

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS,
ALLEGANY & STEUBEN SOUTHERN TIER
EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY
REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS, ALLEGANY & STEUBEN
SOUTHERN TIER EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
***Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany & Steuben
Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority***
Salamanca, New York 14779

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ***Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, & Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority***, which comprise the statement of net position as of December 31, 2016, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles 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. This includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ***Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, & Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority*** as of December 31, 2016, and the changes in its net position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited *Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, & Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority's* 2015 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 7, 2016. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015 is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

The Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 3 and 4 is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Government Accounting Standards Board, and considered 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 any assurance.

Bysiek CPA, PLLC

**BYSIEK CPA, PLLC
OLEAN, NY 14760
MARCH 27, 2017**

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS, ALLEGANY & STEUBEN
SOUTHERN TIER EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

The following management discussion and analysis (MD&A) provides a comprehensive overview of the financial position of *Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany & Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority* as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and its results of operations for the years then ended. Management has prepared the financial statements and related footnote disclosures along with this MD&A.

Using the Annual Financial Report

This annual report consists of financial statements, prepared in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*, and Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*.

The financial statements prescribed by GASB Statement No. 34 (the *Statement of Net Position*, *Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position*, and the *Statement of Cash Flows*) present financial information in a form similar to that used by corporations. As such, they are prepared under the accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues and assets are recognized when the service is provided and expenses and liabilities are recognized when others provide the service, regardless of when cash is exchanged.

The *Statements of Net Position* include all assets and liabilities. Over time, increases or decreases in net position (the difference between assets and liabilities) are one indicator of the improvement or erosion of the Authority's overall financial health when considered with non-financial facts.

The *Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position* present the revenues earned and expenses incurred during the year. Activities are reported as either operating or non-operating. The utilization of capital assets is reflected in the financial statements as depreciation, amortizing the cost of the capital asset over its expected useful life.

The *Statements of Cash Flows* present information related to cash inflows and outflows summarized by operating, non-capital financing, capital financing and related investing activities, and helps measure the ability of the Authority to meet financial obligations as they mature.

Financial Highlights

Following are the financial highlights of the Authority for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015:

- Incurred depreciation expense of approximately \$997,000 and \$1,083,000 for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.
- Received grant funding (including FEMA reimbursements) of approximately \$607,000 and \$2,551,000 for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Authority's basic financial statements. The basic financial statements are comprised of three components: 1) financial statements; 2) notes to the financial statements; and 3) report on internal controls over financial reporting.

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

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

Condensed Statements of Net Position

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Current assets	\$ 108,510	\$ 80,666
Capital assets	<u>4,341,782</u>	<u>4,750,242</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 4,450,292</u>	<u>\$ 4,830,907</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Net position:		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 4,341,782	\$ 4,750,242
Unrestricted net position	<u>108,510</u>	<u>80,665</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 4,450,292</u>	<u>\$ 4,830,907</u>

The statements of revenue, expenses and changes in net position shows the business type activity of the Authority and provides information regarding income and expenses that affect net position.

Condensed Statements of Revenue, Expenses and Change in Net Position

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total revenues	\$ 646,741	\$ 2,590,626
Total expenses	<u>1,027,356</u>	<u>1,170,820</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ (380,615)</u>	<u>\$ 1,419,877</u>

The summary of accounting policies and notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full and complete understanding of the information provided in the financial statements.

Economic Factors That Will Affect the Future

The Authority remains committed to rehabilitating and preserving rail service for the Southern Tier Region. Its ability to successfully accomplish this is at least in part based upon the economic outlook for the Southern Tier Region as well as upon its ability to continue to attract funding for future improvements.

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS, ALLEGANY STEUBEN
SOUTHERN TIER EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION**

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<i>As of December 31,</i>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 108,510	\$ 80,666
Total current assets	<u>108,510</u>	<u>80,666</u>
Property improvements, less accumulated depreciation (Note 2)	<u>4,341,782</u>	<u>4,750,242</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 4,450,292</u>	<u>\$ 4,830,907</u>
Liabilities and Net Position		
Net position		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	4,341,782	4,750,242
Unrestricted	108,510	80,666
Total net position	<u>\$ 4,450,292</u>	<u>\$ 4,830,907</u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS, ALLEGANY STEUBEN
SOUTHERN TIER EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY**

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

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For the Year Ended December 31,

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Revenues		
Rental income	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
NYS grant revenue	219,921	1,789,251
FEMA reimbursements	386,820	761,445
Total revenues	<u>646,741</u>	<u>2,590,696</u>
Expenses		
Depreciation	997,303	1,083,041
Insurance	5,182	6,837
Professional fees	24,871	80,942
Total expenses	<u>1,027,356</u>	<u>1,170,820</u>
Change in net position	(380,615)	1,419,877
Net position, beginning of year	<u>4,830,907</u>	<u>3,411,030</u>
Net position, end of year	<u>\$ 4,450,292</u>	<u>\$ 4,830,907</u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS, ALLEGANY STEUBEN
SOUTHERN TIER EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

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For the Year Ended December 31,

2016 2015

Cash flows from operating activities:

Cash received for rent	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Cash received from FEMA	386,820	761,445
Cash received from grants	219,921	1,789,251
Cash paid to vendors	(30,053)	(87,779)
Net cash provided by operating activities	616,688	2,502,917

Cash flows from investing activities

Capital expenditures	(588,844)	(2,547,318)
Net cash used in investing activities	(588,844)	(2,547,318)

Net change in cash

27,844 (44,401)

Cash, beginning of year

80,666 125,066

Cash, end of year

\$ 108,510 \$ 80,666

**Reconciliation of change in net position to net cash provided
by operating activities:**

Change in net position	\$ (380,615)	\$ 1,419,877
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	997,303	1,083,041
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 616,688	\$ 2,502,917

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS, ALLEGANY & STEUBEN
SOUTHERN TIER EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany & Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA) was incorporated in July 2000 as a public authority created by the New York State Legislature under NY Consolidated Law, NYS Public Authorities Law, Title 28-AA. The purpose of the Authority is to preserve and enhance the railroad system serving Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben counties in New York and Warren and Erie counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so as to insure a healthy economy for these counties.

Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been maintained on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Property and Depreciation

The Authority follows a policy of capitalizing all significant rail line improvements at cost. These assets are depreciated by the straight-line method over a 10-year estimated useful life. Depreciation expense totaled approximately \$1,083,000 and \$568,000 for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Credit Risk

At various times throughout the year balances may exceed federally insured amounts.

Federal Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service has classified the Authority as exempt from Federal Income taxes under Section 501(a) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 2 - PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT AND DEPRECIATION

Property and equipment for the Authority consists of the following:

	12/31/2015			12/31/2016		
	Balance	Additions	Reductions	Balance		
Improvements to rail line	\$ 17,115,368	\$ 588,844	\$ --	\$ 17,704,212		
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(12,365,126)</u>	<u>(997,303)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(13,362,429)</u>		
Net property and equipment	<u>\$ 4,750,242</u>	<u>\$ (408,459)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 4,341,782</u>		

NOTE 3 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board provides management services to the Authority. Expenses incurred for each of the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 for these services amounted to approximately \$17,500 and \$77,000, respectively.

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS, ALLEGANY & STEUBEN
SOUTHERN TIER EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

NOTE 4 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Substantially all grants and contracts are subject to financial and compliance audits by the grantor agencies. Disallowances, if any, as a result of these audits may become liabilities of the Authority. Management believes that no material disallowances will result from audits by grantor agencies.

NOTE 5 – DATE OF MANAGEMENT'S REVIEW

Management has evaluated events and transactions through March 27, 2017, which is the date the accompanying financial statements were available to be issued.



**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 Directors

Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany & Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA)

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of **STERA**, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise **STERA's** basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 27, 2017.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered **STERA's** internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of **STERA's** internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of **STERA's** internal control.

A deficiency in internal control 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 and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether **STERA's** financial statements are free from 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*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Bysiek CPA, PLLC

**BYSIEK CPA, PLLC
OLEAN, NY 14760
MARCH 27, 2017**

**CHAUTAUQUA, CATTARAUGUS, ALLEGANY & STEUBEN
SOUTHERN TIER EXTENSION RAILROAD AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**

Section I – Summary of Audit Results

1. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of **STERA**.
2. No significant deficiencies in internal controls related to the audit of the financial statements is reported in the Report on Internal Controls over Financial Reporting.
3. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of **STERA** were disclosed during the audit.

Section II – Findings: Audit of Financial Statements

A. Internal Control Over Financing Reporting

There were no internal control findings noted for the year ending December 31, 2016.

B. Compliance and Other Matters

There were no compliance findings noted for the year ending December 31, 2016.

Section III – Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings

A. Internal Control Over Financing Reporting

There were no internal control findings noted for the year ending December 31, 2015.

B. Compliance and Other Matters

There were no compliance findings noted for the year ending December 31, 2015.