LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
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TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana

General Purpose Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Two Years Ended
December 31, 2000

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and either apprepriate public officials. The report is available for public officials. The report is available for public officials the Paton Rouge office on the Logistalian indicate the Paton appropriate, at the office of the parish clark of court.

Release Date 8-15-01

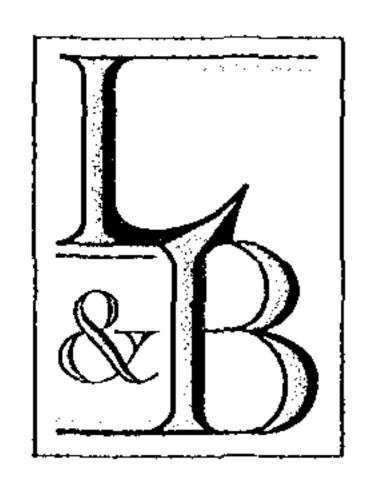
LITTLE & BANKS ILC CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana

General Purpose Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Two Years Ended
December 31, 2000

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LITTLE & BANKS LLC CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Wm. TODD LITTLE,CPA KERRY J. BANKS, CPA CHARLES R. MARCHBANKS, JR., CPA VERNON R. COON, CPA

Independent Auditor's Report

HONORABLE IRBY GAMBLE, CLA TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Tensas Parish Assessor, a component unit of the Tensas Parish Police Jury, as of December 31, 2000, and for the two years then ended, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Tensas Parish Assessor's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

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

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Tensas Parish Assessor as of December 31, 2000, and the results of its operations for the two years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

HONORABLE IRBY GAMBLE, CLA TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana Independent Auditor's Report, December 31, 2000

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, We have also issued a report dated June 6, 2001, on the Tensas Parish Assessor's compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts, and our consideration of the agency's internal control over financial reporting. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

July of But us

West Monroe, Louisiana June 6, 2001 GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (OVERVIEW)

TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

Balance Sheet, December 31, 2000

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND	ACCOUNT GROUP - GENERAL FIXED ASSETS	TOTAL (MEMORANDUM ONLY)
ASSETS Cash Receivables	\$161,708 188,660		\$161,708 188,660
Prepaid expenses Automobile security deposit	750 2,000		750 2,000
Office furnishings and equipment TOTAL ASSETS	\$353,118	\$35,656 \$35,656	35,656 \$388,774
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY			
Liabilities - accounts payable Fund Equity:	<u>\$1,448</u>		\$1,448
Investment in general fixed assets Fund balance - unreserved -		\$35,656	35,656
undesignated	351,670		351,670
Total Fund Equity	351,670	35,656	387,326
TOTAL LIABILITIES	ቀ ሳደን 110	425 656	<u> </u>
AND FUND EQUITY	<u>\$353,118</u>	<u>\$33,030</u>	\$388,774

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget (GAAP Basis) and Actual For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

	BUDGET	<u>ACTUAL</u>	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES			
Taxes - ad valorem	\$180,000	\$183,648	\$3,648
Intergovernmental revenues:			
Federal grant - in lieu of taxes		2,666	2,666
State grant - state revenue sharing (net)	16,000	15,337	(663)
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	2,600	6,113	3,513
Use of money and property - interest earnings	10,000	10,317	317
Other revenues	-	52	52
Total revenues	208,600	218,133	9,533
EXPENDITURES			
General government - taxation:			
Personal services and related benefits	173,000	170,998	2,002
Operating services	24,800	21,355	3,445
Materials and supplies	3,600	1,790	1,810
Travel and other charges	15,000	11,277	3,723
Capital outlay	5,000	2,146	2,854
Total expenditures	221,400	207,566	13,834
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES			
OVER EXPENDITURES	(12,800)	10,567	23,367
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	289,000	341,103	52,103
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$276,200</u>	<u>\$351,670</u>	\$75,470

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget (GAAP Basis) and Actual For the Year Ended December 31, 1999

			VARIANCE
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES			<u> </u>
Taxes - ad valorem	\$160,000	\$169,458	\$9,458
Intergovernmental revenues:			
Federal grant - in lieu of taxes		5,265	5,265
State grant - state revenue sharing (net)	16,000	15,227	(773)
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	2,600	6,235	3,635
Use of money and property - interest earnings	<u>8,075</u>	7,882	(193)
Total revenues	186,675	204,067	17,392
EXPENDITURES			
General government - taxation:			
Personal services and related benefits	160,000	152,494	7,506
Operating services	24,000	17,889	6,111
Materials and supplies	4,000	2,837	1,163
Travel and other charges	14,000	11,728	2,272
Capital outlay	<u>3,000</u>	1,254	1,746
Total expenditures	205,000	186,202	18,798
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES			
OVER EXPENDITURES	(18,325)	17,865	36,190
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	307,325	323,238	15,913_
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$289,000	<u>\$341,103</u>	\$52,103

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and For the Two Years Ended December 31, 2000

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a term of four years, beginning January 1 following the year in which elected. The assessor assesses all real and movable property in the parish, subject to ad valorem taxation, prepares tax rolls, and submits the rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission and other governmental bodies as prescribed by law. The assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as necessary for the efficient operation of his office and to provide assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office, but the assessor is officially and pecuniarily responsible for the actions of the deputies.

At December 31, 1999, there are 11,452 real, movable and public service assessment listings totaling \$22,727,554, \$6,549,904, and \$12,693,550 respectively. This represents an increase of 115 assessment listings. The total assessed valuation increased by \$4,674,810.

At December 31, 2000, there are 11,560 real, movable, and public service assessment listings totaling \$23,677,330, \$6,249,783, and \$14,584,400, respectively. This represents an increase of 108 assessment listings. The total assessed valuation increased by \$2,540,505.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Tensas Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Tensas Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14 establishes criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Tensas Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criteria for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

St. Joseph, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

- 1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and;
 - a. The ability of the police jury to impose its will on that organization and/or;
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the police jury.
- 2. Organizations for which the police jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the police jury.
- 3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Because the police jury maintains and operates the parish courthouse in which the assessor's office is located, the assessor was determined to be a component unit of the Tensas Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the assessor and do not present information on the police jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

B. FUND ACCOUNTING

The assessor uses funds and account groups to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. An account group, on the other hand, is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities (general fixed assets and general long-term debt) that are not recorded in the "funds" because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources. They are concerned only with the measurement of financial position, not with the measurement of results of operations.

TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Funds are classified into three categories; governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate "fund types". Governmental funds are used to account for a government's general activities, where the focus of attention is on the providing of services to the public as opposed to proprietary funds where the focus of attention is on recovering the cost of providing services to the public or other agencies through service charges or user fees. Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held for others. The assessor's current operations require only the use of governmental funds (General Fund). Ad valorem tax revenue authorized by Act 17 of 1990 is accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

C. GENERAL FIXED ASSETS AND LONG-TERM DEBT

Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations (general fixed assets) are accounted for in the general fixed assets account group, rather than in the General Fund. Fixed assets provided by the police jury are not recorded in the general fixed assets account group. Approximately 93 per cent of fixed assets are valued at estimated historical costs based on the actual costs of like items while the remaining 7 per cent are based on actual historical costs. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. The assessor has no long-term debt at December 31, 2000.

D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements for these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used for reporting all governmental fund types. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they are both measurable and available). "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. The assessor uses the following practices in recognizing and reporting revenues and expenditures:

St. Joseph, Louisiana Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Revenues

Ad valorem taxes and the related state revenue sharing are recorded in the year the taxes are due and payable. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, attach as an enforceable lien, and become due and payable on the date the tax rolls are filed with the recorder of mortgages. Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1993 requires that the tax roll be filed on or before November 15 of each year. Ad valorem taxes become delinquent if not paid by December 31. The taxes are normally collected in December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year.

Fees for preparing tax rolls are recognized in the period in which they are earned.

Interest income on demand deposits is recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

Based on the above criteria, ad valorem taxes, state revenue sharing, and fees for preparing tax rolls have been treated as susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

E. BUDGET PRACTICES

The proposed budget for the General Fund, prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget is then legally adopted by the assessor and amended during the year, as necessary. The budget is established and controlled by the assessor at the object level of expenditure. Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended. All changes in the budget must be approved by the assessor.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statement include the original adopted budget amounts.

St. Joseph, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

F. CASH

Under state law, the assessor may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States. The assessor may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 2000, the assessor has cash (book balances) totaling \$161,708.

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits, or the resulting bank balances, must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Cash (bank balances) at December 31, 2000, is secured as follows:

Bank balances	<u>\$162,231</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$106,693
Pledged securities (uncollateralized)	141,504
Total Total	\$248,197

Because the pledged securities are held by a custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank rather than in the name of the assessor, they are considered uncollateralized (Category 3) under the provisions of GASB Codification C20:106; however, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the assessor that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, LRS 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the assessor's name.

G. VACATION AND SICK LEAVE

All employees earn ten days of vacation leave and ten days of sick leave each year. Vacation leave and sick leave are non-cumulative and any amounts remaining at year-end are forfeited.

St. Joseph, Louisiana Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

H. RISK MANAGEMENT

The assessor is exposed to various risk of loss related to law enforcement liability; torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and injuries to employees. To handle risk of loss, the assessor maintains commercial insurance covering; automobile liability; general liability; commercial crime; law enforcement; public officials liability; and worker's compensation and employer's liability. No claims were paid on any of the policies during the past three years which exceeded the policies' coverage amounts.

I. TOTAL COLUMN ON THE BALANCE SHEET

The total column on the balance sheet is captioned Memorandum Only to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis (overview). Data in this column does not present financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation.

2. PRINCIPAL TAXPAYERS

The following are the principal taxpayers for the parish and their 2000 assessed valuation (amounts expressed in thousands):

		Per cent
	2000	of Total
	Assessed	Assessed
	<u>Valuation</u>	Valuation
Orgulf Transport Company	\$4,106,100	9.22%
American River Transport Company	3,675,020	8.26%
American Commercial Barge Line	2,989,990	6.72%
Cross Keys Bank	1,513,165	3.40%
Bunge Corporation	1,362,710	3.06%
Entergy Louisiana, Inc.	1,084,910	2.44%
Tensas State Bank	995,595	2.24%
Bellsouth Telecommunications	790,930	1.78%
Western Correctional Corp.	568,000	1.28%
LCS-Tensas, LLC.	474,287	1.07%
Total	<u>\$17,560,707</u>	<u>39.45 %</u>

St. Joseph, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

3. RECEIVABLES

The General Fund receivables of \$188,660 at December 31, 2000, are as follows:

Class of Receivables

Ad valorem taxes
Other

Total

\$172,155

16,505

\$188,660

4. CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS

A summary of changes in offices furnishings and equipment follows:

Balance at January 1, 1999	\$32,490
For the year ended December 31, 1999:	
Additions	1,280
Deductions	(260)
For the year ended December 31, 2000:	
Additions	2,146
Deductions	NONE
Balance at December 31, 2000	<u>\$35,656</u>

5. PENSION PLAN

Substantially all employees of the Tensas Parish Assessor's office are members of the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System (system), a multiple-employer (cost-sharing), public employee retirement system (PERS), controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees.

All full-time employees who are under the age of 60 at the time of original employment and are not drawing retirement benefits from any other public retirement system in Louisiana are required to participate in the system. Employees who retire at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of credited service or at or after age 50 with at least 30 years of credited service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of credited service rendered on or before June 30, 1999, and 3.33 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of credited service rendered on or after July1, 1999, not to exceed 100 per cent of their final-average salary. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that

St. Joseph, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least 12 years of service and do not withdraw their employee contributions may retire at or after age 55 and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The system also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

The System issues an annual publicly available report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement System, 3060 Valley Creek Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898, or by calling (225) 928-8886.

Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 7.00 per cent of their annual covered salary and the Tensas Parish Assessor is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 5.75 per cent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the system include one-fourth of one per cent (one per cent for Orleans Parish) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish, plus revenue sharing funds appropriated by the legislature. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Tensas Parish Assessor are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The Tensas Parish Assessor's contributions to the system for the years ending December 31, 2000, 1999, 1998, were \$7,486, \$7,186, and \$6,320, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

6. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The Tensas Parish Assessor provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. Substantially all of the assessor's employees become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the assessor. These benefits for retirees and similar benefits for active employees are provided through an insurance company whose monthly premiums are paid jointly by the employee and the assessor. The assessor recognizes the cost of providing these benefits (assessor's cost of premiums) as an expenditure when the monthly premiums are paid. For the two years ended December 31, 2000, the total amount of premiums paid were \$26,122 in 1999 and \$30,233 in 2000 while the amounts paid for retirees totaled \$4,710 in 1999 and \$4722 in 2000.

7. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

At December 31, 2000, the Tensas Parish Assessor is not involved in any litigation nor is he aware of any unasserted claims.

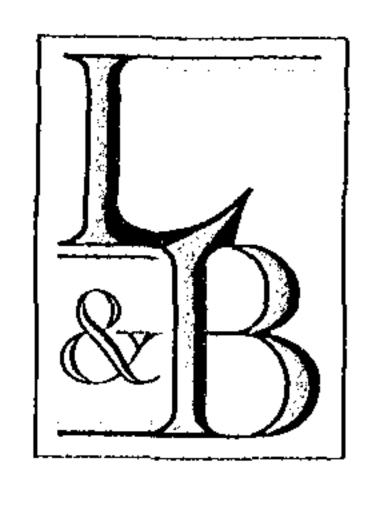
St. Joseph, Louisiana Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

8. EXPENDITURES OF THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE PAID BY THE POLICE JURY

The Tensas Parish Assessor's office is located in the parish courthouse. The cost of maintaining and operating the courthouse, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4713, is paid by the Tensas Parish Police Jury.

Independent Auditor's Report Required by Government Auditing Standards

The following independent auditor's report on compliance with laws and regulations, and internal control is presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.



LITTLE & BANKS LLC CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Wm. TODD LITTLE,CPA KERRY J. BANKS, CPA CHARLES R. MARCHBANKS, JR., CPA VERNON R. COON, CPA

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance and Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

TENSAS PARISH ASSESSOR St. Joseph, Louisiana

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Tensas Parish Assessor as of and for the two years ended December 31, 2000 and have issued our report thereon dated June 6, 2001. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

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

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Tensas Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

St. Joseph, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance
And Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, etc.
December 31, 2000

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Tensas Parish Assessor and management of the assessor's office and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

West Monroe, Louisiana June 6, 2001

Tensas Parish Assessor St. Joseph, Louisiana

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs For the Two Years Ended December 31, 2000

A. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

- 1. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the general purpose financial statements of Tensas Parish Assessor.
- 2. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of Tensas Parish Assessor were disclosed during the audit.
- 3. No reportable conditions relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.

B. FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT

None

Schedule 4

Tensas Parish Assessor St. Joseph, Louisiana

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings For the Two Years Ended December 31, 2000

There were no audit findings reported in the audit for the two years ended December 31, 1998.