

financing and lastly to manage the tax rate so as to avoid undue financial hardship on the County's taxpayers.

The County's Tax Abatement Policy was established due to the rapid growth of the County which placed current and future operating and capital demands on the County's resources. Since the County is committed to the promotion of high quality development in all parts of the County and the County is committed to the ongoing improvement of the quality of life for its citizens the governing body is careful to consider the pros and cons of each application for tax abatement. The maximum term for any tax abatement agreement granted by the County shall be ten years and any agreement granted shall be subject to review and evaluation over its duration to ensure that the proposed benefits are achieved.

The County's Investment Policy supports that funds of the County will be invested in accordance with federal and state laws. The County will follow investment strategies appropriate to each type of fund. Safety of principal is the primary objective of any investment transaction. The County's investment portfolio must be structured in conformance with an asset/liability management plan that provides for the liquidity necessary to pay obligations as they become due. The County will also diversify its portfolio to eliminate the risk of loss resulting from over concentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific issuer or a specific class of investments. The investment officer shall always select investments that provide for stability of income and reasonable liquidity. It will also be an objective of the County to earn the maximum rate of return allowed on its investments within the policy and that the portfolio maturity will be structured to meet the obligations of the County first and then to achieve the highest return of interest.

Awards and Acknowledgements

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Rockwall County for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015. This was the second consecutive year that Rockwall County has received this prestigious award.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our outside audit firm, Pattillo, Brown & Hill for their efficient and dedicated service to Rockwall County. In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to the Commissioners Court for providing the resources necessary to maintain the integrity of the County's financial affairs. And lastly, to all the elected officials and our County employees for their cooperation and efforts toward another successful year of service to our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Constant Wylie".

Lisa Constant Wylie
County Auditor
Rockwall County, Texas