

## **JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

### *Notes to the Financial Statements*

For The Year Ended September 30, 2014

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - Continued**

##### Cash and Investments

Cash and temporary investments include amounts in demand deposits and short-term investments with a maturity date within three months of the date acquired by the County. For purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and temporary investments are considered cash equivalents. In accordance with GASB Statement 31, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools", investments are stated at fair value.

The County maintains a cash and investment pool that is available for use by all funds. Each fund type's portion of this pool is displayed on the combined balance sheet as cash and temporary investments under each fund's caption. Funds are allowed to exceed the amount of their equity in the pooled cash account. Funds with overdrawn accounts are disclosed as an interfund payable in the liability section of the balance sheet.

##### Property Taxes

Property taxes are levied as of October 1st of each year with statements prepared and mailed at that date or soon thereafter. The tax levy is based upon appraised property values as of each previous January 1st for all taxable property within the County. Payments are due and payable when taxes are levied and may be timely paid through January 31st. On February 1st, taxes become delinquent and subject to penalty and interest charges. After June 30th, any uncollected taxes are subject to tax suit and additional charges to offset related legal costs. The lien date for property taxes is July 1st.

The appraisal of property within the county is the responsibility of the Johnson County Appraisal District. The Texas Legislature established the Appraisal District and the related Appraisal Review Board in 1979 through the adoption of a comprehensive Property Tax Code. The Appraisal District is required under the Code to assess property at 100% of its appraised value. Real property is reappraised at least every four years. Under certain circumstances, taxpayers and taxing units including the County, may challenge orders of the Appraisal Review Board through various appeals and, if necessary, legal action.

Under the Code, the Commissioners Court will continue to set annual tax rates on the property. The Code also provides that, if approved by the qualified voters in the Appraisal District, collection functions may be placed with the Appraisal District. The County bills and collects its property taxes and those of certain other taxing entities. Collections of those taxes pending distribution are accounted for in an agency fund.

The County is permitted by Article VIII, Section 9 of the State of Texas Constitution to levy taxes up to \$ .80 per \$ 100 assessed valuation for general governmental services including payment of principal and interest on general long-term debt and maintenance of roads and bridges. Article 6790 of Vernon's Civil Statutes permits the County to collect an additional \$ .15 per \$ 100 valuation for road and bridge purposes. Article 7048a of Vernon's Civil Statutes permits the County to collect \$ .30 per \$ 100 valuation for road, bridge and flood control purposes.