

MARTIN ♦ STARNES & ASSOCIATES, CPAs, P.A.

"A Professional Association of Certified Public Accountants and Management Consultants"

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Commissioners
Cleveland County, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cleveland County, North Carolina, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2012, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Cleveland County's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these basic financial statements based on our audit.

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

In our opinion, based on our audit, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cleveland County, North Carolina, as of June 30, 2012, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where appropriate thereof, and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated October 25, 2012, on our consideration of Cleveland County's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and the Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance, and the Other Post-Employment Benefits' Schedules of Funding Progress and Employer Contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by 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 assurance.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming opinions on the basic financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Cleveland County, North Carolina, as a whole. The introductory section, combining and individual fund financial statements, budget and actual schedules, supplemental ad valorem tax schedules, and statistical tables are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements, budget and actual schedules, supplemental ad valorem tax schedules, and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards are the responsibility of management and were derived from, and relate directly to, the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain other procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements, or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The introductory section and statistical section have not been subject to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A.

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October 25, 2012