

**SOUTHERN MANATEE
FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT	1 - 2
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS	3 - 9
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:	
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS	10
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	11
FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:	
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	12
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS	13
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	14
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	15
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS	16
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS	17
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	18 - 32
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:	
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND	33
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	34

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

	<u>PAGE</u>
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (CONTINUED):	
SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS - FIREFIGHTERS PLAN	35
SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS -	36
OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:	
SCHEDULE OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES - BUDGET TO ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND	37
OTHER AUDITORS' REPORTS	
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	38 - 39
MANAGEMENT LETTER	40 - 41



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Commissioners
Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District
Manatee County, Florida

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2008, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District, as of September 30, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position thereof 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 January 20, 2009 on our consideration of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District'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 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.

The management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and schedules of funding progress and employer contributions, on pages 3 through 9 and 33 through 36 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The schedule of operating expenditures - budget and actual - general fund is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The schedule of operating expenditures - budget and actual - general fund has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*Christopher, Smith, Leonard,
Bristow & Stanell, P.A.*

CHRISTOPHER, SMITH, LEONARD,
BRISTOW & STANELL, P. A.

January 20, 2009
Bradenton, Florida

Management's Discussion and Analysis

As management of Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District (the District), we offer readers of the District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the District for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008.

Financial Highlights

- The assets of the District exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$3,971,155 (*net assets*).
- The District's total net assets increased by \$558,970. The increase is attributable to an increase in tax assessments in the current year.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the District's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$2,296,489, an increase of \$651,611 in comparison with the prior year. Tax assessments increased by \$758,812 from the prior year. This was offset by an increase in personal service and operating expense. Of this total amount, \$2,122,247, is *available for spending* at the District's discretion (*unreserved fund balance*).
- The District's total debt was \$6,864,656, which decreased by \$621,395 during the current fiscal year. Decreases were due to principal payments.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District's basic financial statements. The District's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

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

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

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the District's net assets changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net assets 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 revenues and earned but unused vacation and sick leave).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the District that are principally supported by fire assessments (advalorem and non-advalorem taxes), impact fees 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 District is engaged in only governmental activities.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 10 and 11 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 District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The District utilizes the following fund types: Governmental and Fiduciary.

Governmental funds. Governmental funds focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. These funds are reported using the modified accrual method of accounting and the current financial resources focus. As a result long-term assets and liabilities are not included. The District uses a General fund and a Capital Projects Fund. The General Fund is the general operating fund. All general tax revenues are accounted for in this fund. From this fund all general operating expenditures and budgeted capital expenditures are paid. The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for impact fees collected on new construction as well as loan proceeds and related debt service. These revenues can only be used for the acquisition, construction or purchase of assets required to provide fire protection and emergency services.

A reconciliation to facilitate the comparison between the governmental fund financial statements and the government-wide financial statements is presented.

The District adopts an annual budget for its general fund and capital projects fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for both to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 12 to 15 of this report.

Fiduciary funds. Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the District's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

The basic fiduciary fund financial statements can be found on pages 16 and 17 of this report.

Notes to the 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 18 to 32 of this report.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government’s financial position. In the case of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District, assets exceeded liabilities by \$3,971,155 at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

A large portion of the District’s net assets, \$2,295,666, reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, machinery, and equipment); less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The District uses these capital assets to provide fire protection and emergency services to citizens within the boundaries of the District; consequently, these assets are *not* available for future spending. Although the District’s investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

A condensed statement of net assets as of September 30, 2008 with comparative totals as of September 30, 2007 follows:

	Net Assets	
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
-		
Current and other assets	\$ 2,952,247	\$ 2,445,719
Capital assets	<u>9,501,993</u>	<u>9,974,238</u>
Total assets	12,454,240	12,419,957
Long-term liabilities outstanding	7,827,327	8,206,931
Other liabilities	<u>655,758</u>	<u>800,841</u>
Total liabilities	<u>8,483,085</u>	<u>9,007,772</u>
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,295,666	2,341,307
Restricted	174,242	84,412
Unrestricted	<u>1,501,247</u>	<u>986,466</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$ 3,971,155</u>	<u>\$ 3,412,185</u>

An additional portion of the District’s net assets, \$174,242 represents resources, from impact fees and other amounts that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of *unrestricted net assets* of \$1,501,247 may be used to meet the district’s ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

The District’s net assets increased by \$558,970 during the current fiscal year.

The following is a condensed statement of activities for the year ended September 30, 2008 with comparative totals for the year ended September 30, 2007:

Changes in Net Assets		
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Revenues:		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 65,980	\$ 62,955
General revenues:		
Fire assessments	11,276,960	10,518,148
Impact Fees	281,022	208,891
Other	<u>781,806</u>	<u>869,841</u>
Total revenues	12,405,768	11,659,835
Expenses:		
Fire Protection Services	10,638,548	9,601,633
Depreciation	661,827	560,573
Interest on long-term debt	<u>546,423</u>	<u>392,274</u>
Total expenses	<u>11,846,798</u>	<u>10,554,480</u>
Increase in net assets	558,970	1,105,355
Net assets – Beginning	<u>3,412,185</u>	<u>2,306,830</u>
Net assets – Ending	<u>\$ 3,971,155</u>	<u>\$ 3,412,185</u>

- Fire assessment taxes increased by \$758,812 during the year. The increase is due to growth within the District.
- Impact fees and related payments from developers increased by \$72,131 as a result of new construction within the District.
- Other revenues decreased due to less interest revenue and excess fees refunded in the current fiscal year.
- Total expenses increased \$1,292,318 primarily due to an increase in personal services expenditures due to increased staffing and rising insurance and retirement costs.

Financial Analysis of the District’s Funds

The District’s Governmental Funds include a General Fund and a Capital Projects Fund.

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

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the District's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$2,296,489, an increase of \$651,611 in comparison with the prior year. Of this total \$2,122,247 is *unrestricted fund balance*, which is available for spending at the District's discretion. The remainder of fund balance is *reserved* from impact fee revenues to be spent only on the acquisition, construction or purchase of assets required to provide fire protection and emergency services. In addition, \$55,404 is restricted for the fallen firefighter's fund.

The general fund is the operating fund of the District. At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved, undesignated fund balance of the general fund was \$2,122,247, while general fund total fund balance increased to \$2,177,651. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unreserved fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unreserved fund balance represents 18 percent of total general fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 19 percent of that same amount.

The fund balance of the District's general fund increased by \$569,084 during the current fiscal year due to increased tax assessment income. This was offset by an increase in personal service and operating costs.

The capital projects fund has a total fund balance of \$118,838, all of which is reserved for the acquisition, construction or purchase of assets required to provide fire protection and emergency services. The net increase in fund balance during the current year in the capital projects fund was \$82,527. Revenues increased in this fund by \$71,369, due to a \$72,131 increase in impact fees and developer related payments and a decrease in interest income of \$762. In addition, the capital projects fund transferred \$203,000 to the general fund to offset the cost of debt service payments.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

During the year, the General Fund budget was amended. Original and final budgeted revenues were \$12,189,738. The final budgeted expenditures were \$14,107,758 compared to the original budget of \$14,097,842. For the current fiscal year, actual revenues were less than budgeted revenues by \$69,497. Actual expenditures were less than the budgeted amount by \$2,353,601 due mainly to less capital outlay costs than budgeted.

The General Fund budget is presented as required supplementary information on page 33.

Capital Assets

The District's investment in capital assets for the year ended September 30, 2008 amounts to \$9,501,993 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings and improvements, machinery and equipment and construction in progress. The District's investment in capital assets for the current fiscal year decreased by \$472,245; this was comprised of \$192,948 of capital additions, disposals with a net book loss of \$3,366, and depreciation expense of \$661,827.

Capital Assets

	<u>Governmental Activities</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u> <u>2007</u>
Land	\$ 861,156	\$ 861,156
Building and Improvements	6,822,947	7,016,549
Machinery and equipment	1,764,760	2,059,298
Construction in progress	53,130	37,235
Total (net of depreciation)	<u>\$ 9,501,993</u>	<u>\$ 9,974,238</u>

See note B on page 22 of this report for additional information on the District's capital assets.

Long-Term Debt

At the end of the current fiscal year, the District had total debt outstanding of \$6,864,656. The District's debt represents notes payable secured solely by specified revenue sources (i.e., fire assessments and impact fee revenues), as well as equipment. The District has also entered into interest rate swap agreements in order to fix a portion of its variable rate debt. The fair value of the swap agreements at September 30, 2008 was \$341,671 and has been included in the statement of net assets as a long-term liability.

The District's total debt decreased by \$621,395 during the current fiscal year. The decrease was due to principal payments. In addition to the foregoing, the fair value of the District's interest rate swap liability increased by \$194,791 this year.

Additional information on the District's long-term debt can be found in note C on pages 23 to 25 of this report.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

- Due to the decrease in property values and Amendment 1, our Ad-Valorem taxes are anticipated to decrease by 11.2%. Due to the growth and the increase of 5% on assessments, that amount is anticipated to increase by 6.1%. This will result in over a 2.5% decrease in revenues.
- The District's personnel services budget increased by approximately 3.0%. This included a one time payment of \$2,300 per employee in lieu of a salary increase and other minor changes in fringe benefits. We did move from a partially self-funded health insurance to Blue Cross/Blue Shield fixed cost Plan.
- Capital outlay and construction expense is budgeted to increase and includes the construction of Station 3 which was put on hold during the last budget year.

All of these factors were considered in preparing the District's budget for the 2009 fiscal year, and will affect the fiscal year 2009 financial results.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District's finances for all those with an interest in the District's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the District at, Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District, 2451 Trailmate Drive, Sarasota Florida 34243.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 522,506
Investments	1,997,711
Due from other governments	256,902
Deposits	886
Restricted assets:	
Temporarily restricted:	
Cash and cash equivalents	55,404
Investments	118,838
Capital assets	
Land and construction in progress	914,286
Other capital assets, net of depreciation	8,587,707
Total Assets	12,454,240
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	655,758
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Due within one year	826,884
Due in more than one year	7,000,443
Total Liabilities	8,483,085
NET ASSETS	
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,295,666
Restricted for:	
Impact fees and fallen firefighters fund	174,242
Unrestricted	1,501,247
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 3,971,155

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

Public Safety–Fire Protection	
Personal services	\$ 9,456,107
Operating expenses	1,182,441
Depreciation	661,827
Interest on long-term debt	546,425
Total Program Expenses	<u>11,846,800</u>
Program Revenues:	
Charges for services	65,980
Net Program Expense	<u>11,780,820</u>
General Revenues:	
Fire assessments	11,276,960
Impact fees	281,022
Intergovernmental revenue	430,821
Investment earnings	194,938
Miscellaneous	156,047
Total General Revenues	<u>12,339,788</u>
Increase in net assets	558,968
Net Assets - Beginning	<u>3,412,185</u>
Net Assets - Ending	<u><u>\$ 3,971,153</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	GENERAL	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 522,506	\$ -	\$ 522,506
Investments	1,997,711	-	1,997,711
Due from other governments	256,902	-	256,902
Deposits	886		886
Restricted assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	55,404	-	55,404
Investments	-	118,838	118,838
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,833,409	\$ 118,838	\$ 2,952,247
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 162,962	\$ -	\$ 162,962
Accrued wages payable	327,796	-	327,796
Compensated absence accrual	165,000	-	165,000
Total Liabilities	655,758	-	655,758
Fund Balances:			
Reserved	55,404	118,838	174,242
Unreserved, reported in:			
General Fund	2,122,247	-	2,122,247
Total fund balances	2,177,651	118,838	2,296,489
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,833,409	\$ 118,838	\$ 2,952,247

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Fund Balance – Governmental Fund	\$ 2,296,489
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	9,501,993
Long-term liabilities, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	<u>(7,827,327)</u>
NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u><u>\$ 3,971,155</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	GENERAL	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
REVENUES			
Tax assessments	\$ 11,276,960	\$ -	\$ 11,276,960
Impact fees	-	281,022	281,022
Interest	190,433	4,505	194,938
Intergovernmental Revenue	430,821	-	430,821
Miscellaneous	156,047	-	156,047
Charges for services	65,980	-	65,980
Total Revenues	<u>12,120,241</u>	<u>285,527</u>	<u>12,405,768</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Personal service	9,409,107	-	9,409,107
Operating	1,181,153	-	1,181,153
Debt Service:			
Principal retirement	621,395	-	621,395
Interest	351,632	-	351,632
Capital outlay	190,870	-	190,870
Total Expenditures	<u>11,754,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,754,157</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	366,084	285,527	651,611
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers In	203,000	-	203,000
Transfers Out	-	(203,000)	(203,000)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>203,000</u>	<u>(203,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	569,084	82,527	651,611
FUND BALANCES – Beginning	<u>1,608,567</u>	<u>36,311</u>	<u>1,644,878</u>
FUND BALANCES – Ending	<u>\$ 2,177,651</u>	<u>\$ 118,838</u>	<u>\$ 2,296,489</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Net change in fund balance – total governmental fund	\$ 651,611
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation expense exceeds capital outlay in the current period.	(472,245)
The repayment of the principal on long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. However, the transaction has no effect on net assets.	621,397
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.	<u>(241,793)</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u>\$ 558,970</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	<u>Pension Trust Funds</u>
ASSETS	
Investments	\$ 12,418,602
Due from other governmental units	133,733
Total Assets	<u>12,552,335</u>
 LIABILITIES	 <u>-</u>
 NET ASSETS	
Held in Trust for Pension Benefits	<u><u>\$ 12,552,335</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	Pension Trust Funds
ADDITIONS	
Contributions:	
Employer	\$ 1,636,269
Employee	205,401
Intergovernmental Revenue	430,821
Total contributions	<u>2,272,491</u>
Investment Income:	
Net appreciation/(depreciation) in fair value of investments	(1,716,338)
Less investment expense:	
Administrative expenses	38,563
Net investment income	<u>(1,754,901)</u>
Total additions	<u>517,590</u>
DEDUCTIONS	
Benefits and distributions to participants	<u>83,504</u>
Total deductions	<u>83,504</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	434,086
Net Assets – Beginning of year	<u>12,118,249</u>
Net Assets – End of year	<u><u>\$ 12,552,335</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies followed by the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District (the District), Manatee County, Florida:

- (a) Reporting Entity – The District is a public municipal corporation in the State of Florida created by Special Law 84-477, 84-481 and 92-249, as amended, of the Legislature of the State of Florida. During the year 2000, these bills were codified in Chapter 2000-402. It is an independent special district. No other component units exist.

Revenue is provided for in the Bill by special assessments against taxable real estate lying within the territorial bounds of the District as defined by the State of Florida. The District also collects ad-valorem taxes on real estate within its territorial boards. Disbursements are made for maintenance and upkeep of the fire stations, purchase of firefighting and rescue equipment, payment of wages, employee benefits, and administrative expenses.

The State of Florida passed Legislation, which took effect June, 1985, and provides for the District to collect impact fees to defray the cost of improvements required to provide fire and emergency service to the new users of the District. The impact fees collected are to be used exclusively for the acquisition, purchase or construction of new facilities and equipment required to provide these services to the new users in the District.

- (b) Basis of Presentation –The District's basic financial statements includes Government-wide (which reports the District as a whole excluding fiduciary activities) and Fund financial statements (which report on the General and Capital Projects Funds, as well as Fiduciary Funds). The Basic Financial Statements present only governmental activities, as the District conducts no business type activities.

Basis of Accounting: Basic Financial Statements – Government Wide Statements– The Government-Wide Financial Statements (Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities) are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. For the most part, interfund activity has been removed from these statements. The District's net assets are reported in three parts (as applicable): invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted net assets, and unrestricted net assets. The statement of activities reports direct program expenses offset by program revenues. The amounts reported as program revenues include charges for services. General revenues include taxes and other items not properly included as program revenue.

Basic Financial Statements – Fund Financial Statements – The District's accounts are organized on the basis of funds, which are self-balancing set of accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures. The District utilizes Governmental funds, which follow the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – CONTINUED

when they become measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are generally recorded when a fund liability is incurred. The District also utilizes Fiduciary Funds, which are accounted for on the economic resources focus and accrual basis of accounting. The District reports the following fund types, which are all considered major funds:

Governmental Funds

- (1) General Fund – The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District. All general tax revenues are accounted for in this Fund. From the Fund are paid the general operating expenditures and budgeted capital expenditures.
- (2) Capital Projects Fund – The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for Impact Fees collected on new construction. These revenues can only be used for the acquisition, construction or purchase of assets and related debt service required to provide fire protection and emergency services. In addition, loan proceeds for the construction or purchase of assets used for fire protection services are accounted for in this fund. Consequently, fund balance in the Capital Projects Fund is restricted.

Fiduciary Funds

- (3) Pension Trust Funds – are used to account for assets held by the District in a trustee capacity. Consequently, net assets in the fiduciary fund types, is reserved. Pension trust funds are accounted for on the accrual basis since capital maintenance is critical. Contributions are recognized in the period in which contributions are due. Retirement benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the Plan.
 - (4) Other Post Employment Benefit Trust Fund – is used to account for assets held by the District in a trustee capacity. Consequently, net assets in the fiduciary fund, is reserved. OPEB trust funds are accounted for on the accrual basis since capital maintenance is critical. Contributions are recognized in the period in which contributions are due. Post employment benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the Plan.
- (c) Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – CONTINUED

- (d) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting – The District prepares an annual operating budget for the fiscal year commencing October 1. Prior to September 1 of each year, the Secretary/Treasurer of the District's Board of Commissioners prepares a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget is based on an analysis of prior year actual revenues and expenditures along with anticipated spending and revenue sources. Once the proposed budget is compiled, it is brought before the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Expenditures should not exceed the total appropriations. Appropriations lapse at the end of the year.

- (e) Interfund Receivables/Payables – Interfund receivables/payables arise from temporary interfund transfers. When a fund has an interfund receivable and an interfund payable to the same fund, the amounts are recorded in separate accounts. Internal activity and balances between governmental funds has been eliminated in the government-wide statement of net assets.
- (f) Property Taxes – Property taxes become due and payable on November 1 of each year. The county tax collector remits the District's portion as such revenues are received. The District collects nearly all of its tax revenues during the period November 1 through April 1, at which time the taxes become delinquent. The maximum rates of tax are set by the Legislature of the State of Florida. The District received tax revenues based on millage and also assessments which vary based on a sliding scale of property values and type of property involved and is determined by the Board of Commissioners of the District.

The key dates in the property tax cycle are as follows:

Assessment roll validated	July 1
Millage resolution approved	September 30
Beginning of fiscal year for which taxes have been levied	October 1
Tax bills rendered and due	November 1
Property taxes payable:	
Maximum discount	November 30
Delinquent	April 1
Tax certificates sold	May 31
Fiscal year begins	October 1
Fiscal year ends	September 30

Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year for which the taxes have been levied to the extent they result in current receivables. Under the system outlined above, no material amount of taxes is receivable after the end of the fiscal year.

- (g) Fund Balance – Reserved – At September 30, 2008, Capital Project Fund Balance is reserved from impact fees. General Fund Balance is restricted for the fallen firefighter's fund.

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – CONTINUED

- (h) Cash and Investments – Florida Statute 218.415 authorizes the District to invest in the following:
- (a) Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund or an intergovernmental investment pool authorized through the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act. (including the Manatee County investment pool)
 - (b) Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating company.
 - (c) Interest bearing time deposits or savings accounts in state-certified Qualified Public Depositories as defined in Section 280.02 Florida Statutes.
 - (d) Direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury.

At September 30, 2008, the District had demand deposits held in a qualified public depository. Deposits whose values exceeded federal depository insurance limits were entirely insured or collateralized pursuant to Chapter 280 of the Florida Statutes. At September 30, 2008, the carrying amount of the District's deposits were \$577,910 and the bank balance was \$593,853.

The District has investments in the Manatee County Investment Pool (the Pool). The investments in the Pool are subject to overnight withdrawal, and are recorded at fair value. The Pool is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and has been rated AA+ by Standard & Poor's at September 30, 2008. Total investments at fair value of the pool as of September 30, 2008 were \$608,354,284. The District's investments included in the Pool were \$2,116,549. The District's position in the pool is the same as the value of the pool shares.

The District does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, the Pool is limited to having investments with a maturity of three years or less from the date of purchase with a weighted average to maturity of less than two years. At September 30, 2008, the Pool had no investments with a maturity exceeding two years. For further information regarding the Manatee County Investment Pool, readers should refer to the financial statements and disclosures of Manatee County, Florida.

At September 30, 2008, the District had the following investments:

General Fund:

Manatee County Investment Pool:	
Unrestricted	\$ 1,997,711

Capital Projects Fund:

Manatee County Investment Pool:	
Restricted	118,838
Total	<u>\$ 2,116,549</u>

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – CONTINUED

- (i) Compensated Absences - It is the District's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick pay benefits. All benefits are accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured or are payable from current financial resources. These liabilities are typically liquidated out of the general fund.
- (j) Capital Assets - Capital assets, which include property, plant and equipment are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$500 and an estimated useful life of longer than one year. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The costs of normal repair and maintenance that do not add to the value of the asset or extend the useful life of the asset are expensed as incurred. The District does not have infrastructure assets.

Property, plant and equipment of the District are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Asset</u>	<u>Years</u>
Building and Improvements	20 - 40
Vehicles and Fire Engines	3 - 20
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	5 - 10

- (k) Long-Term Obligations - In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities. In the fund financial statements, no long-term obligations are reported as they are not due to be paid from current financial resources.
- (l) Resources - When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available, restricted resources are used first, and then unrestricted resources, as they are needed.

NOTE B – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended September 30, 2008 was:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Governmental Activities					
Capital assets, not being depreciated:					
Land	\$ 861,156	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 861,156
Construction in progress	<u>37,235</u>	<u>15,895</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>53,130</u>
Total capital assets, not being depreciated	<u>898,391</u>	<u>15,895</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>914,286</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:					
Buildings and improvements	7,625,246	-0-	-0-	-0-	7,625,246
Machinery and equipment	<u>4,550,049</u>	<u>177,053</u>	<u>(62,064)</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>4,665,038</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>12,175,295</u>	<u>177,053</u>	<u>(62,064)</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>12,290,284</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:					
Buildings and improvements	(608,697)	(193,602)	-0-	-0-	(802,299)
Machinery and equipment	<u>(2,490,751)</u>	<u>(468,225)</u>	<u>58,698</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(2,900,278)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,099,448)</u>	<u>(661,827)</u>	<u>58,698</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(3,702,577)</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	<u>9,075,847</u>	<u>(484,774)</u>	<u>(3,366)</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>8,587,707</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 9,974,238</u>	<u>\$ (468,879)</u>	<u>\$ (3,366)</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ 9,501,993</u>

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE B – CAPITAL ASSETS – CONTINUED

Depreciation in the amount of \$661,827 was reported as a separate line item in the statement of activities.

NOTE C – LONG-TERM DEBT

General long-term debt consisted of the following at September 30, 2008:

Series 2000 note payable to Bank of America due in monthly payments of principal beginning at \$2,664 per month plus interest collateralized by special assessments, impact fees and lawfully available non-ad valorem revenues. The note has a variable interest rate effectively fixed at 5.695% through an interest rate swap. Monthly principal reductions increase approximately 6% each year with a final maturity date of November 17, 2020.	\$ 883,599
Series 2003A note payable to Bank of America due in quarterly installments of \$115,134 including interest. The note has a variable interest rate effectively fixed at 4.75% through an interest rate swap. The maturity date is March 31, 2023. The note is collateralized by impact fees, available non-ad valorem revenues, and special assessments. Principal reductions began December 31, 2004.	4,773,057
Series 2003B note payable to Bank of America due in quarterly installments of \$51,740 including interest. The note has a variable interest rate effectively fixed at 4.49% through an interest rate swap. The maturity date is September 30, 2014. The note is collateralized by impact fees, available non-ad valorem revenues, and special assessments. Principal reductions began December 31, 2004.	1,020,000
Series 2003C note payable to Bank of America due in quarterly installments of \$51,933 including interest. The note has a variable interest rate effectively fixed at 3.88% through an interest rate swap. The maturity date is September 30, 2009. The note is collateralized by impact fees, available non-ad valorem revenues, and special assessments. Principal reductions began December 31, 2004.	<u>188,000</u>
	<u>\$ 6,864,656</u>

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE C - GENERAL LONG-TERM DEBT - CONTINUED

Interest rate swap agreements consisted of the following at September 30, 2008:

The District entered into an interest rate swap agreement in November of 2000, in order to fix a portion of its variable rate debt with Bank of America. The notional amount of the swap, which was \$1,156,736 at inception, is equal to the balance outstanding on the original principal drawn on the note of \$1,156,736 less principal reductions, which is \$883,599 at September 30, 2008. The principal portion of the note is not variable; it is only the basis on which the interest payments are calculated. Based on the swap agreement, the District pays a fixed rate of 5.695% on the principal balance outstanding. The swap payment is the difference between the fixed rate of 5.695% and the monthly LIBOR rate. If the District were to terminate the swap agreement prior to maturity, the District would be obligated to pay a termination fee of the fair value of the swap on that date. At September 30, 2008, the fair market value of the swap was estimated at \$(124,819). The swap matures November of 2020.

The District entered into an interest rate swap agreement in April of 2003, in order to fix a portion of its variable rate debt with Bank of America. The notional amount of the swap is \$4,773,057. The principal portion on the note is not variable; it is only the basis on which the interest payments are calculated. Based on the swap agreement, the District pays a fixed rate of 4.75% on the principal balance outstanding. The swap payment is the difference between the fixed rate of 4.75% and the monthly LIBOR rate. If the District were to terminate the swap agreement prior to maturity, the District would be obligated to pay a termination fee of the fair value of the swap on that date. At September 30, 2008, the fair market value of the swap was estimated at \$(199,604). The swap agreement matures March of 2023.

The District entered into an interest rate swap agreement in April of 2003, in order to fix a portion of its variable rate debt with Bank of America. The notional amount of the swap is \$1,020,000. The principal portion on the note is not variable; it is only the basis on which the interest payments are calculated. Based on the swap agreement, the District pays a fixed rate of 4.49% on the principal balance outstanding. The swap payment is the difference between the fixed rate of 4.49% and the monthly LIBOR rate. If the District were to terminate the swap agreement prior to maturity, the District would be obligated to pay a termination fee of the fair value of the swap on that date. At September 30, 2008, the fair market value of the swap was estimated at \$(16,963). The swap agreement matures September of 2014.

The District entered into an interest rate swap agreement in April of 2003, in order to fix a portion of its variable rate debt with Bank of America. The notional amount of the swap is \$188,000. The principal portion on the note is not variable; it is only the basis on which the interest payments are calculated. Based on the swap agreement, the District pays a fixed rate of 3.88% on the principal balance outstanding. The swap payment is the difference between the fixed rate of 3.88% and the monthly LIBOR rate. If the District were to terminate the swap agreement prior to maturity, the District would be obligated to pay a termination fee of the fair value of the swap on that date. At September 30, 2008, the fair market value of the swap was estimated at (\$285). The swap agreement matures September of 2009.

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

NOTE C - GENERAL LONG-TERM DEBT - CONTINUED

The total fair value of these swap agreements in the amount of \$341,671 has been recorded as a long-term liability in the statement of net assets. The change in fair value of the swaps has been recorded in the statement of activities as part of interest expense. No amount has been recorded in the fund financial statements.

Total annual debt service requirements for all long-term debt governmental activities as of September 30, 2008 are as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2009	\$ 661,884	\$ 318,987	\$ 980,871
2010	461,650	292,622	754,272
2011	484,068	270,205	754,273
2012	507,581	246,693	754,274
2013	532,242	222,032	754,274
2014-2018	2,174,661	767,038	2,941,699
2019-2023	<u>2,042,570</u>	<u>227,581</u>	<u>2,270,151</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 6,864,656</u>	<u>\$ 2,345,158</u>	<u>\$ 9,209,814</u>

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended September 30, 2008, was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Governmental Activities:					
Notes Payable					
Fifth Third Bank	\$ 31,998	\$ -0-	\$ (31,998)	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Bank of America-Series 2000	903,583	-0-	(19,984)	883,599	83,509
Bank of America-Series 2003A	4,994,470	-0-	(221,413)	4,773,057	234,543
Bank of America-Series 2003B	1,180,000	-0-	(160,000)	1,020,000	155,832
Bank of America-Series 2003C	<u>376,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(188,000)</u>	<u>188,000</u>	<u>188,000</u>
Total Notes Payable	<u>7,486,051</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(621,395)</u>	<u>6,864,656</u>	<u>661,884</u>
Interest Rate Swap	146,880	194,791	-0-	341,671	-0-
Compensated absences	<u>724,000</u>	<u>74,000</u>	<u>(12,000)</u>	<u>786,000</u>	<u>165,000</u>
Governmental activity:					
Long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 8,356,931</u>	<u>\$ 268,791</u>	<u>\$ (633,395)</u>	<u>\$ 7,992,327</u>	<u>\$ 826,884</u>

NOTE D - RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Explanation of certain differences between the governmental fund balance sheet and government-wide statement of net assets.

The reconciliation between the fund balance - total governmental funds as reported in the governmental fund balance sheet and net assets - governmental activities as

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE D – RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED

reported in the statement of net assets, is included on page 13 of the basic financial statements. One line of that reconciliation explains “long-term liabilities, including notes payable, interest rate swap and long-term compensated absences are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds.” The detail of the difference is shown below:

Notes Payable	\$ (6,864,656)
Fair Value of Interest Rate Swap	(341,671)
Compensated Absences	<u>(621,000)</u>
	<u>\$ (7,827,327)</u>

Explanation of certain differences between the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances and the government-wide statement of activities.

The reconciliation between the net changes in fund balances – total governmental funds as reported in the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances, and the changes in net assets as reported in the statement of activities is included on page 15 of the basic financial statements. One line in that reconciliation explains that “Governmental Funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. The details of the difference are shown below:

Capital additions included as expenditures in the governmental funds	\$ 192,948
Loss on sale of fixed assets	(3,366)
Depreciation Expense	<u>(661,827)</u>
	<u>\$ (472,245)</u>

Another element of that reconciliation explains that “some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.” The details of the difference are shown below:

Change in long-term compensated absences	\$ (47,000)
Change in fair value of interest rate swaps	<u>(194,793)</u>
	<u>\$ (241,793)</u>

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE E – RETIREMENT PLAN

The District has three defined benefit plans.

- Pension plan for firefighters (FFPP)
- Pension plan for general employees (GEPP)
- Other Post Employment Benefit Plan (OPEB)

a) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting – The Employee Pension Plans use the accrual basis of accounting.

Asset Valuation – Investments are reported at market value based on quoted prices at month end. Investment income is recognized when earned. Gains and losses on sale and exchanges of securities are recognized on the transaction date.

b) Plan Investments

All of the District's pension plans are affiliated with the Florida Municipal Pension Trust Fund (FMPTF) an agent multiple employer pension plan administered by the FMPTF Board of Trustees. The FMPTF issues a publicly available report that includes the combined financial statements of all plan members. Separate accounts are maintained for each employer group. The District's plans do not issue separate financial reports. Plan administrative costs are paid by the plan. The District Board has the authority to amend or extend the provisions of the plan.

All employee pension plans or OPEB assets with the FMPTF are included in the trust's master Trust Fund. Employee pension plan or OPEB assets of the defined benefit type are invested by the FMPTF through the Florida Municipal Investment Trust (FMIvT) for the benefit of the Participating Employers, Participating Employees and Beneficiaries.

The FMIvT is a Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) and, therefore, considered an external investment pool. The plans have a beneficial interest in shares in the FMIvT portfolios listed below. The plan's investment is the beneficial interest in the FMIvT portfolio, not the individual securities held within each portfolio.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE E – RETIREMENT PLAN – CONTINUED

As of September 30, 2008, the asset allocations for the various investment models were as follows:

	<u>Asset Allocation</u>	
	<u>Model/Percentage</u>	
	<u>FFPP</u>	<u>OPEB</u>
	<u>70/30</u>	<u>60/40</u>
Cash and Money Market	2.9	16.8
FMIvT Broad Market High Quality Bond	42.8	35.4
FMIvT High Quality Growth	7.5	6.5
FMIvT Large Cap Diversified Value	6.7	6.1
FMIvT Russell 1000 Enhanced Index	21.5	18.8
FMIvT Diversified Small Cap Equity	11.5	10.1
FMIvT International Blend	<u>7.1</u>	<u>6.3</u>
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Credit Risk

The FMIvT Bond fund has a Fitch Rating of AA/V4. The equities are in portfolios which are not rated.

Interest Rate Risk

The Plan's bonds are in a fund with a weighted average maturity of 5.04 years.

c) Plan Descriptions and Contribution Information

FFPP – In resolution 97-01 the District imposed a 1.85% excise tax on insurers' receipts of premiums collected within the District. These receipts will be used to partially fund the Section 175 retirement plan, which was adopted on March 11, 1997.

The Plan is a single-employer, defined benefit public employee retirement system and is accounted for in the accompanying financial statements as a pension trust fund. Total employer contributions were \$1,342,701 on a covered payroll of \$4,371,748 for the year ended September 30, 2008. Additional contributions to the plan included the Casualty Insurance Premium Tax in the amount of \$430,821. For the year ended September 30, 2007, employer contributions were \$1,054,605 on a covered payroll of \$4,046,927. For the year ended September 30, 2006, employer contributions were \$1,124,133 on a covered payroll of \$3,652,155. The plan covers all full-time and volunteer firefighters effective the date of hiring. Normal retirement benefit (which occurs at age 55 and 10 years of service or earlier attainment of 25 years of service) is 3.5% of the number of years of credited service multiplied by the average final compensation. Reduced pension benefits are available to employees with at least 10 years of credited service.

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

NOTE E - RETIREMENT PLAN - CONTINUED

The balances transferred into the plan from a previous defined contribution plan are the minimum benefit payable to the respective firefighters. Employees are required to contribute 3.5% of their compensation to the plan on a pre-tax basis.

Vesting on employer contributions occurs after 10 years of service. Employees are fully vested in their required 3.5% contributions when made. Total actuarially required contributions were 30.7% of covered payroll including state contributions.

GEPP - In resolution 99-08 adopted October 1, 1999, the District converted their defined contribution plan for general employees to a defined benefit plan.

The plan is a single-employer, defined benefit public employee retirement system and is accounted for in the accompanying financial statements as a pension trust fund. Total employer contributions were \$93,568 on a covered payroll of \$331,919 for the year ended September 30, 2008. For the year ended September 30, 2007, employer contributions were \$90,174 on a covered payroll of \$313,980. For the year ended September 30, 2006, employer contributions were \$81,421 on a covered payroll of \$288,829. The plan covers all full-time non-firefighters effective the date of hiring.

Normal retirement benefit (which occurs at age 62 and 10 years of service or earlier attainment of 30 years of service) is 2.5% of the number of years of credited service multiplied by the average final compensation. Reduced pension benefits are available to employees with at least 10 years of credited service.

The balances transferred into the plan from the previous defined contribution plan are the minimum benefit payable to the respective employees. Employees are required to contribute 3.5% of their compensation to the plan on a pre-tax basis.

Vesting on employer contributions occurs after 10 years of service. Employees are fully vested in their required 3.5% contributions when made. Required contributions from the District were 28.19% of covered payroll. Contributions were determined as part of an actuarial cost study.

OPEB - Effective January 1, 2008, the District established a trust to allow retired employees and dependents to be eligible for continued health benefits at an initial cost of \$450 per month. The cost is subject to adjustment. During the year an initial contribution of \$200,000 was made to the fund. An actuarial valuation has not been completed.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE E - RETIREMENT PLAN - CONTINUED

d) Funded Status and Funding Progress - Pension Plans

The funded status of each plan as of October 1, 2007, the most recent actuarial valuation date, is as follows:

	ACTUARIAL VALUE OF ASSETS (a)	ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY (AAL) ENTRY AGE (b)	UNFUNDED AAL (UAAL) (b-a)	FUNDED RATIO (a/b)	COVERED PAYROLL (c)	UAAL AS A PERCENTAGE OF COVERED PAYROLL ((b-a)/c)
FFPP	\$ 10,178,736	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 4,060,402	0%
GEPP	\$ 785,284	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 319,881	0%

The schedules of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information (RSI) following the notes to the financial statements, present multiyear trend information about whether the actuarial values of plan assets are increasing or decreasing over time relative to the AALs for benefits.

Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

	<u>FFPP</u>	<u>GEPP</u>
Valuation date	10/01/07	10/01/07
Actuarial cost method	Aggregate Cost	Aggregate
Cost		
Amortization method	N/A	N/A
Remaining amortization period	N/A	N/A
Asset valuation method	Market	Market

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return	7.5%	7.5%
Projected salary increases*	5.0%	5.0%
COLA's	None	3.0%

* Includes inflation at 3.75%

Retirees and beneficiaries receiving benefits	3	1
Terminated plan members entitled to, but not yet receiving, benefits	21	1
Active plan members	<u>87</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	111	9

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

NOTE E – RETIREMENT PLAN – CONTINUED

The plans use the aggregate actuarial cost method to calculate annual required contributions. The aggregate actuarial cost method does not identify or separately amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities. The information presented is intended to serve as a surrogate for the funded status and funding progress of the plan. The funded status as disclosed above has been prepared on the entry age actuarial cost method.

Three year trend information.

FFPP

Year Ending	Actuarially Required Contribution	Percentage of APC Contributed	Net Pension Obligation
09/30/07	\$ 917,852	100%	-0-
09/30/06	\$ 899,087	100%	-0-
09/30/05	\$ 793,866	100%	-0-

GEPP

Year Ending	Actuarially Required Contribution	Percentage of APC Contributed	Net Pension Obligation
09/30/07	\$ 86,745	100%	-0-
09/30/06	\$ 73,052	100%	-0-
09/30/05	\$ 90,292	100%	-0-

The following financial statements present the combining statement of fiduciary net assets and statement of changes in fiduciary net assets by trust fund as of and for the year ended September 30, 2008:

Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets

	General Employees Pension Fund	Firefighter Pension Fund	Other Post Employment Benefit Fund	Total Employee Pension Funds
ASSETS				
Investments	\$ 780,077	\$ 11,461,484	\$ 177,041	\$ 12,418,602
Due from other governmental units	-0-	133,733	-0-	133,733
Total Assets	780,077	11,595,217	177,041	12,552,335
LIABILITIES				
Due to Employer	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
NET ASSETS				
Held in Trust for Pension Benefits	\$ 780,077	\$ 11,595,217	\$ 177,041	\$ 12,552,335

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NOTE E – RETIREMENT PLAN – CONTINUED

Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Assets

	General Employees Pension Fund	Firefighter Pension Fund	Other Post Employment Benefit Fund	Total Employee Pension Funds
ADDITIONS				
Contributions:				
Employer	\$ 93,568	\$ 1,342,701	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,636,269
Employee	11,617	193,784		205,401
Intergovernmental Revenue	-	430,821		430,821
Total contributions	<u>105,185</u>	<u>1,967,306</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>2,272,491</u>
Investment Income:				
Net appreciation/(depreciation) in fair value of investments	<u>(109,299)</u>	<u>(1,584,175)</u>	<u>(22,864)</u>	<u>(1,716,338)</u>
Less investment expense:				
Administrative expenses	5,638	32,830	95	38,563
Net investment income	<u>(114,937)</u>	<u>(1,617,005)</u>	<u>(22,959)</u>	<u>(1,754,901)</u>
Total Additions	<u>(9,752)</u>	<u>350,301</u>	<u>177,041</u>	<u>517,590</u>
DEDUCTIONS				
Benefits and distributions to participants	22,871	60,633	-	83,504
Total deductions	<u>22,871</u>	<u>60,633</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,504</u>
Change in Net Assets	(32,623)	289,668	177,041	434,086
Net Assets – Beginning of year	<u>812,700</u>	<u>11,305,549</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,118,249</u>
Net Assets – End of year	<u>\$ 780,077</u>	<u>\$ 11,595,217</u>	<u>\$ 177,041</u>	<u>\$ 12,552,335</u>

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES –BUDGET AND ACTUAL–GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES				
Tax assessments	\$ 11,261,697	\$ 11,261,697	\$ 11,276,960	\$ 15,263
Interest	345,382	210,000	190,433	(19,567)
Intergovernmental Revenue	305,000	440,382	430,821	(9,561)
Miscellaneous	217,659	217,659	156,047	(61,612)
Charges for services	60,000	60,000	65,980	5,980
Total Revenues	12,189,738	12,189,738	12,120,241	(69,497)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Personal service	9,375,444	9,375,705	9,409,107	(33,402)
Operating	1,317,341	1,321,996	1,181,153	140,843
Debt Service	1,197,900	1,197,900	973,027	224,873
Capital outlay	2,207,157	2,212,157	190,870	2,021,287
Total Expenditures	14,097,842	14,107,758	11,754,157	2,353,601
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(1,908,104)	(1,918,020)	366,084	2,284,104
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Loan Proceeds	1,800,000	1,800,000	-	(1,800,000)
Transfers in	203,000	203,000	203,000	0
Total Other Financing Sources	2,003,000	2,003,000	203,000	(1,800,000)
Net Change in Fund Balances	94,896	84,980	569,084	484,104
FUND BALANCE – Beginning	1,608,567	1,608,567	1,608,567	0
FUND BALANCE – Ending	\$ 1,703,463	\$ 1,693,547	\$ 2,177,651	\$ 484,104

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES				
Impact Fees	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 281,022	\$ 81,022
Interest	3,000	3,000	4,505	1,505
Total Revenues	<u>203,000</u>	<u>203,000</u>	<u>285,527</u>	<u>82,527</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Capital outlay	-	-	-	0
Total Expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	203,000	203,000	285,527	82,527
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers out	(203,000)	(203,000)	(203,000)	0
Net Change in Fund Balance	0	0	82,527	82,527
FUND BALANCES – Beginning	<u>35,036</u>	<u>35,036</u>	<u>36,311</u>	<u>1,275</u>
FUND BALANCES – Ending	<u><u>\$ 35,036</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 35,036</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 118,838</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 83,802</u></u>

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AND
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS
FIREFIGHTERS PLAN**

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS:

<u>ACTUARIAL VALUATION DATE</u>	<u>ACTUARIAL VALUE OF ASSETS (a)</u>	<u>ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY (AAL) ENTRY AGE (b)</u>	<u>UNFUNDED AAL (UAAL) (b-a)</u>	<u>FUNDED RATIO (a-b)</u>	<u>COVERED PAYROLL (c)</u>	<u>UAAL AS A PERCENTAGE OF COVERED PAYROLL ((b-a)c)</u>
10/01/02	\$ 2,629,041	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 1,877,093	0%
10/01/03	\$ 3,645,870	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 2,081,316	0%
10/01/04	\$ 4,539,271	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 2,680,601	0%
10/01/05	\$ 6,059,486	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 2,910,917	0%
10/01/06	\$ 7,749,173	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 3,391,919	0%
10/01/07	\$ 10,178,736	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 4,060,402	0%

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS:

<u>YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30</u>	<u>ANNUAL REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED</u>
2002	\$ 529,084	100%
2003	\$ 630,098	100%
2004	\$ 690,515	100%
2005	\$ 990,387	100%
2006	\$ 1,138,512	100%
2007	\$ 1,195,540	100%

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuations at the dates indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

Valuation date	10/01/07
Actuarial cost method	Aggregate Cost Method
Amortization method	N/A
Remaining amortization period	N/A
Asset valuation method	Market
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.5%
Projected salary increases*	5.0%

*Includes inflation at 3.75%

**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AND
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS
GENERAL EMPLOYEES PLAN**

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS:

<u>ACTUARIAL VALUATION DATE</u>	<u>ACTUARIAL VALUE OF ASSETS (a)</u>	<u>ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY (AAL) ENTRY AGE (b)</u>	<u>UNFUNDED AAL (UAAL) (b-a)</u>	<u>FUNDED RATIO (a-b)</u>	<u>COVERED PAYROLL (c)</u>	<u>UAAL AS A PERCENTAGE OF COVERED PAYROLL ((b-a)c)</u>
10/01/02	\$ 260,670	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 254,386	0%
10/01/03	\$ 352,151	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 227,023	0%
10/01/04	\$ 440,261	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 318,412	0%
10/01/05	\$ 533,350	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 241,781	0%
10/01/06	\$ 629,301	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 288,571	0%
10/01/07	\$ 785,284	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	100%	\$ 319,881	0%

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS:

<u>YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30</u>	<u>ANNUAL REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED</u>
2002	\$ 38,606	100%
2003	\$ 54,599	100%
2004	\$ 59,006	100%
2005	\$ 90,292	100%
2006	\$ 73,052	100%
2007	\$ 86,745	100%

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuations at the dates indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

Valuation date	10/01/07
Actuarial cost method	Aggregate Cost Method
Amortization method	N/A
Remaining amortization period	N/A
Asset valuation method	Market
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.5%
Projected salary increases*	5%

*Includes inflation at 3.75%

OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES –
BUDGET TO ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)</u>
Personal Services Expenditures			
Wages	\$ 5,398,265	\$ 5,238,939	\$ 159,326
Insurance – health, disability, and workers' compensation	1,718,383	1,668,716	49,667
Retirement	1,777,811	2,053,382	(275,571)
Payroll taxes	409,982	395,345	14,637
Uniforms and protective gear	71,264	52,725	18,539
Total Personal Service Expenditures	<u>\$ 9,375,705</u>	<u>\$ 9,409,107</u>	<u>\$ (33,402)</u>
Operating Expenditures			
Fire prevention division	\$ 18,992	\$ 11,130	\$ 7,862
Training division	42,835	37,181	5,654
Repairs and maintenance	330,928	275,561	55,367
Professional fees	110,412	91,757	18,655
Miscellaneous	35,473	29,688	5,785
Fuel	116,487	93,706	22,781
General dues, education, travel and publications	22,625	16,131	6,494
Supplies	28,215	30,475	(2,260)
Office expense	40,453	31,186	9,267
Fees, collector and appraiser	338,851	324,369	14,482
Utilities	115,725	120,381	(4,656)
General Insurance	121,000	119,588	1,412
Total Operating Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,321,996</u>	<u>\$ 1,181,153</u>	<u>\$ 140,843</u>

OTHER AUDITORS' REPORTS

**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 Board of Commissioners
Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District

We have audited the financial statements of Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District as of and for the year ended September 30, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated January 20, 2009. 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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures 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 District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency 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 misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the District's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the District's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the District's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District's financial statements are free of 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 determination of financial statement 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 or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

We noted certain matters that we have reported to the management of Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District in a separate letter dated January 20, 2009.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Commissioners, management, audit committee, and administration and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Christopher Smith, Leonard,
Bristow & Stanell, P.A.*

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, LEONARD,
BRISTOW & STANELL, P.A.

January 20, 2009
Bradenton, Florida



MANAGEMENT LETTER

Board of Commissioners
Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District

We have audited the financial statements of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District, Florida, as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated January 20, 2009.

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. We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance and Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated January 20, 2009, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Additionally, our audit was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, which govern the conduct of local governmental entity audits performed in the State of Florida and, unless otherwise required to be reported in the report on compliance and internal controls or schedule of findings and questioned costs, we report the following:

The rules of the Auditor General, require that we address in the management letter any recommendations to improve financial management, accounting procedures, and internal controls. In connection with our audit, we have the following recommendations.

Year End Adjustments

Comment

As encouraged by new reporting standards, the District's accountant prepared all year end adjustments. However, the investment account was not adjusted for the year end interest accrual.

We suggest a formal year end closing workbook be prepared which includes explanations for the required entries.

Management's Response

The District will create detailed instructions for the year end closing entries.

All prior year audit comments not mentioned above have been corrected.

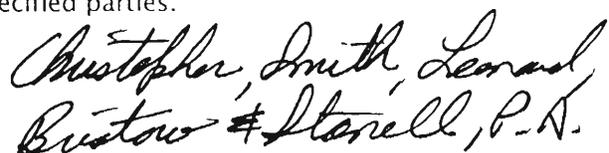
In connection with our audit, we determined that the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District complied with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes regarding the investment of public funds.

As required by Section 10.554 (1)(i)7.b., Rules of the Auditor General, we determined that the annual financial report for the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008, filed with the Florida Department of Financial Services pursuant to Section 218.32(1)(a), Florida Statutes, is in agreement with the annual financial audit report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008.

In connection with our audit, we determined that the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District is not in a state of financial emergency as it did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes.

In accordance with Sections 10.554(1)(i)7.c. and 10.556(7) of the Rules of the Auditor General we applied financial condition assessment procedures. It is management's responsibility to monitor the entity'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 management letter is intended solely for the information of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District and management, and the Florida Auditor General and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher, Smith, Leonard, Bristow & Stanell, P.A." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

CHRISTOPHER, SMITH, LEONARD,
BRISTOW & STANELL, P.A.

January 20, 2009
Bradenton, Florida