

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

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Management's Responsibility

To the Reeve and Council of Saddle Hills County:

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the consolidated financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of financial statements.

The Council is composed entirely of Councilors who are neither management nor employees of the County. The Council is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the financial information included in the financial statements. The Council fulfils these responsibilities by reviewing the financial information prepared by management and discussing relevant matters with management, and external auditors. Council is responsible for the appointment of the County's external auditors.

MNP LLP, an independent firm of Chartered Professional Accountants, is appointed by the Council to audit the consolidated financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Council and management to discuss their audit findings.

April 8, 2025

Chief Administrative Officer

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Council of Saddle Hills County:

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Saddle Hills County (the "Municipality"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024, and the consolidated statements of operations and accumulated operating surplus, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Municipality as at December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, changes in its net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Municipality in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Municipality or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Municipality's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. 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.
- 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 Municipality's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Municipality's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Municipality to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Debt Limit Regulation

In accordance with Alberta regulation 255/2000, we confirm that the Municipality is in compliance with the Debt Limit Regulation. A detailed account of the Municipality's debt limit can be found in note 13.

Supplementary Accounting Principles and Standards Regulation

In accordance with Alberta regulation 313/2000, we confirm that the Municipality is in compliance with the Supplementary Accounting Principles and Standards Regulation.

Peace River, Alberta

April 8, 2025

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

**SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

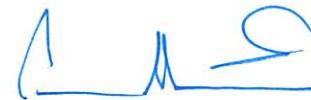
	2024 \$	2023 \$
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	3,849,226	5,367,266
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	11,321,745	3,918,274
Long-term investments (Note 4)	100,288,568	110,268,496
	<u>115,459,539</u>	<u>119,554,036</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	11,366,792	10,651,438
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	6,733,942	7,130,137
Landfill closure and post-closure costs (Note 7)	6,085,663	5,895,530
Asset Retirement Obligation (Note 9)	520,000	520,000
	<u>24,706,397</u>	<u>24,197,105</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	<u>90,753,142</u>	<u>95,356,931</u>
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Schedule 2)	205,669,414	177,837,443
Inventory for consumption (Note 8)	2,625,738	2,114,498
Capitalized Asset Retirement Obligation (Note 10)	402,667	411,333
Prepaid expenses	419,709	416,785
	<u>209,117,528</u>	<u>180,780,059</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (Schedule 1, Note 11)	<u>299,870,670</u>	<u>276,136,990</u>

Contingencies and Commitments - See Note 14 and 15

Approved by



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Budget \$	2024 \$	2023 \$
REVENUE			
Net municipal property taxes (Schedule 3)	44,266,227	44,402,938	41,801,191
Oil well drilling equipment tax	-	-	-
Return on investments	3,000,000	3,842,929	3,515,039
Other	273,153	1,098,086	1,093,510
Government transfers for operating (Schedule 4)	321,447	400,588	399,770
User fees and sale of goods	589,800	745,663	701,938
Penalties and costs on taxes	50,000	51,582	40,533
Total revenues	48,500,627	50,541,786	47,551,981
EXPENSES			
Operating			
Road and bridge projects	15,705,294	12,496,392	13,008,606
Administrative	14,019,530	8,799,772	3,797,664
Agriculture and land development	1,989,905	1,622,107	1,529,215
Protective services	2,697,057	2,065,247	2,404,202
Water and wastewater	3,635,815	3,385,391	2,774,950
Recreation and culture	851,764	785,220	490,681
Legislative	5,647,030	5,583,823	6,326,068
Waste management	954,822	964,741	859,151
Common services	1,410,233	1,243,029	1,056,743
Family and community support services	399,000	278,521	205,574
Total Expenses	47,310,450	37,224,243	32,452,854
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES - BEFORE OTHER	1,190,177	13,317,543	15,099,127
OTHER			
Government transfers for capital (Schedule 4)	40,015,274	10,651,984	8,968,243
Gain (loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	85,000	(235,847)	340,330
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	41,290,451	23,733,680	24,407,700
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	276,136,990	276,136,990	251,729,290
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	317,427,441	299,870,670	276,136,990

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Budget \$	2024 \$	2023 \$
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>41,290,451</u>	<u>23,733,680</u>	<u>24,407,700</u>
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(102,310,734)	(34,223,384)	(24,060,586)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	90,212	2,519,173
Amortization of tangible capital assets	5,241,600	6,065,346	5,242,066
(Gain) loss on sale of tangible capital assets	-	235,847	(340,330)
Change in capitalized asset retirement obligation	<u>-</u>	<u>8,673</u>	<u>(411,333)</u>
	<u>(97,069,134)</u>	<u>(27,823,306)</u>	<u>(17,051,010)</u>
Acquisition of supplies inventories	-	(2,625,738)	(2,114,498)
Use of supplies inventories	-	2,114,498	1,844,075
Acquisition of prepaid assets	-	(419,709)	(416,786)
Use of prepaid assets	<u>-</u>	<u>416,786</u>	<u>397,809</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>(514,163)</u>	<u>(289,400)</u>
INCREASE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	<u>(55,778,683)</u>	<u>(4,603,789)</u>	<u>7,067,290</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>95,356,931</u>	<u>95,356,931</u>	<u>88,289,641</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u><u>39,578,248</u></u>	<u><u>90,753,142</u></u>	<u><u>95,356,931</u></u>

**SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NET INFLOW (OUTFLOW) OF CASH RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:		
OPERATING		
Excess of revenues over expenses	23,733,680	24,407,700
(Gain) loss on sale of tangible capital assets	235,847	(340,330)
Non-cash items included in excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	6,065,346	5,242,066
Non-cash charges to operations (net change):		
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables	(7,403,471)	(1,878,421)
Decrease (increase) in inventory for consumption	(511,240)	(270,423)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(2,924)	(18,976)
Decrease (increase) in capitalized asset retirement obligation	8,666	(411,333)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	715,362	5,176,950
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(396,195)	(3,958,631)
Increase (decrease) in provision for landfill closure and post-closure (Note 7)	190,133	110,128
Increase (decrease) in asset retirement obligation	-	520,000
Cash provided by operating transactions	<u>22,635,204</u>	<u>28,578,730</u>
CAPITAL		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(34,223,384)	(24,060,586)
Sale of tangible capital assets	90,212	2,519,173
Cash applied to capital transactions	<u>(34,133,172)</u>	<u>(21,541,413)</u>
INVESTING		
Decrease (increase) in investments	<u>9,979,928</u>	<u>(5,579,899)</u>
CHANGE IN CASH AND EQUIVALENTS DURING THE YEAR	(1,518,040)	1,457,418
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>5,367,266</u>	<u>3,909,848</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	<u><u>3,849,226</u></u>	<u><u>5,367,266</u></u>
See accompanying notes to the financial statements		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents is made up of:		
Cash and temporary investments (Note 2)	<u><u>3,849,226</u></u>	<u><u>5,367,266</u></u>

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 1

	Unrestricted Surplus	Restricted Surplus	Equity in Tangible Capital Assets	2024 \$	2023 \$
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	-	98,408,214	177,728,776	276,136,990	251,729,290
Excess of revenues over expenses	23,733,680	-	-	23,733,680	24,407,700
Unrestricted funds designated for future use	4,089,631	(4,089,631)	-	-	-
Current year funds used for tangible capital assets	(34,223,384)	-	34,223,384	-	-
Disposal of assets (at net book value)	326,060	-	(326,060)	-	-
Annual amortization expense	6,065,346	-	(6,065,346)	-	-
Annual amortization of asset retirement obligation	8,667	-	(8,667)	-	-
Change in accumulated surplus	-	(4,089,631)	27,823,311	23,733,680	24,407,700
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	-	94,318,583	205,552,087	299,870,670	276,136,990

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 2

	Land	Land Improvements	Buildings	Engineered Structures	Machinery and Equipment	Vehicles	2024 \$	2023 \$
COST:								
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,588,090	5,769,559	30,697,607	196,511,501	14,564,316	1,224,941	251,356,014	232,773,180
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	77,074	1,027,236	2,468,025	29,393,877	898,540	358,632	34,223,384	24,060,586
Disposal of tangible capital assets	-	-	(152,100)	(744,163)	(99,281)	(211,705)	(1,207,249)	(5,477,752)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	2,665,164	6,796,795	33,013,532	225,161,215	15,363,575	1,371,868	284,372,149	251,356,014
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION:								
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	-	1,303,999	4,578,473	60,573,277	6,129,468	933,354	73,518,571	71,575,415
Annual amortization	-	278,562	606,770	3,439,086	1,613,123	127,805	6,065,346	5,242,066
Accumulated amortization on disposals	-	-	(101,907)	(481,376)	(99,281)	(198,618)	(881,182)	(3,298,910)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	-	1,582,561	5,083,336	63,530,987	7,643,310	862,541	78,702,735	73,518,571
NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	2,665,164	5,214,234	27,930,196	161,630,228	7,720,265	509,327	205,669,414	177,837,443
2023 NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	2,588,090	4,460,752	26,119,134	135,938,224	8,439,656	291,587	177,837,443	

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 3**

	Budget \$	2024 \$	2023 \$
TAXATION			
Real property taxes	28,602,720	28,711,501	26,778,959
Linear property taxes	23,396,186	23,419,398	22,022,269
Government grants in place of property taxes	5,709	8,600	7,269
	<u>52,004,615</u>	<u>52,139,499</u>	<u>48,808,497</u>
REQUISITIONS			
Alberta School Foundation Fund	7,187,760	7,185,933	6,627,954
Seniors Foundation	307,318	307,318	160,393
Designated Industrial Property	243,310	243,310	218,959
	<u>7,738,388</u>	<u>7,736,561</u>	<u>7,007,306</u>
NET MUNICIPAL TAXES	<u>44,266,227</u>	<u>44,402,938</u>	<u>41,801,191</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 4**

	Budget \$	2024 \$	2023 \$
TRANSFERS FOR OPERATING:			
Local Government Fiscal Framework - Operating	79,200	158,410	-
Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Operating	-	-	158,410
Agriculture Service Board	166,247	166,247	166,247
Family and Community Support Services Program	76,000	75,931	75,113
	<u>321,447</u>	<u>400,588</u>	<u>399,770</u>
TRANSFERS FOR CAPITAL:			
Local Government Fiscal Framework - Capital	979,556	979,556	-
Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Capital	-	-	979,556
Canada Community Building Fund	186,205	186,205	139,289
Other Provincial Government	38,849,513	9,486,223	7,849,398
	<u>40,015,274</u>	<u>10,651,984</u>	<u>8,968,243</u>
TOTAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	<u>40,336,721</u>	<u>11,052,572</u>	<u>9,368,013</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES BY OBJECT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 5**

	Budget \$	2024 \$	2023 \$
CONSOLIDATED EXPENSES BY OBJECT			
Salaries, wages and benefits	10,142,536	9,683,704	8,521,205
Contracted and general services	11,335,913	8,153,255	9,426,557
Materials, goods, supplies and utilities	4,471,250	3,317,702	2,653,042
Transfers to governments, agencies and organizations	15,775,351	9,765,048	6,454,543
Amortization of tangible capital assets	5,241,600	6,065,346	5,242,066
Amortization of asset retirement obligation	8,800	8,667	8,667
Other expenses	335,000	230,521	146,774
	<u>47,310,450</u>	<u>37,224,243</u>	<u>32,452,854</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF SEGMENTED DISCLOSURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 6

	General Government	Protective Services	Transportation Services	Planning & Development	Recreation & Culture	Environmental Services	Other	Total \$
REVENUE								
Net municipal taxes	44,402,938	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,402,938
Government transfers	-	-	5,443,432	166,247	75,931	5,366,962	-	11,052,572
Oil well drilling equipment taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
User fees and sales of goods	6,493	33,808	273,682	25,359	6,674	399,647	-	745,663
Investment income	3,842,929	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,842,929
Other revenues	93,109	14,713	781,746	26,770	70,779	102,209	60,342	1,149,668
	48,345,469	48,521	6,498,860	218,376	153,384	5,868,818	60,342	61,193,770
EXPENSES								
Contract & general services	1,817,769	709,761	4,087,077	430,096	110,962	893,521	104,069	8,153,255
Salaries & wages	3,108,286	454,283	3,495,452	765,386	301,355	1,558,942	-	9,683,704
Goods & supplies	137,908	170,457	2,369,307	148,755	106,898	384,377	-	3,317,702
Transfers to governments, agencies and organizations	4,664,600	333,270	-	174,270	426,780	154,270	4,011,858	9,765,048
Other expenses	40,388	-	-	-	-	190,133	-	230,521
	9,768,951	1,667,771	9,951,836	1,518,507	945,995	3,181,243	4,115,927	31,150,230
NET REVENUE BEFORE AMORTIZATION								
	38,576,518	(1,619,250)	(3,452,976)	(1,300,131)	(792,611)	2,687,575	(4,055,585)	30,043,540
Amortization expense	(398,215)	(397,476)	(3,787,586)	(103,599)	(117,746)	(1,160,224)	(100,500)	(6,065,346)
Amortization of ARO						(8,667)		(8,667)
Gain (Loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	-	(235,847)	-	-	-	-	(235,847)
NET REVENUE	38,178,303	(2,016,726)	(7,476,409)	(1,403,730)	(910,357)	1,518,684	(4,156,085)	23,733,680

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The consolidated financial statements of Saddle Hills County are the representations of management prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by Saddle Hills County are as follows:

a Reporting entity

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures, changes in net financial assets and cash flows of the reporting entity. This entity is comprised of the municipal operations plus all of the organizations that are owned or controlled by the County and are, therefore, accountable to the Council for administration of their financial affairs and resources. They include the County's proportionate share of the Central Peace Regional Waste Management Commission (25%).

The schedule of taxes levied also includes requisitions for education and housing that are not part of the municipal reporting entity.

The statements exclude trust assets that are administered for the benefit of external parties. Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances are eliminated.

b Basis of Accounting

The consolidated financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting records revenue as it is earned and measurable. Expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable based upon receipt of goods or services and/or the legal obligation to pay.

Funds from external parties and earnings thereon restricted by agreement or legislation are accounted for as deferred revenue until used for the purpose specified.

Government transfers, contributions and other amounts are received from third parties pursuant to legislation, regulation or agreement and may only be used for certain programs, in the completion of specific work, or for the purchase of tangible capital assets. In addition, certain user charges and fees are collected for which the related services have yet to be performed. Revenue is recognized in the period when the related expenses are incurred, services performed or the tangible capital assets are acquired.

c Deferred Revenue

Government transfers, contributions and other amounts are received from third parties pursuant to legislation, regulation and agreement and may only be used in completion of certain programs, in the completion of specific work, or for the purchase of tangible capital assets. These funds and the earnings thereon are accounted for as deferred revenue until the related expenses are incurred, the services are performed or the tangible capital assets are acquired.

d Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Where management uncertainty exists, the financial statements have been prepared within reasonable limits of materiality. These estimates and assumptions are based on the County's best information and judgement and actual results could differ from these estimates.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, balances with the banks net of outstanding cheques and term deposits with original maturities of 90 days or less at the date of acquisition and are recorded at cost.

f) Investments

Investments consist of deposit notes, coupons, securities, mutual funds and guaranteed investment certificates. Deposit notes, coupons, securities, mutual funds and guaranteed investment certificates are recorded at amortized cost. Investment premiums and discounts are amortized over the term of the respective investments. When there has been a loss in the value that is other than a temporary decline, the respective investment is written down to recognize the loss.

g) Government Transfers

Government transfers are the transfer of assets from senior levels of government that are not the result of an exchange transaction, are not expected to be repaid in the future, or the result of a direct financial return.

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenue in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be determined.

h) Requisition Over-levies and Under-Levies

Over-levies and under-levies arise from the difference between the actual property tax levy made to cover each requisition and the actual amount requisitioned.

If the actual levy exceeds the requisition, the over-levy is accrued as a liability and property tax revenue is reduced. Where the actual levy is less than the requisition amount, the under-levy is accrued as a receivable and as property tax revenue.

Requisition tax rates in the subsequent year are adjusted for any over-levies or under-levies of the prior year.

i) Landfill Closure and Post- Closure Liability

Pursuant to the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, the County is required to fund the closure of its landfill sites and provide for post-closure care of the facility. Closure and post-closure activities include the final clay cover, landscaping, as well as surface and ground water monitoring, leachate control, and visual inspection. The requirement being provided for over the estimated remaining life of the landfill sites is based on usage.

j) Contaminated Sites

Contaminated sites are a result of contamination being introduced into air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic, or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. The liability is recorded net of any expected recoveries. A liability for remediation of a contaminated site is recognized when a site is not in productive use and is management's estimate of the cost of remediation including post remediation costs of operations, maintenance and monitoring.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

k Employee Future Benefits

Selected employees of the County are members of the Local Authority Pension Plan ("LAPP"), a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan. The trustee of the plan is the Alberta Treasurer and the plan is administered by a Board of Trustees. Since the plan is a multi-employer plan, it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan and, accordingly, the County does not recognize its share of any of the LAPP's surplus or deficit.

l) Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the normal course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, provides the consolidated change in net financial assets for the year.

i. Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets is amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life as follows:

	YEARS
Land Improvements	15-25
Buildings	25-50
Engineered structures	
Water system	30-75
Wastewater system	30-75
Roads and bridges	30-75
Machinery and equipment	3-20
Vehicles	7-20

One-half of the annual amortization is charged in the year of acquisition and in the year of disposal. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

ii. Contributions of Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at fair value at the date of receipt and also are recorded as revenue.

iii. Leases

Leases are classified as capital or operating leases. Leases which transfer substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to ownership of property are accounted for as capital leases. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related lease payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

iv. Inventories

Inventories of materials and supplies for consumption are recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value with cost determined by the first-in, first-out method. Inventories largely represent the stockpile of gravel maintained for County purposes.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

n Accumulated Surplus

Accumulated surpluses are established at the discretion of Council to set aside funds for future operating and capital expenditures. Transfers to and/or from reserves are reflected as an adjustment to the respective fund.

Equity in capital assets consist of the net investments in total capital assets after deducting the portion financed by third parties.

n Asset Retirement Obligations

Asset retirement obligations are legal obligations associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. Asset retirement activities include all activities relating to an asset retirement obligation. These may include, but are not limited to:

- a) decommissioning or dismantling a tangible capital asset that was acquired, constructed or developed;
- b) remediation of contamination of a tangible capital asset created by its normal use;
- c) post-retirement activities such as monitoring; and
- d) constructing other tangible capital assets to perform post-retirement activities.

A liability for an asset retirement obligation is recognized when, as at the financial reporting date:

- a) there is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs in relation to a tangible capital asset;
- b) the past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred;
- c) it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up; and
- d) a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

When a liability for an asset retirement obligation is recognized, asset retirement costs related to recognized tangible capital assets in productive use are capitalized by increasing the carrying amount of the related asset and are amortized over the estimated useful life of the underlying tangible capital asset. Asset retirement costs related to unrecognized tangible capital assets and those not in productive use are expensed.

2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash	3,779,638	5,297,708
Restricted deposits	69,588	69,558
Temporary investments	-	-
	<u>3,849,226</u>	<u>5,367,266</u>

Cash held in deposit accounts earn interest at tiered rates between 4.03% and 4.92%.

A portion of the cash balances above are restricted for reserves and deferred revenue. The total restricted capital, including long-term investments is \$101,052,525 (2023 - \$105,538,351).

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Accrued interest receivable - investments	4,231,336	2,823,365
Trade	6,299,932	436,156
Property taxes	231,404	434,879
Goods and Services Tax	559,073	223,874
	<u>11,321,745</u>	<u>3,918,274</u>
Less: Allowance for doubtful accounts	-	-
	<u>11,321,745</u>	<u>3,918,274</u>

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

4. LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

Investments have carrying and market values as follows:

	2024 Carrying Amount \$	2024 Market Value \$	2023 Carrying Amount \$	2023 Market Value \$
Rural Municipalities of Alberta Member's Equity	856	856	856	856
RBC Investment Portfolio				
Cash Accounts	129,495	129,495	60,627	60,627
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	66,346,384	66,346,384	64,577,783	64,577,783
Coupons	26,294,756	26,120,118	35,455,790	34,786,890
Mutual Funds	7,517,077	7,517,077	10,173,440	10,173,440
	100,288,568	100,113,930	110,268,496	109,599,596

RBC investment portfolio has effective interest rates ranging from 1.15% to 5.150% (2023 - 1.050% to 5.396%) with maturity dates from January 3, 2025 to September 5, 2029.

Market values are based on quoted market values received on December 31, 2024. The market values fluctuate with changes in market interest rates. Should there be a loss in value that is not considered temporary, the respective investment is written down to recognize the loss.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Trade	9,551,361	8,956,320
Vacation, sick leave and overtime	1,719,905	1,590,814
Security deposits	95,526	104,304
	11,366,792	10,651,438

The vacation, sick leave and overtime liability is comprised of the vacation, sick leave and overtime that employees are deferring to future years. Employees have either earned the benefits or are entitled to these benefits within the next budgetary year.

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue consists of the following amounts, which have been restricted by third parties for a specified purpose. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related expenses are incurred.

	2023 \$	Additions \$	Revenue Recognized \$	2024 \$
Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital	-	979,556	979,556	-
Canada Community Building Fund	-	186,205	186,205	-
Capital for Emergent Projects	109,213	-	-	109,213
Central Peace Regional Water Treatment Plant - Engineering	-	1,000,000	715,466	284,534
Central Peace Regional Water-Phase 1 & 2	7,020,924	-	680,729	6,340,195
	7,130,137	2,165,761	2,561,956	6,733,942

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

7. LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE COSTS

Alberta environmental law requires closure and post-closure care of landfill sites, which includes final covering and landscaping, pumping of ground water and leachates from the site, ongoing environmental monitoring, and site inspections and maintenance.

The estimated total liability represents the net present value of the discounted cash flows of the total estimated cost for closure and post-closure activities for 25 years after closing using a discount rate of 4.91% and assuming annual inflation of 3.00%.

The accrued liability is based on the cumulative capacity used at year end compared to the total estimated landfill capacity. The total capacity of the sites is estimated at 952,000 cubic metres. All of the sites are at full capacity.

The County stopped receiving municipal solid waste at these landfills in prior years. Some of these unused landfills were converted to waste transfer stations. The County intends to commence closure work for a portion of these unused landfills in the near future.

The County reviewed to cost estimates related to its closure and post-closure obligations during the year. These cost estimates result in an increase of \$190,132 (2023 - \$110,128 increase) to the closure and post-closure obligations, which is included in waste management expense on the Statement of Operations.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Estimate closure costs	4,437,550	4,293,159
Estimate post-closure costs	1,648,113	1,602,371
	<u>6,085,663</u>	<u>5,895,530</u>
Portion of liability remaining to be recognized	-	-
Accrued liability portion	<u><u>6,085,663</u></u>	<u><u>5,895,530</u></u>

8. INVENTORY FOR CONSUMPTION

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Gravel	1,734,177	1,316,301
Parts, culverts and other	891,561	798,197
	<u><u>2,625,738</u></u>	<u><u>2,114,498</u></u>

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

9. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION

Effective January 1, 2023, the County adopted the new accounting standard PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations and applied the standard using the prospective application approach.

On the effective date of the PS 3280 standard, the County recognized the following to conform to the new standard;

- a) asset retirement obligations;
- b) asset retirement cost capitalized as an increase to the carrying amount of the related tangible capital assets in productive use; and
- c) accumulated amortization on the capitalized cost.

Amounts are measured using information, assumptions that are current on the effective date of the standard.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Waste Lagoons		
Woking	100,000	100,000
Savanna	100,000	100,000
Ksituan	100,000	100,000
Bonanza	100,000	100,000
	400,000	400,000
Water Treatment Plants		
Woking	15,000	15,000
Savanna	35,000	35,000
Bonanza	35,000	35,000
Ksituan	35,000	35,000
	120,000	120,000
	520,000	520,000

10. CAPITALIZED ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION

Capitalized asset retirement obligation consists of the increase to the carrying amount of the related tangible capital assets in productive use.

These amounts are amortized over the estimated useful life of the capitalized asset retirement obligation.

	2024			2023		
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Waste Lagoons	300,000	12,000	288,000	300,000	6,000	294,000
Water Treatment Plants	120,000	5,333	114,667	120,000	2,667	117,333
	420,000	17,333	402,667	420,000	8,667	411,333

The Ksituan waste lagoon is a provincial lease and therefore there is no associated capital asset owned by the County, therefore the full estimate for the asset retirement obligation of \$100,000 was expensed in the prior year.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

11. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Unrestricted surplus	-	-
Restricted surplus:		
Operating reserves:		
Gravel usage	1,923,403	2,251,865
Emergency command centre	752,156	1,544,690
Saddle Hills advantage	500,000	752,156
Grant programs	180,211	534,543
Operating fund	114,534	500,000
Community facility	47,477	47,477
Due to others	9,232	9,548
	3,527,013	5,640,279
Capital reserves:		
Rural water	36,230,927	20,160,557
Mobile equipment	13,602,590	18,272,971
Current county facilities	11,914,413	14,320,310
Paving overlay	11,013,490	12,008,885
Utility communication network	8,260,666	8,396,147
New county facilities	4,207,681	6,213,139
General capital	2,655,837	6,062,491
Infrastructure development	1,567,780	5,523,306
Computer and information technology	1,071,051	1,015,109
Environmental services	244,389	773,001
Municipal development	22,746	22,019
Well drilling equipment tax	-	-
	90,791,570	92,767,935
	94,318,583	98,408,214
Equity in tangible capital assets	205,552,087	177,728,776
	299,870,670	276,136,990

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

12. SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for municipal officials, the chief administrative officer and designated officers as required by Alberta Regulation 313/2000 is as follows:

	2024				2023
	\$	\$			\$
	Salary ¹	Benefits & allowances ²	Expense reimbursement ³	Total	Total
Councillors					
Division 1	58,300	5,470	3,485	67,255	66,285
Division 2	57,625	5,422	4,494	67,541	72,608
Division 3	64,225	7,143	8,547	79,915	67,187
Division 4	61,300	5,243	6,012	72,555	54,899
Division 5	57,100	5,858	12,850	75,808	75,527
Division 6	56,700	6,143	6,398	69,241	62,165
Division 7	59,700	5,385	12,346	77,431	71,505
Chief Administrative Officer	522,723	6,858	-	529,581	275,045
Designated Officer (former)	394,904	3,236	-	398,140	172,872
	<u>1,332,577</u>	<u>50,758</u>	<u>54,132</u>	<u>1,437,467</u>	<u>918,093</u>

In 2024, the County signed a 5-year contract for the provision of Municipal Assessment Services and appointed the service provider as a new Designated Officer. The cost of the contracted services in 2024 was \$143,750.

Salary includes regular base pay, per diems and any other direct cash remuneration.

Benefits and allowances include the employer's share of the employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension and health care benefits.

13. DEBT LIMITS

Section 276(2) of the Municipal Government Act requires that debt and debt limits as defined by Alberta Regulation 255/2000 for the County be disclosed as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Total debt limit	<u>75,812,679</u>	<u>71,090,357</u>
Total debt	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Amount of debt limit unused	<u>75,812,679</u>	<u>71,090,357</u>
Debt servicing limit	<u>12,635,447</u>	<u>11,848,393</u>
Debt servicing	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Amount of debt servicing limit unused	<u>12,635,447</u>	<u>11,848,393</u>

The debt limit is calculated at 1.50 times revenue of the County (as defined in Alberta Regulation 255/00) and the debt service limit is calculated at 0.25 times such revenue. Incurring debt beyond these limitations requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. These thresholds are guidelines used by Alberta Municipal Affairs to identify municipalities that could be at financial risk if further debt is acquired. The calculation taken alone does not represent the financial stability of the County. Rather, the financial statements must be interpreted as a whole.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

14. CONTINGENCIES

(a) MUNIX

The County is a member of the Alberta Municipal Insurance Exchange ("MUNIX"). Under the terms of membership, the County could become liable for its proportionate share of any claim losses in excess of the funds held by MUNIX. Any liability incurred would be accounted for as a current transaction in the year the losses are determined.

(b) Legal Claims

The County is defendant in various lawsuits as at December 31, 2024. Where the occurrence of future events is considered likely to result in a loss with respect to an existing condition, and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, amounts have been included in accrued liabilities. Where the resulting losses, if any, cannot be determined or the occurrence of future events is unknown, amounts have not been recorded.

15. COMMITMENTS

As at December 31, 2024, the County has the following outstanding commitments:

(a) Rural Waterlines Project, of approximately \$53,054,724.

(b) Regional Raw Water Line Project, of approximately \$5,108,112.

(c) Regional Water Treatment Plant Project, of approximately \$148,672.

(d) Construction of new Blueberry Firehall, of approximately \$898,046.

(e) Construction of Fire Station #1 in Spirit River, of approximately \$1,000,000.

16. LOCAL AUTHORITIES PENSION PLAN

Employees of the County participate in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP), which is covered by the Alberta Public Sector Pension Plans Act. Contributions are collected from employees and employers and the money is invested in equities, bonds and other investment vehicles. The investment income and the contributions are used to pay pension benefits to LAPP retirees, now and in the future.

The County is required to make current service contributions to the LAPP of 8.45% of pensionable earnings up to the year's maximum pensionable earnings under the Canada Pension Plan and 11.65% on pensionable earnings above this amount. Employees of the County are required to make current service contributions of 7.45% of pensionable salary up to the year's maximum pensionable salary and 10.65% on pensionable salary above this amount.

Total current service contributions by the County to the LAPP in 2024 were \$509,054 (2023 - \$527,491). Total current service contributions by the employees of the County to the LAPP in 2024 were \$455,883 (2023 - \$473,404).

At December 31, 2023, the LAPP disclosed a surplus of \$15.06 billion (2022 - \$12.67 billion surplus).

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The County's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivables, long-term investments, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, deferred revenue and provision for landfill closure. It is management's opinion that the County is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments.

The County is subject to credit risk with respect to taxes and grants in lieu of taxes receivable and trade and other accounts receivables. Credit risk arises from the possibility that taxpayers and entities to which the County provides services may experience financial difficulty and be unable to fulfil their obligation. The large number and diversity of taxpayers and customers minimizes the credit risk.

The County is subject to interest rate risk with respect to its cash equivalents and long-term investments. Interest rate risk arises from the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The County manages this risk by investing in diverse and low risk assets.

Unless otherwise noted, the carrying value of the financial instruments approximates fair value.

18. SEGMENTED DISCLOSURE

Saddle Hills County provides a range of services to its residents. For each reported segment, revenues and expenses represent both amounts that are directly attributable to the segment and amounts that are allocated on a reasonable basis. The accounting policies used in these segments are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements as disclosed in Note 1.

For additional information see the Schedule of Segmented Disclosure (Schedule 6).

19. COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's financial statement presentation.

20. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by Council and management.