announced that this committee will meet during the interim, and the Speaker has announced plans to pass property tax relief at the start of next Session, which begins on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. It is anticipated that many of the policy concepts considered by the Select Committee will require constitutional amendments, meaning Florida voters would ultimately have the opportunity to approve any proposed changes.

The Select Committee will begin its work by exploring a variety of potential reforms, including:

- Requiring every city, county, and special district to hold a referendum on the question of eliminating property taxes on homestead properties.
- Creating a new \$500,000 homestead exemption, as well as a \$1 million homestead exemption for properties owned by Floridians aged 65 and older, or who have had a homestead for 30 years, applicable to all non-school taxes.
- Authorizing the Legislature to increase the homestead exemption to any value by general law.
- Modifying the assessment increase limitations on property values:
  - For homestead properties, changing the cap from the lower of 3% or CPI to a flat 3% over any three-year period for all taxes.
  - For non-homestead properties, changing the cap from 10% annually to 15% over any three-year period for all non-school taxes.
- Protecting Homeownership by eliminating the ability to foreclose on a homestead property due to a property tax lien.

No legislation has been filed to date.

- **Community Redevelopment Agencies:** SB 1242 by McClain

**DID NOT PASS.** The bill would have provided the following:

- The governing structure of CRAs going forward, when created, the members of the governing body sit as members of the agency.
- Prohibited modification to a community redevelopment plan that expanded the CRA boundaries.
- Prohibited a CRA from expending funds on public areas of hotels, or sponsorship of concerts, festivals, holiday events, parades, or similar activities.
- Terminated CRAs when they reach the time frame set forth to complete all redevelopment provided in the agency's charter, or as may have been extended by ordinance or resolution prior to May 1, 2025.

We expect that this will be addressed again in the 2026 Session.

➤ **BILLS THAT PASSED**

**Live Local/Affordable Housing/Real Property and Land Use and Development:** SB 1730 by Calatayud/HB 943 by Lopez

This legislation aims to streamline affordable housing development across commercial, industrial, and religious institution properties. The legislation addresses the following:

**Approval of Land for Affordable Housing:**

- Approval of Religious Institutions Land for Affordable Housing
  - Allows affordable housing to be developed not only on commercial or industrial land, but also on any parcel, including contiguous parcels, owned by a religious institution with a house of worship, regardless of the existing zoning.
- Expands the Live Local Act applicability to portions of any flexibly zoned area such as a planned unit development permitted for commercial, industrial, or mixed use.
- Exempts Wekiva Protection Area and Everglades Protection Area from the Live Local Act effective upon becoming law

**Development Approval and Local Government Restrictions:**

- A county and city cannot require a multifamily development to seek zoning changes, special approvals, variances, transfers of density or development units, amendment to a development of regional impact, amendment to a municipal charter, or comprehensive plan amendments for the building height, zoning, or density allowed.
- Any proposed development must be administratively approved without needing further board or committee action, as long as it meets the local government’s land development regulations (like setbacks and parking) and is consistent with the comprehensive plan, except for density, height, floor area ratio, and land use provisions.
- Local governments must approve demolitions for proposed developments if they meet all state and local rules, without requiring additional board review.
- Allows local governments to approve adjacent parcels within multifamily developments regardless of local land development regulations
- Local governments, upon request of an applicant, must reduce parking requirements by 15% for a proposed development
- A local government may not impose a building moratorium that delays permitting or construction of authorized multifamily or mixed-use residential developments.
  - However, a 90-day moratorium is allowed once every three years if the county conducts and publishes an affordable housing needs assessment beforehand.
  - Civil suits for violations award attorney fees (capped at \$250,000) to the prevailing party.
  - Moratoria for stormwater, potable water, or sewer repairs are exempt if applied equally to all developments.

**Building Standards and Definitions:**

- Clarifies that the highest currently allowed height, density, and floor area ratio restrictions are as of July 1, 2023
  - Clarifies that the term "floor area ratio" includes floor lot ratio and lot coverage.
  - The allowed building height is either the local gov’t’s regulated height or 3 stories, whichever is greater, but cannot exceed 10 stories.
  - Clarifies that adjacent refers to properties that share a property line, but not those separated by a road or body of water.
  - In areas designated as areas of critical state concern as designated by s. 380.0552 or chapter 28-36, Florida Administrative Code - (the Florida Keys), only habitable space above the FEMA base flood elevation counts as a "story," with each story limited to 10 feet in height floor-to-floor, and the top story limited to 10 feet from floor to top plate.
- Allowable density refers to the density assigned to a property under this subsection, without needing to obtain or transfer extra density or development units from other properties.
- Defines Commercial Use, Industrial Use, Mixed Use, Highest currently allowed, or allowed on July 1, 2023, and Planned Unit Developments (starts on line 474)

### **Mixed-Use Project Requirements:**

- Prohibits local governments from requiring that more than 10% of the total square footage of such mixed-use residential projects be used for nonresidential purposes.

### **Legal Actions and Reporting:**

- Civil actions against a county for violating this subsection must be prioritized by the court, and the prevailing party is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs, capped at \$250,000, excluding fees related to litigating the fee award itself.
- Starting November 1, 2026, local governments must submit annual reports to the state land planning agency detailing litigation and projects under subsection (7), including project size, density, and affordable housing details. The state agency must compile and send this information to the Governor and legislative leaders by February 1 each year.
- Applicants who submitted development requests before July 1, 2025, can choose to proceed under the laws in effect at the time of their submission and may update their applications to reflect changes in this bill.

### **Workforce Housing:**

- Public sector and hospital employer-sponsored housing
  - The Legislature establishes a policy to support affordable workforce housing for employees of hospitals, health care facilities, and government entities, allowing developers using specific funding sources to give housing preference to these employees, in line with federal tax credit rules

### **Historic Buildings and Districts:**

Senator Jones, Representative Lopez, on behalf of Representative Basabe, amended the bill in its last iteration to specifically address historic districts such as the Ocean Drive historical district on Miami Beach (among other historic districts) where individual buildings are not designated, but are through the district. The language would address the following:

- Allows the local government to restrict proposed development of building height on parcels with structures in historic districts.
- Ensures historic structures are not demolished without appropriate oversight or procedural review.
- Sets height limits near historic properties to the highest allowable within 3/4 miles rather than one mile.
- Allows the municipality to administratively require the proposed development to comply with local regulations relating to architectural design such as façade replication, with some restrictions.
- Requires administrative approval for demolitions associated with qualifying developments if compliant with regulations.
- Keeps tiered parking reduction levels and emphasizes that available nearby parking cannot be counted against the required reduction.

### **Emergency Preparedness: SB 180 by DiCeglie**

**PASSED.** This comprehensive legislation addresses emergency preparedness by local authorities. Two key provisions are of specific concern to local governments:

#### **Key Provisions**

- **Moratorium and Regulation Ban**

For one year after a hurricane makes landfall, any county under a federal disaster declaration—or municipality within such a county—located wholly or partly within 100 miles of the hurricane’s track is prohibited from:

- Proposing or adopting a moratorium on construction or redevelopment.
- Enacting more restrictive or burdensome regulations or procedures related to land development.

- **Retroactive and Extended Application**

For Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton, these prohibitions are more expansive:

- The ban on new moratoriums and stricter regulations applies until October 1, 2027 and are retroactive to August 1, 2024.
- **Legal Challenge Mechanism**  
If a local government enacts a prohibited measure, any affected party (including developers, residents, or business owners) can:
  - File suit for declaratory and injunctive relief.
  - Recover reasonable attorney fees and costs if they prevail.
  - Before filing suit, the plaintiff must give the local government 14 days to rescind or void the action.

### **Additional Provisions**

#### **Permit and Inspection Fees**

- Local governments cannot increase building permit or inspection fees for 180 days after a hurricane or tropical storm emergency declaration by the Governor or federal government.

#### **Home Rebuilding Guidelines**

- Homeowners may increase residence size up to 2,000 sq ft (previously 1,500 sq ft) or up to 130% (previously 110%) of pre-damage size before triggering new tax assessments.
- Prohibits local cumulative repair “lookback periods”; focuses on substantial damage from the current event, not repair history.

#### **Streamlined Permitting and Restoration**

- Requires local governments to post and annually update a recovery permitting guide detailing permit requirements, post-storm application process, and local rebuilding rules.
- Mandates annual post-storm permitting plans, including:
  - Special building permits and inspection procedures
  - Sufficient personnel and mutual aid agreements for post-storm recovery
  - Multiple in-person permit service locations
  - Expedited permitting protocol and, if possible, fee waivers or reductions
  - Extra staff for permit processing after a declared disaster

#### **Florida National Guard Medical Services and Training for Local Officials**

- Allows trained servicemembers assigned to medical duty to provide care within their licensure scope to military and civilians during emergencies or disasters.
- DEM to establish biennial training requirements for local officials with emergency management roles.
- Mandatory training for local elected and appointed leaders.

#### **Pre-Season Readiness**

- DEM to conduct annual regional sessions by April 1.
- Attendance required for local emergency management directors or designees.
- Sessions cover preparation timelines, expedited rebuilding, and coordination best practices.

#### **Shelter Planning and Reporting**

- Combines shelter reporting into one annual report with plan, needs, and priority facility list.
- Shelter retrofit list to prioritize non-school public facilities and address county-level shelter deficits.
- Department of Health and Agency for Persons with Disabilities to assist DEM in planning for shelter space for people with disabilities, including autism.
- Shelter retrofit funds (\$3 million/year) prioritized for publicly owned, non-school buildings to reduce reliance on schools and address county shelter deficits.

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**For Immediate Release**

March 19, 2025

**Contact: Katie Betta**

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**Senate Passes Rural Renaissance Legislation**

*Bill creates opportunities for infrastructure improvements, education & health care enhancements in rural communities across the Sunshine State*

**Tallahassee**—The Florida Senate today passed Senate Bill (SB) 110 by Senator Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee), a comprehensive package of legislative proposals designed to create a modern-day renaissance in rural communities across Florida. A priority of Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula), the bill creates opportunities for rural communities to expand education offerings, increase health care services, and modernize commerce, in addition to an investment in farm-to-market roads to support the agriculture supply chain that feeds communities across the state.

“Our rural communities are full of opportunity, and that doesn’t just mean development. Our Rural Renaissance package provides opportunities for rural communities to grow as they see fit, based on decisions made by local families and businesses who call rural Florida home,” said President Albritton. “We are focusing on infrastructure improvements that support existing businesses as they grow and transition based on the needs of our economy. This includes our legacy farm and citrus operations, who will be well-served by improvements to farm-to-market roads essential to keeping fresh food within reach of Florida families. These are critical enhancements and investments to support 31 of our 67 counties and hundreds of rural communities across Florida. We have seen tremendous economic growth in urban areas of Florida, its Rural Florida’s turn.”

“Modern Florida is the envy of the nation, and we won’t leave our rural communities behind. Our small communities are strong, proud, and resilient. When disaster strikes, as it has so often in recent years, they band together, neighbor helping neighbor,” said Senator Simon who represents 12 rural counties across Florida’s panhandle and big bend. “Quality of life in rural areas can be impacted by access to job opportunities, education and health care. We are combining enhancements to the traditional infrastructure for schools and hospitals with innovations that drastically expand opportunities for education, commerce, and health care in rural Florida. We know commerce and capital are attracted to strong transportation infrastructure and robust public services, which will provide the chance for rural communities to prosper and grow in a manner that maintains a highly sought after and time-honored way of life.”

**SB 110 – FLORIDA’S RURAL RENAISSANCE**

**Increases Support and Partnerships with Rural Communities**

***Modernizes Support for Fiscally-Constrained Counties to Account for Inflation***

Many communities are growing out of the current definitions used in Florida law for rural and fiscally constrained counties (FCC), either due to population increases or increases in the amount of property taxes raised. The bill modernizes these definitions. For example, the bill increases the FCC threshold (set in 2006) from a county that raises \$5 million in property tax revenue per 1 mil, to \$10 million per 1 mil.

Currently, a distribution from the tax collected on direct-to-home satellite service is provided to fiscally constrained counties that participate in the half-cent sales tax program. FCCs are estimated to receive a total distribution of \$10.4 million in FY 2024-2025. The allocation among the several FCCs is based on a formula that uses a county's millage rate, population, and school taxable value. FCCs may use these funds for any public purpose except for debt service.

The bill increases the total distribution to no less than \$50 million per fiscal year and changes the revenue source from the tax on direct-to-home satellite service to sales tax, which will align the distribution for FCCs with the overall state economy. The bill also changes the allocation formula to use sales tax collections, per capita personal income, and population. Finally, the bill adds spending requirements. Specifically, 50% of the distribution must be used for public safety, 30% for infrastructure, and 20% for any public purpose. Debt service is not allowed.

Due to the new distribution for FCCs from the state's General Revenue Fund, the entire portion of the tax collected on direct-to-home satellite service that is earmarked for deposit into the Local Government Half-Cent Sales Tax Trust Fund is made available to all participating counties. In addition to the new \$50 million General Revenue distribution created in the bill, FCCs will also benefit from a share of the estimated \$10 million now becoming available to all participating counties.

### ***Creates the Office of Rural Prosperity***

The bill creates the Office of Rural Prosperity at the Department of Commerce to provide technical assistance to rural communities. The Office will promote and facilitate statewide planning assistance for local governments, serving as a robust resource for rural local governments with dedicated regional staff. Personnel will be permanently assigned to regional rural community liaison centers across the state to engage with locals and facilitate access to resources. They will aid local governments in accessing state and federal resources and conduct routine trainings on requirements of the Community Planning Act and other relevant state and federal legislation.

The Office will create and maintain an interactive tool, the "Rural Resource Directory," designed for rural local governments to navigate state and federal grants and resources. OPPAGA will review the effectiveness of the Office of Rural Prosperity every three years, after an annual review for the initial three years. The bill also modernizes the existing Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) statute and rural local government strategy.

### ***Establishes Renaissance Grants for Counties with Declining Population***

A subset of our rural communities has lost population over the last decade (Gadsden, Hardee, Talyor, Jackson, Calhoun, Liberty, Madison, and Lafayette Counties), resulting in declining business activity. The bill creates a \$1 million block grant for each of the eight counties with declining population. Each county must develop a plan to use the funds with the goal of population growth. Use of these funds will be audited. The grant will be awarded annually until the county sees three consecutive years of population growth.

### ***Funds for Rural Public Infrastructure Innovations***

To facilitate the use of innovative, cost-saving technologies that will help rural governments save time and money, the bill creates a competitive application process for organizations with at least three years of experience in bringing innovations to local communities. Funds will help rural governments test and use new technologies.

### ***Enhances Rural Economic Development Initiatives***

Local or regional economic development community partners in rural communities can apply for grants to help cover the cost of site preparedness, and marketing and training opportunities to further economic development initiatives. Further, by working with the Office and updating REDI functions, the attention to rural areas will increase the likelihood that goals are maximized and successful.

### ***Adds Small Business Development Center Circuit Riders***

Growing small businesses fosters a sense of community and attracts people and commerce to the community as it grows. The Small Business Development Center currently funds staff in rural areas to "ride the circuit" of their region and work with local governments and communities to bring services, including access to capital, technical assistance, and other small business services. SDBC is a federal program that utilizes federal funding and matching funds from local state college partners. The bill appropriates \$1 million to increase circuit riders and reach more communities through this program.

### **Maximizes Options for Rural Housing**

#### ***Raises Minimum Allocations for SHIP to Jump Start Rural Housing Options***

Currently allocations are population-based, with the minimum allocation for each county within the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program set at \$350,000. The bill increases the minimum allocation for each county to \$1 million which will provide additional funding to rural communities.

#### ***Preserves Rental Housing in Rural Communities***

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently offers more than 14,000 subsidized rental units at over 300 properties across the state, the vast majority of which are located in rural areas. USDA-financed properties are reaching the end of their use restrictions and are at risk of turning into market rate rental housing. To preserve these units as affordable rentals, the bill appropriates funds for rehabilitation or acquisition for owners who agree to maintain the properties as affordable housing.

### **Enhances Rural Transportation and Broadband Infrastructure**

#### ***Expands Rural Infrastructure Fund***

The Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) facilitates planning, preparing, and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities to encourage job creation and capital investment in rural economies. RIF funds can be used by rural communities as a match for other infrastructure funding programs. Currently the program is appropriated \$5 million annually. The bill increases the recurring appropriation to \$10 million, with a onetime additional infusion of \$40 million.

#### ***Increases Rural Revolving Loan Program Funding***

The Rural Revolving Loan Program was created by the Legislature in 1996 to facilitate the use of existing federal, state, and local financial resources by providing local governments with access to funds to promote the economic viability of rural communities. The program is intended to be highly flexible and the loan amounts vary depending on the need of applicants. Currently, the program receives \$420,000 annually. The bill increases the recurring funding to a total of \$1.4 million, with a one-time additional infusion of \$4 million. Because these are loans, these funds will be leveraged by rural communities many times.

#### ***Improves Coordination for Federal Broadband Programs***

Broadband access has become a critical quality of life issue, with high-speed internet serving as a gateway to commerce, education, and health care. Florida is set to receive \$1.2 billion in federal

funding through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, in addition to other federal funds allocated to broadband, including \$366 million from the federal Capital Project Fund and \$400 million pandemic funds appropriated by the Legislature to the Broadband Opportunity Program.

The bill improves coordination and technical assistance between the Office of Broadband at the Department of Commerce and rural or underserved communities in need of broadband services.

### ***Historic Commitment to Farm to Market Roads***

The bill creates the Florida Arterial Road Modernization (FARM) Program, amending the existing arterial rural highway projects statutes to incorporate funding for roads used primarily as farm-to-market connections between rural agricultural areas and market distribution centers.

The bill creates a new distribution specifically for arterial roads from existing documentary stamp revenues by redirecting \$30 million from unallocated funds collected through Documentary Stamps to the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF). With existing funding of \$20 million annually, this results in a \$50 million annual investment in arterial roads.

The bill also expands the FDOT County Incentive Grant Program to include projects that enhance connectivity between rural agricultural areas and market distribution centers, and allows counties within the Everglades Agricultural Area to request additional funding for such projects.

### ***Expands Small County Road Assistance Program***

The Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) assists small county governments in resurfacing and reconstructing county roads. The bill redirects a portion of vehicle title fees, which are currently directed to the state's general revenue fund, to the STTF to increase funding available for the program. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently required to expend \$25 million on the program, and this redirect more than doubles the state's investment in these counties.

### **Improves Education Opportunities in Rural Communities**

#### ***Expands Regional Education Consortia***

Current education regional consortium service organizations include the Northeast Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC); Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC); and Heartland Educational Consortium (HEC), which serve small, rural school districts to reduce overhead administrative costs, minimize duplication of services, promote new programs, and provide personnel and programmatic support.

School districts with 20,000 or fewer students, lab schools, and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may enter into cooperative agreements to form a regional consortium service organization. Each regional consortium receives a grant of \$50,000 per school district and eligible member to be used for the delivery of services within the participating school districts. The consortium board of directors, made up of the superintendents of the participating school districts, determines the services and use of funds. The bill increases from \$50,000 to \$150,000 the consortia funding per eligible member and appropriates recurring funding for this investment.

#### ***Creates Regional Consortium Service Organization Supplemental Services Program***

The bill creates a grant program administered by the three regional consortium service organizations to supplement member needs related to transportation; district finance personnel services; cybersecurity

support; school safety; college, career, and workforce development; academic supports; and behavior support within exceptional student education services.

#### ***Updates Special Facility Construction Account***

The Special Facility Construction Account (SFCA) provides construction funds to school districts that have urgent construction needs but lack sufficient resources and have no reasonable expectation of raising needed funds over the next three years through tax revenue. Typically, the projects that receive funds through the SFCA are located in rural areas that have an insufficient tax base to fund large construction projects.

A school district receiving funding must levy the maximum discretionary millage (1.5 mills) for three years before making a request and until project completion. Of that levy, the school district must pay the value of 1 mill per year to the project. This is collected by the Department of Education. This leaves participating districts with limited ability to pay for other fixed capital outlay needs. The bill authorizes a school district that receives funds through the SFCA to retain its entire 1.5 mill discretionary ad valorem levy.

#### ***Adds a Student Loan Repayment Program for Rural Educators***

The bill creates the Rural Incentive for Professional Educators (RIPE) program to help small counties attract and retain instructional personnel and administrators. The program provides a yearly benefit for educators that reside in and work as instructional employees or administrators at public or private schools in a fiscally constrained county.

Participants receive up to \$15,000 in total student loan repayment assistance over five years, disbursed in annual payments not to exceed \$3,000 per year.

#### **Expands Access to Health Care in Rural Florida**

##### ***Growing Doctors and Nurses in Rural Areas***

Rural communities in Florida have limited access to medical care. As a result, these communities are home to more people with medically-complex needs, which if addressed through preventative and primary care, could significantly improve quality of life and reduce costs for families. Physicians, physician assistants and autonomous APRNs might be more willing to locate to rural areas with grant funding to establish primary care practices in rural areas.

Existing financial incentive programs (e.g. Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education, FRAME) do not fund facility construction, acquisition, renovation, or lease; medical equipment and furnishings; or information technology. All of these are needed in order for a practice to be established. The bill creates a new grant program to help start-up physician, physician assistants, and autonomous APRN offices and practices in rural areas.

The bill also expands the existing FRAME program to include medical doctors or osteopathic doctors who are board certified or board eligible in emergency medicine and who are employed by or under contract with a rural hospital or rural emergency hospital.

##### ***Training Rural Paramedics and EMTs in Advanced Stroke, Cardiac, and Obstetrics Response***

Stroke, Cardiac and Obstetrics patients in rural Florida face challenges including limited access to hospitals, fewer resources, and a lack of advanced treatments. These challenges can lead to worse health outcomes and higher mortality rates.

The bill creates the Stroke, Cardiac, and Obstetric Response and Education (SCORE) Grant Program within the Department of Health to increase access to high-quality stroke, cardiac, and obstetric care through the application of technology and innovative training for medical professionals who provide emergency care, including EMTs and other first responders.

***Expands Rural Hospital Grant Program To Cover Mobile Units and Telemedicine Kiosks***

The Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Program provides critical funding to rural hospitals to acquire, repair, improve, and upgrade systems, facilities, or equipment. The state budget currently includes \$10 million in recurring funding for these grants.

The bill adds \$25 million in nonrecurring funding to meet the growing needs of rural hospitals. Funds will cover mobile units to provide primary care services, behavioral health services, or obstetric and gynecological services in rural areas, and telemedicine kiosks to provide urgent care services remotely in rural areas.

***Increases Existing Medicaid Payments for Rural Hospitals***

In Florida, five rural hospitals have closed, primarily due to financial challenges. A "critical access hospital" (CAH) is one that meets federal standards, including location in a rural area and distance from other hospitals. Federal Medicare recognizes this distinction and provides higher payments for Medicare services provided at these hospitals. However, Florida Medicaid reimbursement does not recognize CAH status.

The bill appropriates additional dollars to enhance Medicaid payments to reimburse rural hospitals that provide care for the current Medicaid population, similar to Medicare reimbursement.

**Rural Renaissance Appropriations – \$200.8 million**

- Renaissance Grants – \$8 million
- Office of Rural Prosperity – \$2.5 million
- Preserving Rental Housing in Rural Communities – \$30 million
- Rural Strategy Grants – \$250,000
- Rural Infrastructure Fund – \$45 million
- Rural Revolving Loan Program – \$5 million
- Innovations for Rural Counties – \$500,000
- Small Business Development Center Network – \$1 million
- Student Loan Repayment for Rural Educators – \$7 million
- Regional Education Consortia – Increase from \$50K to \$150K per district – \$3.6 million
- Regional Education Consortia Grants – \$25 million
- Rural Hospital Medicaid Enhancement – \$7.7 million state, \$10.3 million federal (updated based on most recent estimate)
- Rural Hospital Improvement Grants – \$25 million
- Stroke, Cardiac, and Obstetric Response and Education – \$5 million
- Doctor/PA/APRN Start Up Program – \$25 million

**General Revenue Redirects in the Bill**

- Fiscally Constrained Counties – approximately \$50.7 million (updated based on most recent estimate)
- Direct-to-Home Satellite Tax – approximately \$10.2 million
- Farm-to-Market Roads – \$30 million State Transportation Trust Fund
- Small County Road Assistance Program – approximately \$35.6 million State Transportation Trust Fund (updated based on most recent estimate)

**Additional Funding for General Appropriations Act**

- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program – \$18.8 million

For more information, please visit [www.FLSeante.gov](http://www.FLSeante.gov).

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EXHIBIT C

Loxahatchee Groves Town Residents, Landowners, Council and Staff,

It is with infinite sadness that I feel compelled today to present to Town of Loxahatchee Groves my resignation of my post as Seat #1 on Town Council.

My considerations are first of my family, friends and constituents....~~all of whom I love, admire and respect~~....my health, and my livelihood.

To my friends and constituents, I am so proud to have had your confidence and support throughout my service on Town Council.

I reflect also on my fellow Council Members (past and present) and Town Staff over the past seven years, together we have many struggles in build up this New Town and in the end we have accomplished many great things.

To <sup>Staff</sup> my colleagues, I will always appreciate the experience and knowledge I gained during my time working with you all.

I know politics are divisive and polarizing by nature however, as a Council Member, I've always strived to be fair and unbiased taking positions to try and best serve the entire Town.

To all, I want to say that I am troubled at the tone and timber of some subversive comments being made in Chambers and the malicious, slanderous commentary being spread outside of Chambers. This hostile environment which culminated an unwarranted physical & character attacks on me. At this time I believe that my stepping down is the only next move I must make in order to continue my mission for a better Loxahatchee Groves. .

My singular goal has always been to preserve this little Town that I have lived in for 35 plus years, I have also been determined to protect the ideals of incorporation and it's governance, an office and position I have served with honor and devotion.

However at this juncture, I can say with much certitude I feel I can be most effective and powerful to that end not from the Dais, but from the podium.

Please accept my resignation effective June 4th, 2025 at 5PM.

Phillis Maniglia  
Loxahatchee Groves  
Council Member Seat #1  
Town resident since 1989