

Management Report
for
City of Saint Peter, Minnesota
December 31, 2013

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PRINCIPALS

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To the City Council and Management
City of Saint Peter, Minnesota

We have prepared this management report in conjunction with our audit of the City of Saint Peter, Minnesota's (the City) financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013. The purpose of this report is to provide comments resulting from our audit process and to communicate information relevant to city finances in Minnesota. We have organized this report into the following sections:

- Audit Summary
- Governmental Funds Overview
- Enterprise Funds Overview
- Government-Wide Financial Statements
- Legislative Updates
- Accounting and Auditing Updates

We would be pleased to further discuss any of the information contained in this report or any other concerns that you would like us to address. We would also like to express our thanks for the courtesy and assistance extended to us during the course of our audit.

The purpose of this report is solely to provide those charged with governance of the City, management, and those who have responsibility for oversight of the financial reporting process comments resulting from our audit process and information relevant to city finances in Minnesota. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.

Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 18, 2014

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AUDIT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of our audit work, key conclusions, and other information that we consider important or that is required to be communicated to the City Council, administration, or those charged with governance of the City.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013, and the related notes to basic financial statements. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you verbally and in our audit engagement letter. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPONENT UNITS

Our responsibility is to express opinions on the City's financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the discretely presented component units' financial statements. This includes the financial statements of the River's Edge Hospital and Clinic and the financial statements of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). Those statements were audited by other auditors whose reports have been furnished to us. Our opinion on the basic financial statements, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for these organizations as component units of the City, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously discussed and coordinated in order to obtain sufficient audit evidence and complete an effective audit.

AUDIT OPINION AND FINDINGS

Based on our audit of the City's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013:

- We issued an unmodified opinion on the City's financial statements.
- We reported one finding related to our testing of internal controls and compliance over financial reporting. We reported that due to the small number of office staff, the City has a limited segregation of duties in several areas, which we consider a significant deficiency in internal controls.
- The results of our testing disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.
- We reported no findings based on our testing of the City's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations.

FOLLOW-UP ON PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a part of our audit of the City's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013, we performed procedures to follow-up on the findings and recommendations that resulted from our prior year audit. We reported the following findings that were corrected by the City in the current year:

- In our previous audit, we reported that the City was not in compliance with Minnesota State Statute § 471.665 which requires that if a City has established an automobile allowance for any officer or employee, the allowance must be in lieu of all other mileage reimbursements to that officer or employee. As part of our follow-up procedures we are pleased to report that the City has implemented procedures to ensure that the Minnesota State legal compliance requirements are being met and this was not a current year finding.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City are described in Note 1 of the notes to basic financial statements. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, the City implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*, which identifies specific items previously presented as assets that will now be presented as either deferred outflows of resources or outflows (expenses/expenditures), and items previously reported as liabilities that will now be presented as deferred inflows of resources or inflows (revenues).

We noted no transactions entered into by the City during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND MANAGEMENT JUDGMENTS

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- **Depreciation** – Management's estimates of depreciation expense are based on the estimated useful lives of the assets.
- **Self-Insurance Reserves** – Management's estimates of costs for unreported claims are based on the past history of claims reported.
- **Compensated Absences** – Management's estimate based on current rates of pay and sick leave balances.
- **Land Held for Resale** – Management's estimate is based on net realizable value (lower of cost or estimated sales price).
- **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts** – Management's estimate of the allowance for doubtful accounts is based on historical water and sewer revenues, historical loss levels, and an analysis of the collectability of individual accounts.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used by management in the areas discussed above in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.

We proposed two uncorrected audit adjustments to the financial statements. The adjustments are as follows:

- Net other post-employment benefit (OPEB) liability of \$67,157.
- Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) liability on the related compensated absences liability of \$56,832.

Management has determined that its effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this report, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 18, 2014.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the City's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the City's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

OTHER MATTERS

With respect to the supplemental information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplemental information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves.

With respect to the introductory and other information sections accompanying the financial statements, our procedures were limited to reading this other information and, in doing so, we did not identify any material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS OVERVIEW

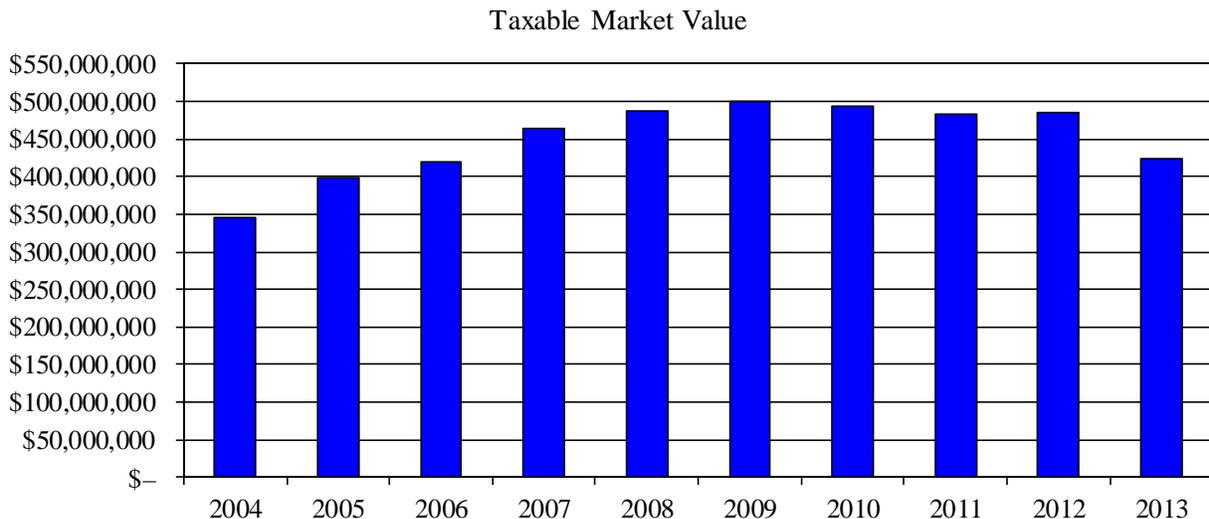
This section of the report provides you with an overview of the financial trends and activities of the City's governmental funds, which includes the General Fund, special revenue, debt service, and capital project funds. These funds are used to account for the basic services the City provides to all of its citizens, which are financed primarily with property taxes. The governmental fund information in the City's financial statements focuses on budgetary compliance, and the sufficiency of each governmental fund's current assets to finance its current liabilities.

PROPERTY TAXES

Minnesota cities rely heavily on local property tax levies to support their governmental fund activities. In recent years this dependence has been heightened, as economic conditions have resulted in reductions to other revenue sources such as state aids and fees generated from property development or redevelopment. Despite these conditions, property taxes levied by Minnesota cities increased a record low 0.9 percent state-wide for 2012, and 2.27 percent for 2013. Almost one-third of Minnesota cities kept their 2013 levy at the same level as the previous year, while another 13 percent reduced their levies for 2013.

Economic conditions have also had a profound effect on the tax base of Minnesota cities with state-wide taxable market values declining each of the last four levy years, including average decreases of 8.8 percent and 4.5 percent for taxes payable in 2012 and 2013, respectively. There is optimism that this trend is reversing, as the market value decline for the 2013 levy year was the smallest of the past four years. However, since the assessed valuation used for levying property taxes is based on values from the previous fiscal year (e.g. the market value for taxes payable in 2013 is based on estimated values as of January 1, 2012), taxable market value improvement has lagged behind recent upturns in the housing market and the economy in general.

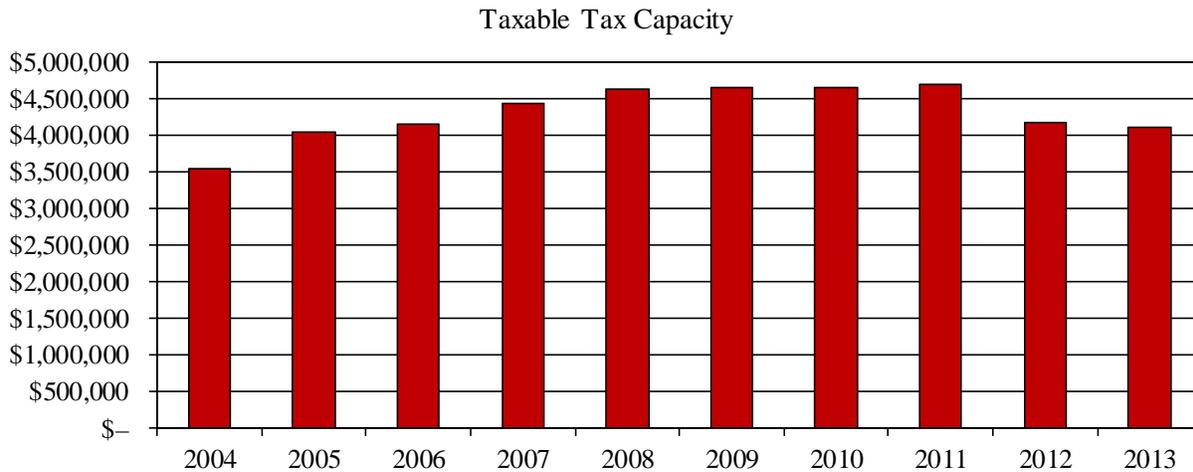
The City's taxable market value increased 0.5 percent for taxes payable in 2012 and decreased 12.8 percent for taxes payable in 2013. The following graph shows the City's changes in taxable market value over the past 10 years:



The data in this graph does not include the drop in taxable market value as a result of the legislative change to the MVHC program in fiscal 2012.

Tax capacity is considered the actual base available for taxation. It is calculated by applying the state's property classification system to each property's market value. Each property classification, such as commercial or residential, has a different calculation and uses different rates. Consequently, a city's total tax capacity will change at a different rate than its total market value, as tax capacity is affected by the proportion of the City's tax base that is in each property classification from year-to-year, as well as legislative changes to tax rates. The City's tax capacity decreased 11.2 percent and 1.5 percent for taxes payable in 2012 and 2013, respectively.

The following graph shows the City's change in tax capacities over the past 10 years:



The significant drop in taxable tax capacity is the result of the legislative change to the MVHC program in fiscal 2012.

The following table presents the average tax rates applied to city residents for each of the last two levy years, along with comparative state-wide rates. The general increase in rates reflects both the increased reliance of local governments on property taxes and the recent decline in tax capacities previously discussed.

Rates expressed as a percentage of net tax capacity				
	All Cities State-Wide		City of Saint Peter	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
Average tax rate				
City	46.3	48.8	49.0	50.7
County	46.8	48.5	53.7	52.0
School	27.3	28.5	16.7	16.8
Special taxing	6.8	7.2	0.6	0.5
Total	<u>127.2</u>	<u>133.0</u>	<u>120.0</u>	<u>120.0</u>

The City's portion of the average property tax rate for city residents has historically been higher than state-wide averages.

GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES

The following table summarizes the changes in the fund balances of the City’s governmental funds during the year ended December 31, 2013, presented both by fund balance classification and by fund:

Governmental Funds Change in Fund Balance			
	Fund Balance as of December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	
Fund balances of governmental funds			
Total by classification			
Nonspendable	\$ 10,183	\$ 6,137	\$ 4,046
Restricted	6,673,510	3,352,821	3,320,689
Committed	1,015,420	974,601	40,819
Assigned	336,914	774,320	(437,406)
Unassigned	<u>2,875,406</u>	<u>2,665,755</u>	<u>209,651</u>
Total governmental funds	<u>\$ 10,911,433</u>	<u>\$ 7,773,634</u>	<u>\$ 3,137,799</u>
Total by fund			
General	\$ 3,746,297	\$ 3,963,763	\$ (217,466)
Capital Projects – Permanent Improvements	3,414,224	168,404	3,245,820
Nonmajor	<u>3,750,912</u>	<u>3,641,467</u>	<u>109,445</u>
Total governmental funds	<u>\$ 10,911,433</u>	<u>\$ 7,773,634</u>	<u>\$ 3,137,799</u>

In total, the fund balances of the City’s governmental funds increased by \$3,137,799 during the year ended December 31, 2013. The majority of this increase was in the Capital Projects – Permanent Improvement Fund totaling \$3,245,820. This increase was mainly due to the issuance of Municipal State Aid Bonds in the current year for the street improvement for the Washington Avenue Project. The majority of the \$3,320,689 increase in restricted fund balance was also due to the issuance of the Municipal State Aid Bonds, as these funds are restricted for use on street improvements.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS REVENUE

The following table presents the per capita revenue of the City's governmental funds for the past three years, along with state-wide averages.

We have included the most recent comparative state-wide averages available from the Office of the State Auditor to provide a benchmark for interpreting your city's data. The amounts received from the typical major sources of governmental fund revenue will naturally vary between cities based on factors such as the City's stage of development, location, size and density of its population, property values, services it provides, and other attributes. It will also differ from year-to-year due to the effect of inflation and changes in the City's operation. Also, certain data on these tables may be classified differently than how they appear on the City's financial statements in order to be more comparable to the state-wide information, particularly in separating capital expenditures from current expenditures.

We have designed this section of our management report using per capita data in order to better identify unique or unusual trends and activities of your city. We intend for this type of comparative and trend information to complement, rather than duplicate, information in the Management's Discussion and Analysis. An inherent difficulty in presenting per capita information is the accuracy of the population count, which for most years is based on estimates.

Governmental Funds Revenue per Capita						
With State-Wide Averages by Population Class						
Year	State-Wide			City of Saint Peter		
	December 31, 2012			2011	2012	2013
Population	2,500–10,000	10,000–20,000	20,000–100,000	11,459	11,503	11,503
Property taxes	\$ 414	\$ 382	\$ 416	\$ 183	\$ 193	\$ 196
Tax increments	32	44	46	44	59	58
Franchise and other taxes	29	36	30	11	11	11
Special assessments	60	54	62	7	13	9
Licenses and permits	24	24	35	13	14	17
Intergovernmental revenues	278	279	138	414	391	332
Charges for services	104	81	83	29	32	35
Other	66	58	50	109	118	95
Total revenue	\$ 1,007	\$ 958	\$ 860	\$ 810	\$ 830	\$ 753

The City's lower than average tax revenue is primarily the result of the City relying on enterprise fund activities to finance the City's activities. This is due to the large amount of non-taxable property within the City.

In 2013, governmental funds revenue per capita decreased \$77 per capita. The largest decreases were in intergovernmental revenues and other revenues. Intergovernmental revenue is lower as a result of less highway project state aids in the current year. Other is lower due to loan principal and interest receipts from revolving loans being lower than past years.

It is important to note that this table does not include operating transfers, which are used by the City to support governmental fund activities. This information is not included in the table as the comparable information is not available.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS EXPENDITURES

The expenditures of governmental funds will also vary from state-wide averages and from year-to-year, based on the City's circumstances. Expenditures are classified into three types as follows:

- **Current** – These are typically the general operating type expenditures occurring on an annual basis, and are primarily funded by general sources such as taxes and intergovernmental revenues.
- **Capital Outlay and Construction** – These expenditures do not occur on a consistent basis, more typically fluctuating significantly from year-to-year. Many of these expenditures are project-oriented, and are often funded by specific sources that have benefited from the expenditure, such as special assessment improvement projects.
- **Debt Service** – Although the expenditures for debt service may be relatively consistent over the term of the respective debt, the funding source is the important factor. Some debt may be repaid through specific sources such as special assessments or redevelopment funding, while other debt may be repaid with general property taxes.

The City's expenditures per capita of its governmental funds for the past three years, together with state-wide averages, are presented in the following table:

Governmental Funds Expenditures per Capita With State-Wide Averages by Population Class						
Year	State-Wide			City of Saint Peter		
	December 31, 2012			2011	2012	2013
Population	2,500–10,000	10,000–20,000	20,000–100,000	11,459	11,503	11,503
Current						
General government	\$ 127	\$ 101	\$ 84	\$ 123	\$ 99	\$ 102
Public safety	234	229	241	203	208	217
Street maintenance and lighting	114	105	92	107	103	110
Parks and recreation	82	95	86	124	126	131
All other	73	75	92	93	58	65
	<u>\$ 630</u>	<u>\$ 605</u>	<u>\$ 595</u>	<u>\$ 650</u>	<u>\$ 594</u>	<u>\$ 625</u>
Capital outlay and construction	<u>\$ 315</u>	<u>\$ 313</u>	<u>\$ 221</u>	<u>\$ 215</u>	<u>\$ 176</u>	<u>\$ 409</u>
Debt service						
Principal	\$ 187	\$ 135	\$ 103	\$ 107	\$ 108	\$ 122
Interest and fiscal	58	46	39	30	27	24
	<u>\$ 245</u>	<u>\$ 181</u>	<u>\$ 142</u>	<u>\$ 137</u>	<u>\$ 135</u>	<u>\$ 146</u>

The City's governmental funds current per capita expenditures in fiscal 2012 were less than state-wide averages for cities in the same population class when compared to fiscal 2012. The departments that were lower than state-wide averages include public safety and other.

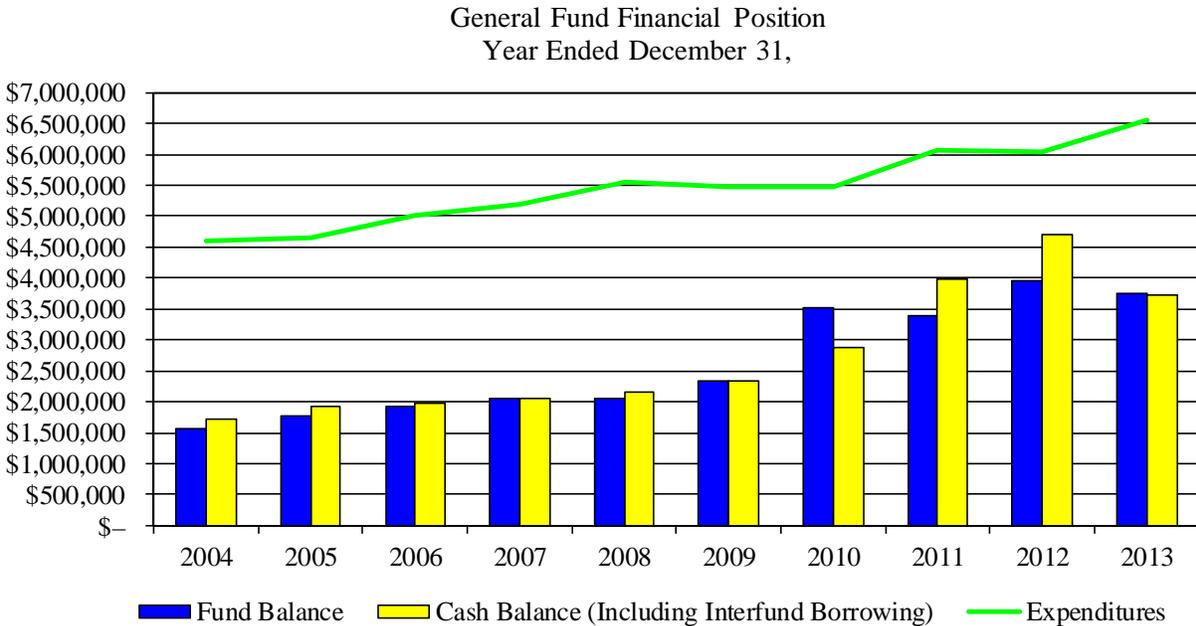
The City's governmental funds current per capita expenditures increased by \$31 per capita in fiscal 2013. This increase was spread across all functions. Capital outlay increased \$233 per capita mainly from costs related to the Municipal State Aid Bond issued in fiscal 2013.

FINANCIAL TRENDS AND CONDITIONS

GENERAL FUND

The City's General Fund accounts for the financial activity of the basic services provided to the community. The primary services included within this fund are the administration of the municipal operation, police and fire protection, building inspection, street and highway maintenance, parks and recreation, and economic development.

The following graph displays the City's General Fund trends of financial position and changes in the volume of financial activity. Fund balance and cash balance are typically used as indicators of financial health or equity, while annual expenditures are often used to measure the size of the operation.



The City's General Fund cash and investment, and fund balance decreased in the current year. The total fund balance at December 31, 2013 was \$3,746,297 a decrease of \$217,466 which was consistent with the budgeted decrease of \$168,800.

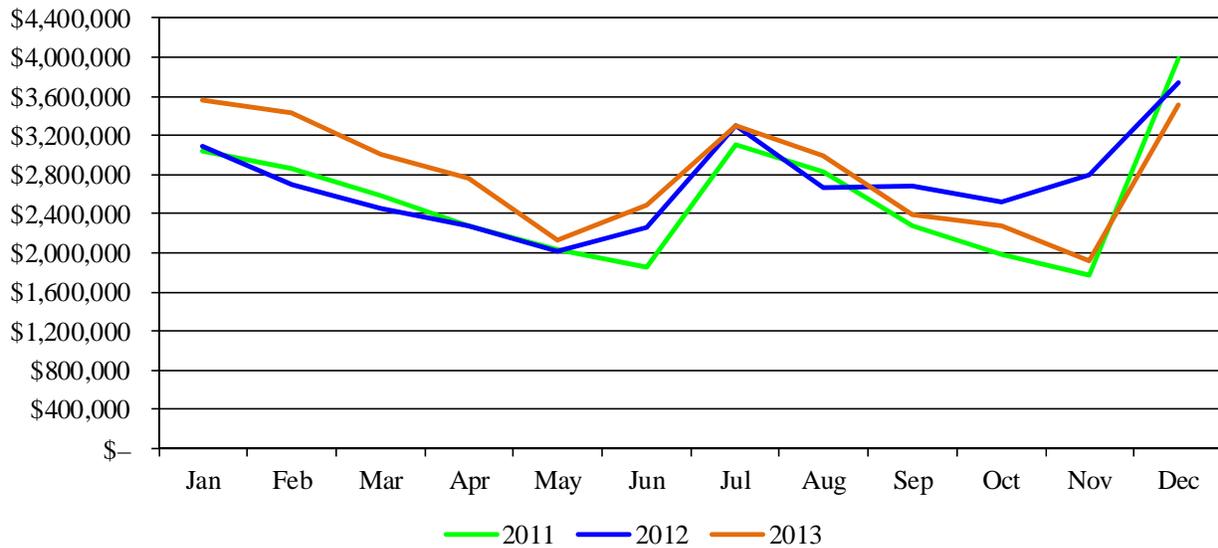
As the graph illustrates, the City has generally been able to maintain healthy cash and fund balance levels as the volume of financial activity has grown. This is an important factor because a government, like any organization, requires a certain amount of equity to operate. A healthy financial position allows the City to avoid volatility in tax rates; helps minimize the impact of state funding changes; allows for the adequate and consistent funding of services, repairs, and unexpected costs; and is a factor in determining the City's bond rating and resulting interest costs. Maintaining an adequate fund balance has become increasingly important given the fluctuations in state funding for cities in recent years.

The City Council has formally adopted a fund balance policy regarding the fund balance for the General Fund. The policy establishes that the City will strive to maintain an unassigned fund balance in the General Fund in the range of 35 to 50 percent of the following year's budgeted expenditures. At December 31, 2013, the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was 53.8 percent of the subsequent year's budgeted expenditures.

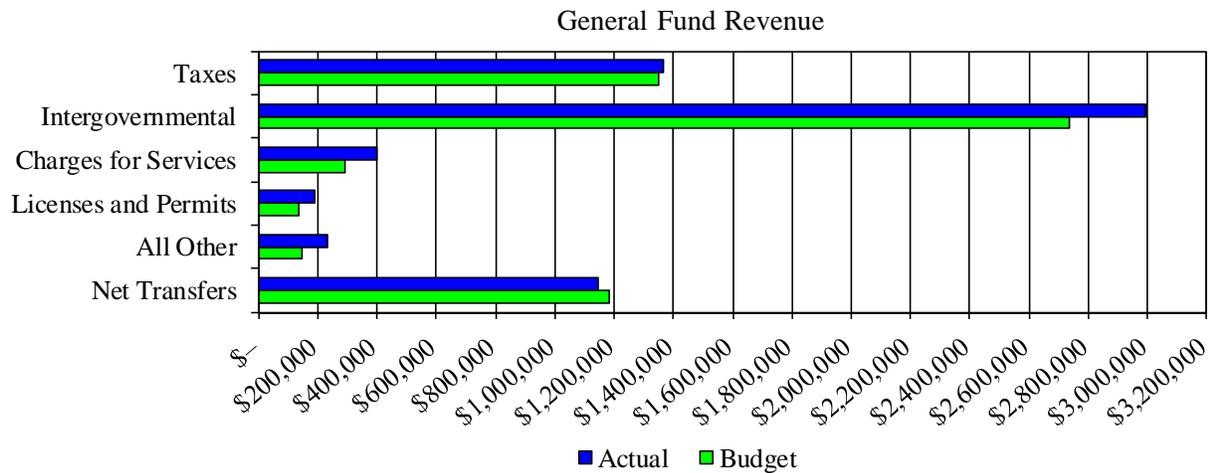
A trend that is typical to Minnesota local governments, especially the General Fund of cities, is the unusual cash flow experienced throughout the year. The City's General Fund cash disbursements are made fairly evenly during the year other than the impact of seasonal services such as snowplowing, street maintenance, and park activities. Cash receipts of the General Fund are quite a different story. Taxes and state aids comprise almost 84 percent of the fund's total annual revenue. Approximately half of these revenues are received by the City in July and the rest in December. Consequently, the City needs to have adequate cash reserves to finance its everyday operations between these payments.

The following graph illustrates the monthly cash flow of the General Fund in recent years (excluding interfund borrowing). Adequate fund balances in the General Fund have provided for positive month-end balances for all three years presented.

General Fund Cash and Investment Flow
Month-End Balances

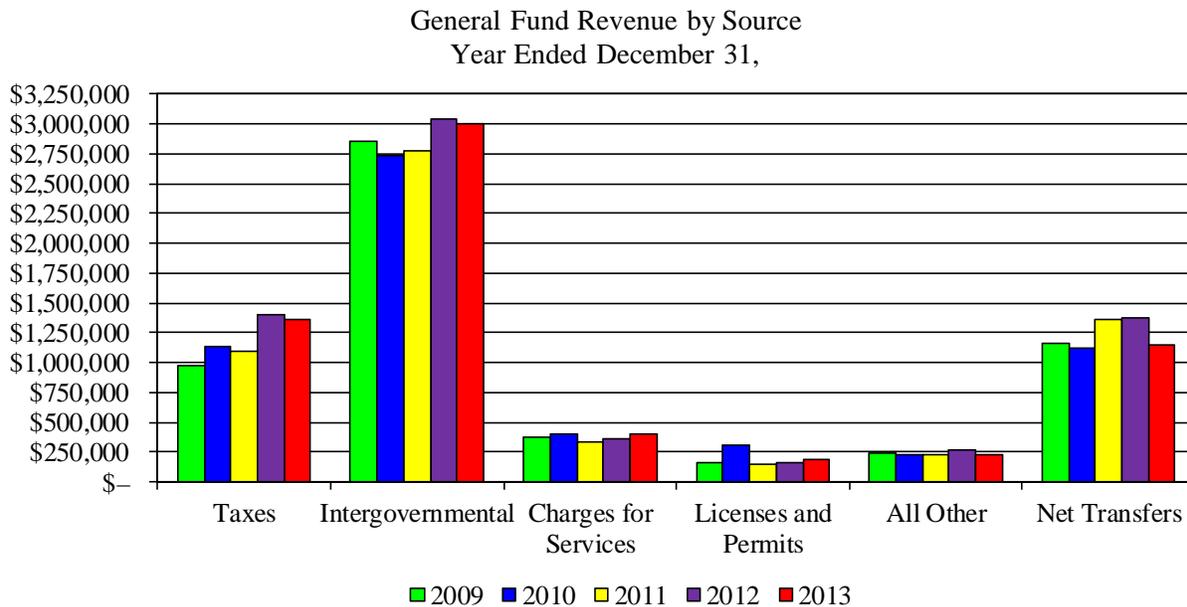


The following graph reflects the City's General Fund revenues and net transfers, budget and actual, for 2013:



Total General Fund revenues and net transfers in 2013 were \$6,328,892, which was \$491,013 more than the final budget. The majority of this variance is in intergovernmental, in which the City received approximately \$300,000 to upgrade the emergency radio system, which was not included in the adopted budget.

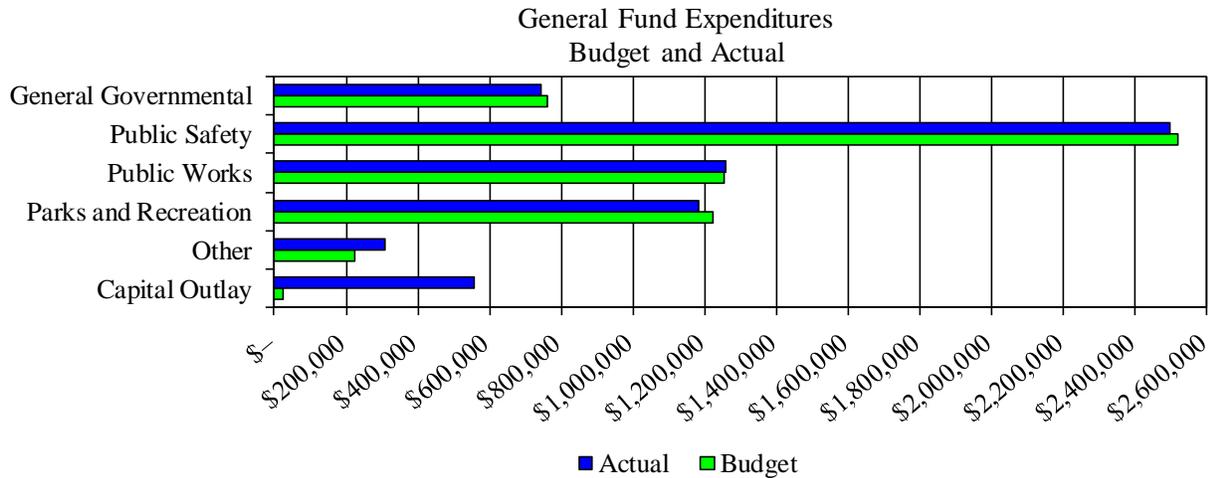
The following graph presents the City's General Fund revenue sources for the last five years:



Revenues and net transfers for the year ended December 31, 2013 decreased by \$286,103. Most of this change was due to an increase in the transfers out to other funds.

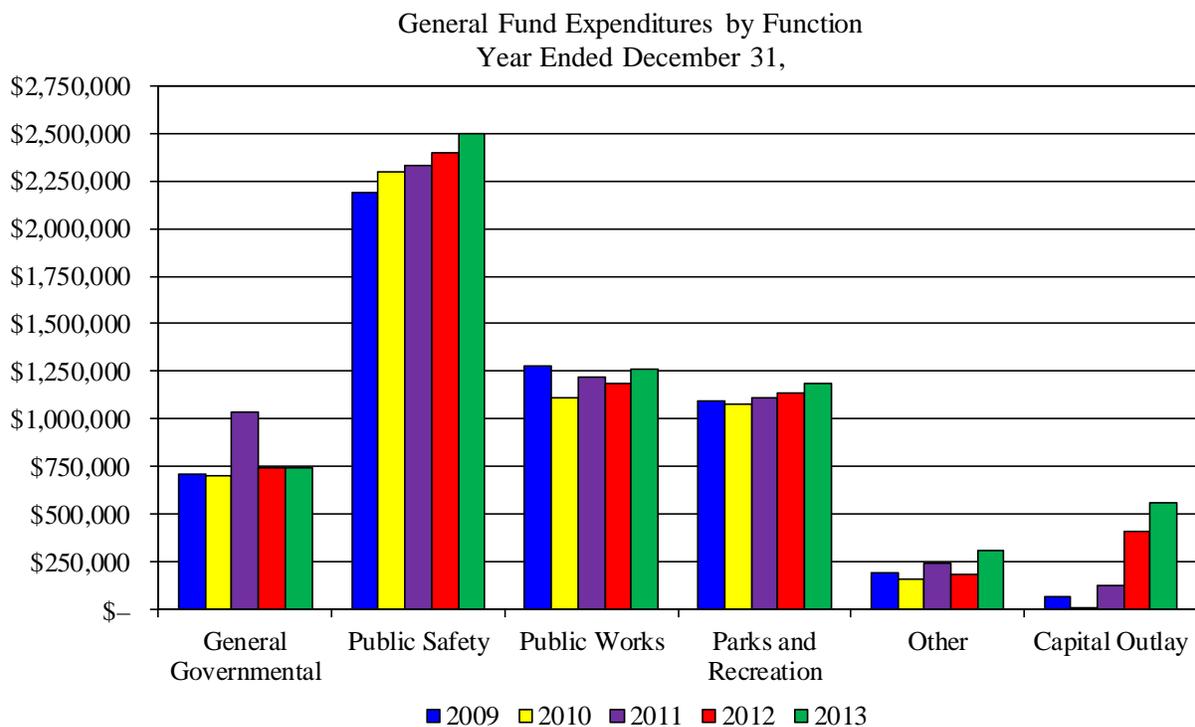
Due to the large amount of tax exempt property in the City, the City has historically relied heavily on intergovernmental revenue (mainly state aid) and transfers from its enterprise funds to help support General Fund operations.

The following illustrations provide the components of the City's General Fund spending for 2013 compared to budget:



Total General Fund expenditures for 2013 were \$6,546,358, which was \$539,679 greater than the budget. Capital outlay costs were over budget by \$532,774, mainly due to the purchases and work completed on the emergency radio system, for which the City received federal grant revenues, and the purchase of park land.

The following graph presents the components of the City's General Fund spending for the past five years:



In 2013, total General Fund expenditures increased \$497,792. Public safety increased by \$101,774 due to an increase in personnel costs related to rising health insurance premiums and wage increases. Other expenditures also increased by \$76,444 due to an increase in insurance claims. Capital outlay increased \$147,521 for the reasons described above.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS OVERVIEW

The City maintains a number of enterprise funds to account for services the City provides that are financed primarily through fees charged to those utilizing the service. This section of the report provides you with an overview of the financial trends and activities of the City's enterprise funds.

The enterprise funds comprise a considerable portion of the City's activities. These funds help to defray overhead and administrative costs and provide additional support to general government operations by way of annual transfers. We understand the City is proactive in reviewing these activities on an ongoing basis and we want to reiterate the importance of continually monitoring these operations. Over the years we have emphasized to our city clients the importance of these utility operations being self-sustaining, preventing additional burdens on general governmental funds. This would include the accumulation of net position for future capital improvements and to provide a cushion in the event of a negative trend in operations.

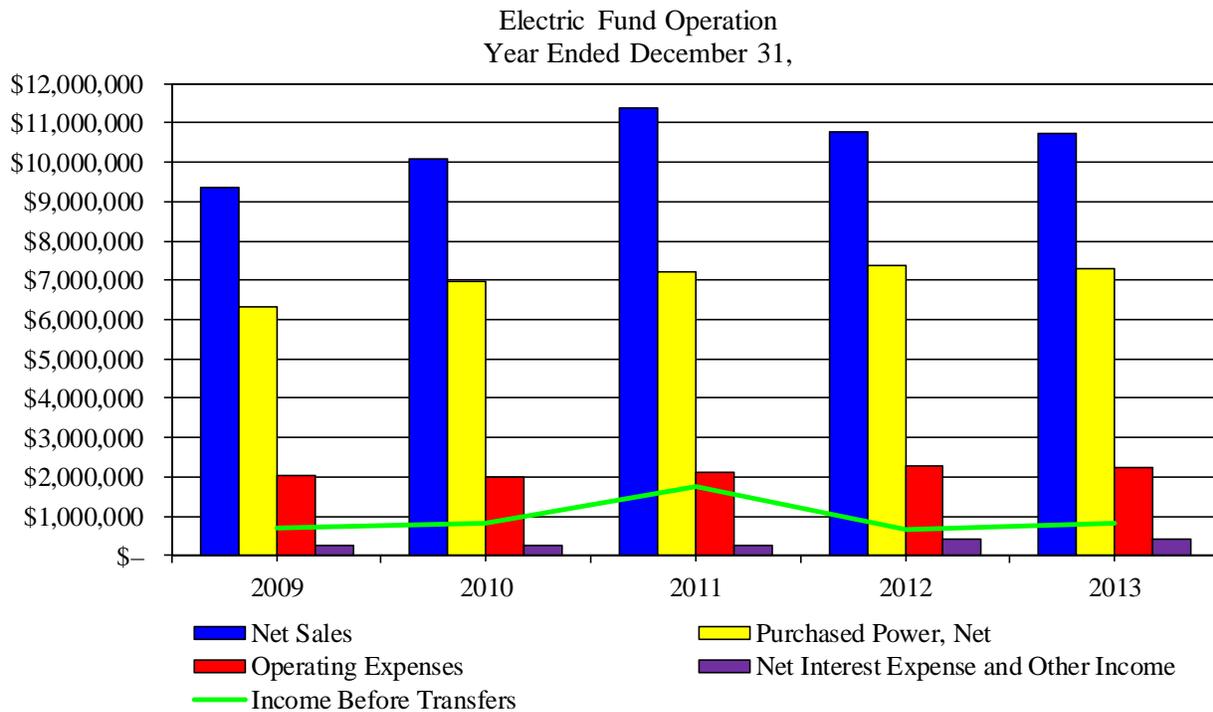
ENTERPRISE FUNDS FINANCIAL POSITION

The following table summarizes the changes in the financial position of the City's enterprise funds during the year ended December 31, 2013, presented both by classification and by fund:

Enterprise Funds Change in Financial Position			
	Net Position as of December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	2013	2012	
Net position of enterprise funds			
Total by classification			
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 44,773,771	\$ 43,624,677	\$ 1,149,094
Restricted for debt service	1,168,228	1,168,228	-
Restricted for capital replacement	485,506	508,074	(22,568)
Unrestricted	4,499,956	5,580,598	(1,080,642)
	<u>\$ 50,927,461</u>	<u>\$ 50,881,577</u>	<u>\$ 45,884</u>
Total enterprise funds			
Total by fund			
Electric	\$ 16,359,251	\$ 16,483,793	\$ (124,542)
Water	9,446,289	10,106,176	(659,887)
Environmental Services	273,296	245,953	27,343
Wastewater	17,136,240	16,427,584	708,656
Heartland Transit	19,176	28,561	(9,385)
Storm Water	5,264,527	5,064,742	199,785
Telecommunications Conduit	243,616	257,579	(13,963)
Long-Term Care Facility	(765,663)	(765,539)	(124)
Medical Office Building	2,950,729	3,032,728	(81,999)
	<u>\$ 50,927,461</u>	<u>\$ 50,881,577</u>	<u>\$ 45,884</u>
Total enterprise funds			

ELECTRIC FUND

The following graph presents five years of comparative data for the City's Electric Fund:

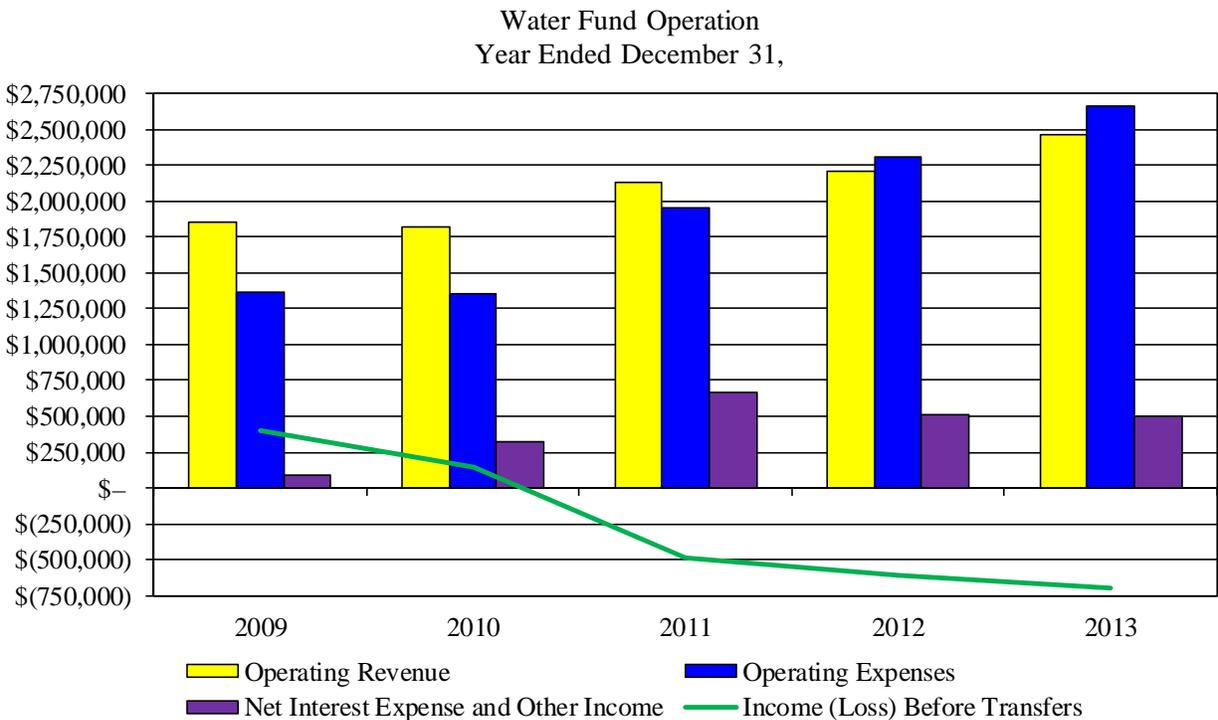


At December 31, 2013, the Electric Fund had a total net position of \$16,359,251, of which \$1,061,428 was restricted for debt service; \$12,755,968 was the net investment in capital assets; and \$2,541,855 was unrestricted. The Electric Fund ended the year with working capital of \$1,902,262.

The Electric Fund operating revenue was \$10,726,029 for 2013, a decrease of \$25,157 (0.2 percent). Charges for services increased about \$207,000. This increase was mainly due to increased consumption during the current year. Other revenue declined by about \$232,000 as the City received additional revenue in 2012 for assisting in the Hurricane Sandy aftermath. The City also received sales tax refunds in the prior year which contributed to the higher other revenue in 2012. Purchased power decreased \$81,575, or 1.1 percent. Operating expenses (excluding purchased power) decreased by \$68,668 (3.0 percent) in 2013 mainly due to a decreases in supplies and materials.

WATER FUND

The following graph presents selected data for the City's Water Fund for the past five years:



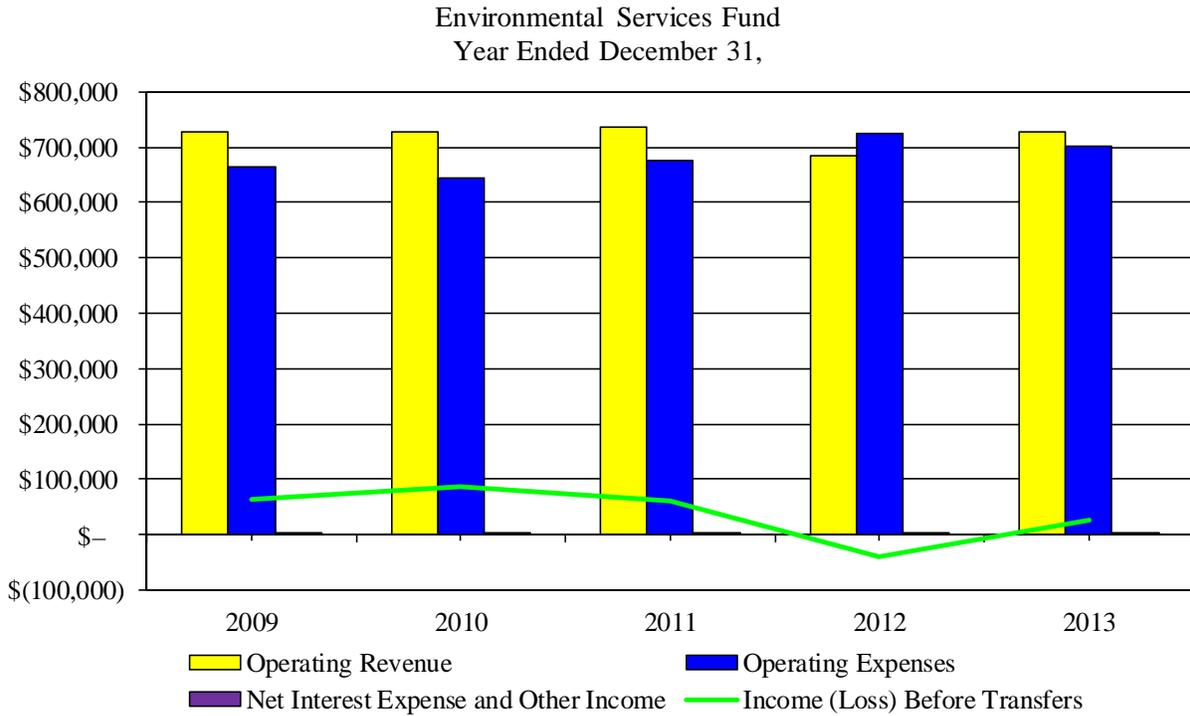
At December 31, 2013, the Water Fund had a total net position of \$9,446,289, of which \$8,644,906 was the net investment in capital assets and \$801,383 was unrestricted. The Water Fund ended the year with working capital of \$274,562.

The Water Fund operating revenue was \$2,464,354 for 2013, an increase of \$259,654 or 11.8 percent, which was primarily the result of an increase in the water rates and decreased usage and consumption. Operating expenses increased by \$352,841, or 15.3 percent, which was related to an increase in the depreciation expense of about \$160,000 due to significant capital asset additions in the prior year which incurred a full year of depreciation in the current year. Costs for utilities also increased about \$120,000 in 2013.

Although this fund is in a positive financial position, we suggest that the City continue to review the water rates on an annual basis. This is especially important considering the decline in the operating results over the past three years. Water rates are generally designed to cover operating costs and provide an accumulation of resources for significant repairs and replacements, and an operating cushion for potential negative years in financial operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FUND

The following graph presents selected data for the City’s Environmental Services Fund for the past five years:

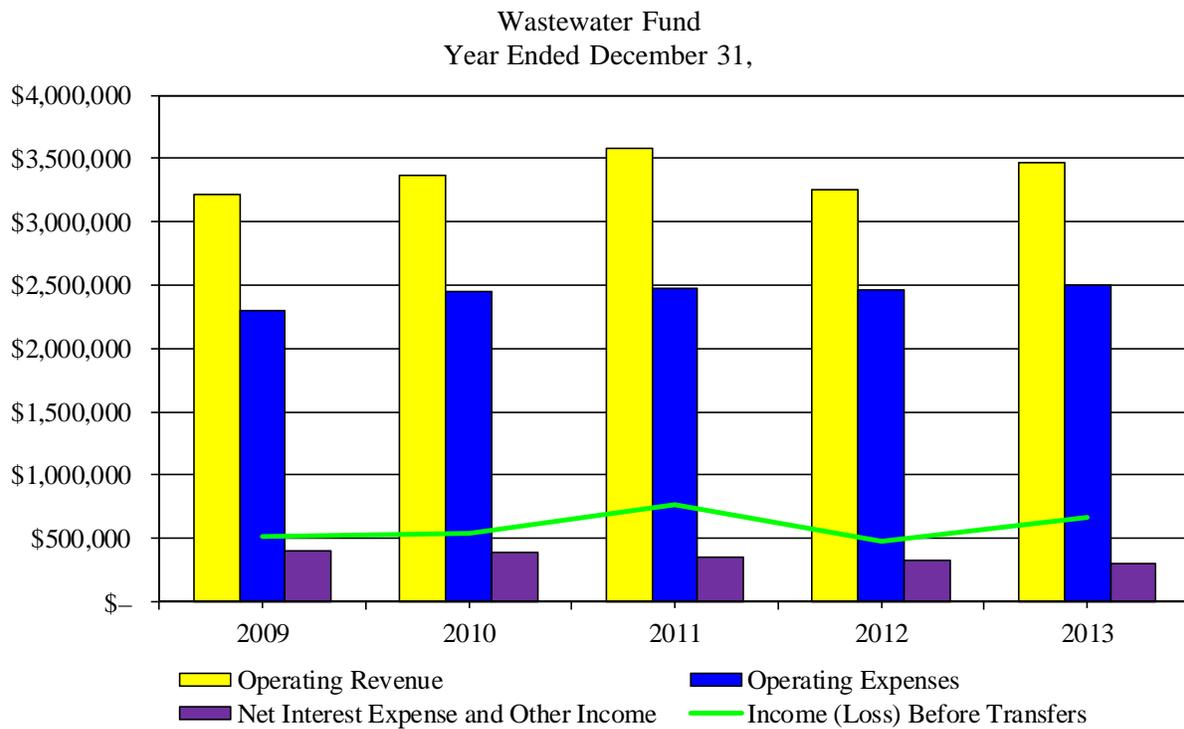


At December 31, 2013, the Environmental Services Fund had a total net position of \$273,296, of which \$96,380 was the net investment in capital assets and \$176,916 was unrestricted. The Environmental Services Fund ended the year with working capital of \$198,398.

The Environmental Services Fund operating revenue was \$727,614 for 2013, an increase of \$43,888 (6.4 percent). Operating expenses decreased about \$23,593 (3.3 percent) compared to the prior year.

WASTEWATER FUND

The following graph presents selected data for the City's Wastewater Fund for the past five years:

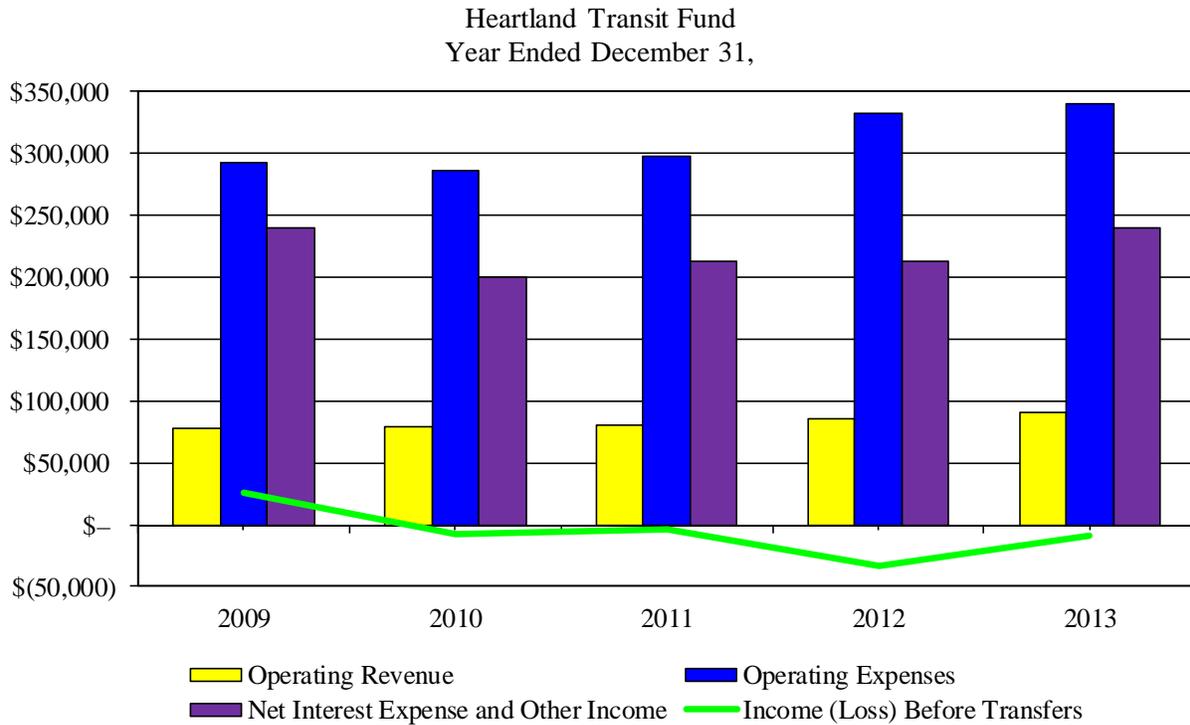


At December 31, 2013, the Wastewater Fund had a total net position of \$17,136,240, of which \$16,273,454 was the net investment in capital assets; \$485,506 was restricted; and \$377,280 was unrestricted. The Wastewater Fund ended the year with a deficit working capital balance of (\$251,611).

The Wastewater Fund operating revenue was \$3,473,518 for 2013, an increase of \$219,603, or 6.8 percent, mainly due to an increase in rates. Operating expenses increased \$48,840.

HEARTLAND TRANSIT FUND

The following graph presents selected data for the City’s Heartland Transit Fund for the past five years:

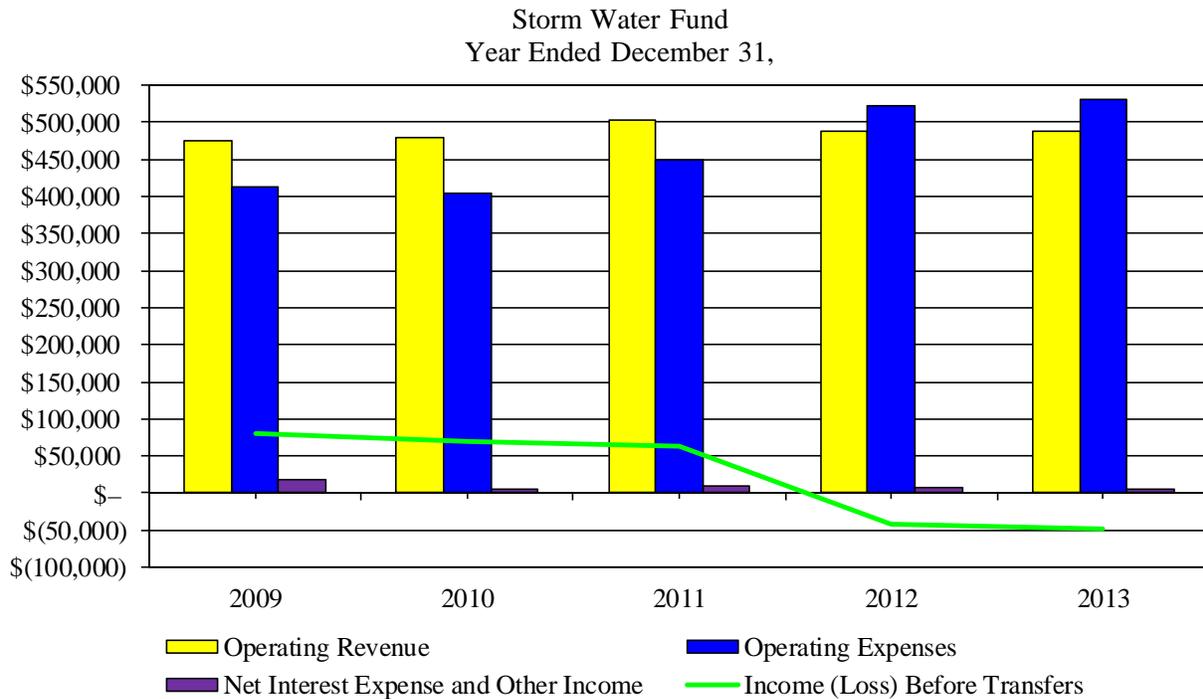


At December 31, 2013, the Heartland Transit Fund had a total net position of \$19,176, of which \$12,161 was the net investment in capital assets and a balance of \$7,015 was unrestricted. The Heartland Transit Fund ended the year with a working capital balance of \$10,218.

The Heartland Transit Fund operating revenue was \$90,601 for 2013, an increase of \$4,654. Operating expenses increased by \$8,255.

STORM WATER FUND

The following graph presents selected data for the City’s Storm Water Fund for the past five years:



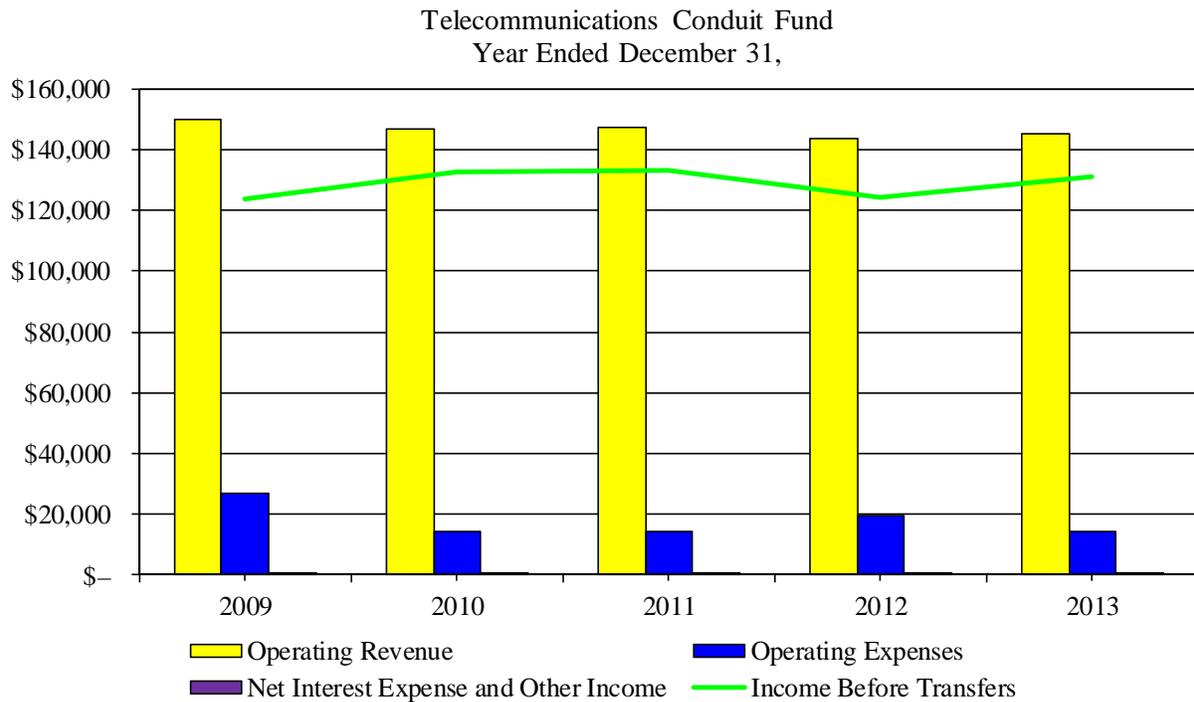
At December 31, 2013, the Storm Water Fund had a total net position of \$5,264,527, of which \$4,817,569 was the net investment in capital assets and \$446,958 is considered unrestricted. The Storm Water Fund ended the year with working capital of \$412,451.

The Storm Water Fund operating revenue was \$489,138 for 2013, an increase of \$516. Operating expenses increased \$8,315.

Although this fund is in a positive financial position, we suggest that the City continue to review the storm water rates on an annual basis. This is especially important considering the decline in the operating results over the past two years. Storm water rates are generally designed to cover operating costs and provide an accumulation of resources for significant repairs and replacements, and an operating cushion for potential negative years in financial operations.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONDUIT FUND

The following graph presents selected data for the City's Telecommunications Conduit Fund for the past five years:

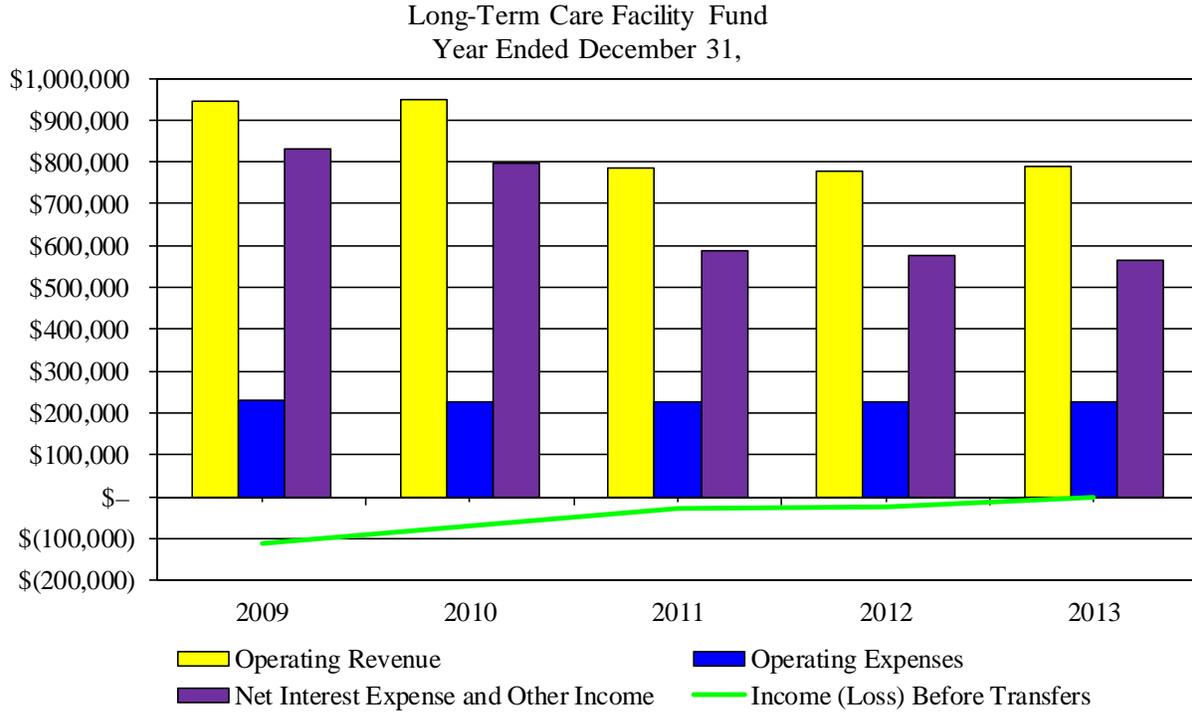


At December 31, 2013, the Telecommunications Conduit Fund had a total net position of \$243,616, of which \$239,821 was the net invested in capital assets and \$3,795 was considered unrestricted. The Telecommunications Conduit Fund ended the year with working capital of \$3,795.

The Telecommunications Conduit Fund operating revenue was \$145,219 for 2013, an increase of \$1,483. Operating expenses decreased \$5,406.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY FUND

The following graph presents selected data for the City’s Long-Term Care Facility Fund for the past five years:

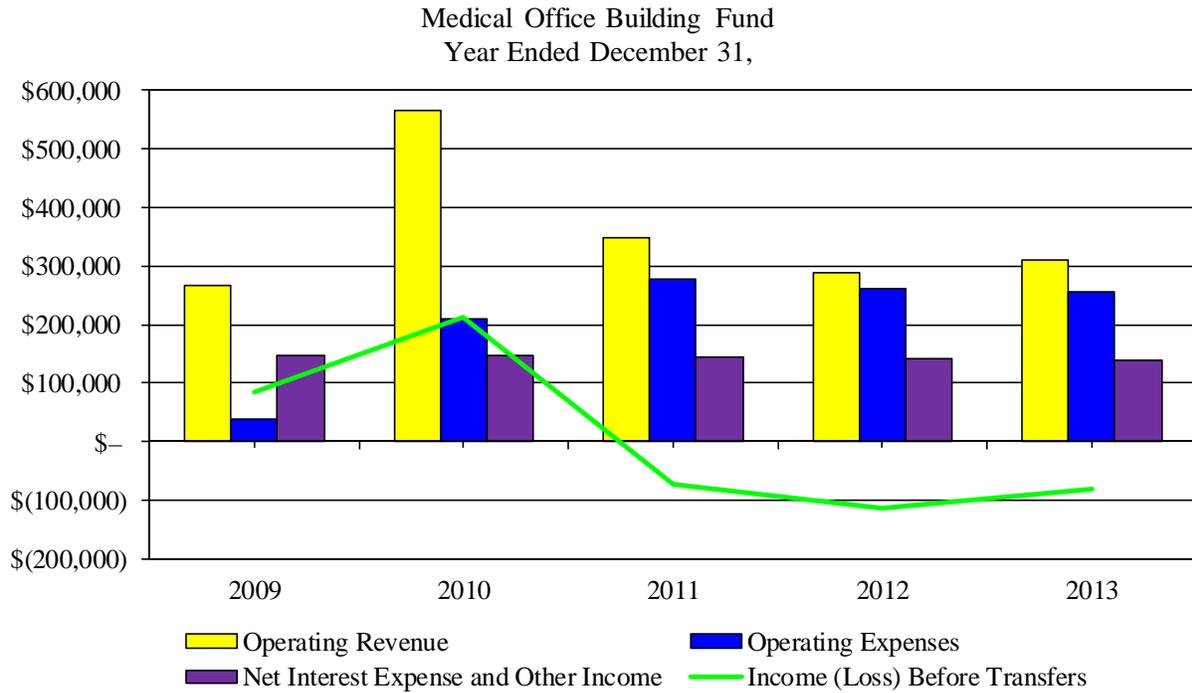


At December 31, 2013, the Long-Term Care Facility Fund had a total net position deficit of (\$765,663), of which a deficit of (\$871,124) was the net investment in capital assets; \$106,800 was restricted for debt service; and a deficit of (\$1,339) was considered unrestricted.

The Long-Term Care Facility Fund is used to collect lease revenue and pay debt service on the long-term care facility.

MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING FUND

The following table presents selected data for the City’s Medical Office Building Fund for the past five years:



At December 31, 2013, the Medical Office Building Fund had a total net position of \$2,950,729, of which \$2,804,636 was the net investment in capital assets and \$146,093 was unrestricted.

The Medical Office Building Fund is used to account for the construction of the new medical office building which opened in 2009. This fund is also used to collect lease revenue and pay debt service on this same facility.

In fiscal 2010, this fund received one-time revenue for construction improvements.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In addition to fund-based information, the current reporting model for governmental entities also requires the inclusion of two government-wide financial statements designed to present a clear picture of the City as a single, unified entity. These government-wide financial statements provide information on the total cost of delivering services, including capital assets and long-term liabilities.

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The Statement of Net Position essentially tells you what your city owns and owes at a given point in time, the last day of the fiscal year. Theoretically, net position represents the resources the City has leftover to use for providing services after its debts are settled. However, those resources are not always in spendable form, or there may be restrictions on how some of those resources can be used. Therefore, net position is divided into three components: net investment capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted.

The following table presents the components of City's net position as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, for governmental activities and business-type activities:

	As of December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	2013	2012	
Net position			
Governmental activities			
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 22,362,975	\$ 21,903,302	\$ 459,673
Restricted	5,637,742	6,040,936	(403,194)
Unrestricted	4,192,596	4,398,647	(206,051)
Total governmental activities	<u>32,193,313</u>	<u>32,342,885</u>	<u>(149,572)</u>
Business-type activities			
Net investment in capital assets	44,773,771	43,624,677	1,149,094
Restricted	1,653,734	1,676,302	(22,568)
Unrestricted	4,499,956	5,580,598	(1,080,642)
Total business-type activities	<u>50,927,461</u>	<u>50,881,577</u>	<u>45,884</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 83,120,774</u>	<u>\$ 83,224,462</u>	<u>\$ (103,688)</u>

Much of the City's net position is restricted by virtue of external restrictions (statutory reserves) or by the nature of the fund it is in. Further, a significant portion of net position has been identified as invested in capital assets, net of related debt, which leaves the balance to unrestricted.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities tracks the City's yearly revenues and expenses, as well as any other transactions that increase or reduce total net positions. These amounts represent the full cost of providing services. The Statement of Activities provides a more comprehensive measure than just the amount of cash that changed hands, as reflected in the fund-based financial statements. This statement includes the cost of supplies used, depreciation of long-lived capital assets, and other accrual-based expenses.

The following table presents the change in the net position of the City for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012:

	2013		2012	
	Expenses	Program Revenues	Net Difference	Net Difference
Net (expense) revenue				
Governmental activities				
General government	\$ 1,196,248	\$ 688,051	\$ (508,197)	\$ (530,214)
Public safety	2,655,284	600,183	(2,055,101)	(1,993,683)
Public works	2,513,192	348,930	(2,164,262)	(546,771)
Parks and recreation	1,836,221	186,909	(1,649,312)	(1,588,143)
Economic development	750,697	384,543	(366,154)	(477,707)
Interest on long-term debt	254,363	–	(254,363)	(297,361)
Business-type activities				
Electric	9,946,168	10,727,437	781,269	628,303
Water	3,164,054	2,465,110	(698,944)	(618,490)
Environmental services	701,516	727,940	26,424	(41,057)
Wastewater	2,808,441	3,475,022	666,581	465,166
Transit	340,293	330,908	(9,385)	(33,784)
Storm sewer	539,642	489,637	(50,005)	(44,717)
Telecommunications conduit	14,264	145,219	130,955	124,066
Long-term care facility	791,221	790,338	(883)	(25,502)
Medical office building	394,458	311,363	(83,095)	(115,053)
	<u>\$ 27,906,062</u>	<u>\$ 21,671,590</u>	(6,234,472)	(5,094,947)
General revenues				
Taxes			3,025,371	2,954,063
Unrestricted grants and contributions			2,870,895	2,923,347
Investment earnings			71,690	105,559
Other revenues			84,761	73,163
Gain on sale of assets			78,067	495
Total general revenues			<u>6,130,784</u>	<u>6,056,627</u>
Change in net position			<u>\$ (103,688)</u>	<u>\$ 961,680</u>

One of the goals of this statement is to provide a side-by-side comparison to illustrate the difference in the way the City's governmental and business-type operations are financed. The table clearly illustrates the dependence of the City's governmental operations on general revenues, such as property taxes and unrestricted grants. It also shows that, for the most part, the City's business-type activities are generating sufficient program revenues (service charges and program-specific grants) to cover expenses. This is critical given the current downward pressures on the general revenue sources.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Despite an improving economy, the 2013 Legislature faced the familiar prospect of having to address a significant projected deficit in order to adopt a balanced budget for the next biennium. The November 2012 financial forecast projected a deficit of \$1.1 billion in the state General Fund for the 2014–2015 biennium, which was revised down to a \$627 million deficit in the February 2013 forecast. Even with this challenge, there was an expectation that with one political party holding the Governor’s office and majorities in both the House and Senate, this biennial budget agreement would be reached more quickly and easily than the previous one, which featured numerous vetoes, a special session, and the longest shutdown of non-essential state government services in Minnesota history. While in the end there was no special session or government shutdown, the 2013 session still stretched until the final day allowable under the state constitution, with the last bill passed at midnight.

The following is a summary of recent legislative activity affecting the finances of Minnesota cities in 2013 and into the future:

Local Government Aid (LGA) – The state-wide LGA appropriation for fiscal 2013 was set to increase about 2.8 percent to \$426.4 million. However, the 2012 Legislature froze 2013 LGA payments at 2012 levels for cities with a population of 5,000 or more. For cities with populations below 5,000, 2013 LGA was the greater of their 2012 aid or the amount they would have received for 2013 under existing law.

The 2013 Legislature completely overhauled the LGA formula for fiscal year 2014 and thereafter, creating a three-tiered formula that includes separate “need factor” calculations for cities with populations under 2,500, between 2,500 and 10,000, or over 10,000. The new formula simplifies the LGA calculation, and is designed to reduce the volatility of the LGA distribution by limiting the amount it may decline in a given year. Under the new formula, each city’s LGA distribution for 2014 will be no less than their 2013 LGA. Beginning in 2015, any reduction to a city’s LGA distribution will be limited to the lesser of \$10 per capita, or 5 percent of their previous year net tax levy. For cities that gain under the new formula, the increases will be distributed proportionate to their unmet need, as determined by the new “need factor” calculations. The state-wide LGA appropriation is \$507.6 million for fiscal 2014, \$509.1 million for 2015, and \$511.6 million for fiscal 2016 and thereafter.

Levy Limits – A levy limit for city property tax levies payable in 2014 was established for all cities with populations exceeding 2,500. The levy limit base is the certified levy (excluding special levies) plus the certified LGA for taxes payable in fiscal 2012 or 2013, whichever is greater, increased by 3 percent. The levy limit is equal to the base, less the city’s certified LGA for fiscal 2014. Levies for special purposes such as debt service, abatements, or voter-approved purposes, are not subject to this limitation.

Market Value Definitions – A number of levy, tax, spending, debt, and similar limits that had previously been computed based on “market value” or “taxable market value” must now be computed based on “estimated market value.” This change was enacted to eliminate the effects of the homestead market value exclusion established in 2011.

Levy Authority for Watershed Management Plan – Cities are granted the authority to levy taxes to provide funding for the implementation of a comprehensive watershed management plan.

Tax Status of Leased Tax-Exempt Property – Tax-exempt property owned by a political subdivision and held under a lease for a term of at least one year, or under a contract for the purchase thereof, is considered to be the property of the person holding it for all purposes of taxation. This change makes the tax treatment of leased property owned by local governments consistent with leased property owned by the federal government.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – A number of changes and clarifications were made to rules governing the use of TIF, including:

- The prohibition on using tax increments for improvements or equipment primarily of a decorative or aesthetic nature, or with costs twice as high due to the selection of materials or designs compared to more commonly used improvements or equipment, is eliminated.
- The four-year rule originally applying to TIF Districts certified between January 1, 2005 and April 20, 2009 is extended through December 31, 2016.
- Development authorities may elect to reduce the original net tax capacity of qualifying TIF districts for the effects of the homestead market value exclusion that replaced the homestead tax credit program.
- Taxes paid by captured tax capacity of TIF districts that are attributable to the new general education levy authorized by the 2013 Legislature, will be paid to the school district that imposes the levy.

Park Dedication Fees – A clarification was made to define the basis on which a city calculates a park dedication fee charged to a developer in lieu of dedicating land for park usage. The fee must be calculated on the fair market value of the land as annually determined by the city based on tax valuation or other relevant data. The new law also provides a method for resolving valuation disputes through negotiation or the use of independent appraisals of land in the same land use category.

Host Community Economic Development Grants – A new program was created that will provide grants for the acquisition and improvement of publicly owned capital assets for metro-area cities that host waste disposal facilities. No local matching funds are required.

Change to Small Cities Development Block Grants – The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development is now allowed to provide a forgivable loan through the Small Cities Development Block Grant Program directly to a private enterprise. The city in which the private enterprise is located is no longer required to submit an application, only a resolution of support.

Wastewater and Stormwater Funding – Several changes were made to wastewater and stormwater grant and loan programs administered by the Public Facilities Authority. The changes include expanded eligibility for some programs, and increased grant or loan ceilings for others.

Sales Tax Exemption – Cities are exempted from paying sales tax on qualifying purchases, effective for purchases made on or after January 1, 2014. This exemption does not include purchases of goods or services to be used as inputs to goods or services cities provide to the public that are generally provided by a private business, such as liquor stores, golf courses, marinas, or fitness centers.

Organized Solid Waste Collection – The process for imposing the city-organized collection of solid waste was streamlined and better defined. The previous 180-day process for cities to adopt organized collection of solid waste was eliminated. The process now begins with a 60-day period in which cities may negotiate with collectors currently operating in the city, thereby giving them the first opportunity to develop a proposal for organized collection. If the 60-day negotiation period ends without an agreement, a city may continue the process by passing a resolution to form a committee to study the methods of organizing collection and make recommendations. A city must provide public notice and hold at least one public hearing before deciding to implement organized collection.

Pensions – An omnibus pension bill was passed that made a number of changes to both state-wide pension plans and single employer relief associations, including:

- Changes to the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) General Plan:
 - The “average salary” for determining surviving spouse and dependent benefits was redefined.
 - A number of clarifications were made to what constitutes “salary” for plan purposes.
 - Changes were made to the level of annual post-retirement adjustments, which will vary based on the funding level of the plan.
- Changes to the PERA Police and Fire Plan:
 - Increases employee contribution rate from 9.6 percent of salary to 10.2 percent for fiscal 2014, and 10.8 percent for fiscal 2015 and thereafter.
 - Increases employer contribution rate from 14.4 percent of salary to 15.3 percent for fiscal 2014, and 16.2 percent for fiscal 2015 and thereafter.
 - A 20-year proportional vesting period was established for new hires beginning in 2014, under which the member becomes 50 percent vested after 10 years, and vests an additional 5 percent annually until fully vested at 20 years.
 - The retirement annuity formula calculation was changed to incorporate the effect of the new 20-year vesting period, and a new cap of 33 years on allowable service time included in the annuity calculation.
 - The early retirement reduction factor was increased from the current 2.4 percent per year to 5 percent, phased in over a 5-year period beginning July 1, 2014.
 - Changes were made to the level of annual post-retirement adjustments, which will vary based on the funding level of the plan.
- Changes to single employer relief associations:
 - The threshold of assets at which police relief associations and salaried or volunteer fire relief associations must prepare financial statements and have them audited by an independent auditor was raised from \$200,000 to \$500,000.
 - Volunteer firefighter relief associations are now required to pay a supplemental survivor benefit whenever it pays a survivor benefit, regardless of whether it is authorized in the association bylaws.
 - Any change to the interest rate paid during the deferral period of lump-sum service pensions must be approved by the governing body of the city or independent firefighting corporation to which the association is related.

In addition, a new supplemental state aid was created to provide funding for pension plans. An annual allotment of \$15.5 million will be distributed among the PERA Police and Fire Plan (\$9 million), municipal volunteer firefighter associations (\$5.5 million allocated based on proportionate share of fire state aid), and the Minnesota State Retirement System State Patrol Plan (\$1 million).

Expansion of Debt Authority – Several changes were made to expand the allowable uses of certain types of debt, including:

- Home rule charter city or statutory city capital notes are allowed to be used for the purchase of application development services and training related to the use of computer hardware and software.
- Capital improvement program (CIP) bonds are allowed to be used for expenditures incurred before the adoption of the CIP, if the expenditures are included in the plan.
- Street reconstruction bonds are allowed to be used for bituminous overlay projects, which previously had not been included in the definition of reconstruction.

Authorized Investments – The list of authorized investments for cities was expanded to include: revenue obligations issued by local governments without levy authority that are rated AA or better; short-term (13 month maturity or less) obligation issued by a school district that is either rated in the highest credit rating category or covered by the State of Minnesota Credit Enhancement Program; and short-term (18 month maturity or less) guaranteed investment contracts when the issuer’s or guarantor’s short-term debt is rated in the highest rating category, even if their long-term debt is rated below the top two rating categories.

Elections – The Legislature passed an omnibus elections policy bill that made a number of changes and clarifications to election requirements, including:

- Establishing “no excuse” absentee balloting;
- Increasing the time for counting absentee ballots from 4 days prior to the election to 7;
- Reducing the number of people a voter may vouch for in a polling place from 15 to 8;
- Eliminating the requirement to have at least one telecommunications device for deaf voter registration in every city of the first, second, or third class;
- Requiring that the municipal clerk designated to administer absentee ballots also be responsible for the administration of a “ballot board”;
- Reducing the number of election judges required in a precinct for elections other than a general election from 4 to 3, for precincts with more than 500 voters; and allowing the minimum number of three election judges for all elections including general elections for precincts with less than 500 registered voters;
- Modifying the vote differentials requiring publically funded recounts to 0.25 percent in elections where more than 50,000 votes are cast, and 0.5 percent for elections in which between 400 and 50,000 votes are cast;
- Amending the time period in which cities are prohibited from holding a special election from the first 40 days following a general election to the first 56 days;
- Increasing the number of days’ notice a city clerk must provide to a county auditor before holding a municipal election from 67 to 74 days; and
- Establishing a pilot program and task force for the use of electronic rosters of voters.

Alternative Bid Publication for Projects Funded by Special Assessments – A technical change was made to eliminate duplicative publication requirements for projects funded with special assessments. The definition of “recognized industry trade journal” was broadened to include websites or electronic publications, thereby eliminating circumstances that were forcing cities utilizing an alternative electronic publication method to also publish written notice for certain projects.

Met Council Allocated Costs – A change was made to allow cities that are allocated costs by the Met Council to request the cost be deferred, or to be paid over time on a payment schedule with interest as agreed to by the Met Council.

Liquor Licensing – An omnibus liquor bill was passed that made several changes to liquor licensing and distribution. Among the changes are: authorizing cities with municipal liquor operations to issue brewer taproom licenses that allow consumption on the premises or adjacent to malt liquor breweries; authorizing cities to issue brewers a license for off-sale of malt liquor packaged by the brewer; providing for the sale of malt-liquor educator licenses that will allow malt liquor tastings and education to be conducted similar to wine tastings; and allowing micro-distilleries to provide product samples on site.

Tax-Exempt Holding Period for Development Property – The tax exempt holding period for city-owned land held for development is increased from 9 to 15 years for property acquired between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2010, or for property located in a city outside of the metro area with a population under 20,000.

Citizen Contact Information Classified as Private Data – Citizen contact information submitted to cities in order to receive certain notifications or to subscribe to the city’s electronic publications, such as phone numbers or email addresses, is now classified as private data. The names of people on such lists remain public information.

Criminal History and Background Checks – Cities are authorized to perform criminal history checks on applicants for: city employment, volunteer positions, or a license that does not otherwise subject the applicant to a criminal history check. Such criminal history checks may not be substituted for statutorily mandated background checks.

Background checks are now required for all fire department applicants, and are allowed for current fire department employees. The fire chief is also required to perform criminal history record checks of applicants.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING UPDATES

GASB STATEMENT NO. 67 – FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR PENSION PLANS – AN AMENDMENT OF GASB STATEMENT NOS. 25 AND 50

The primary objective of this statement is to improve financial reporting by state and local government pension plans. GASB Statement No. 67 replaces the requirements of GASB Statement Nos. 25 and 50 for pension plans that are administered through trusts or equivalent arrangements that meet the following criteria: contributions from employers and nonemployer contributing entities to the pension plan and earnings on those contributions are irrevocable; pension plan assets are dedicated to providing pensions to plan members in accordance with the benefit terms; and pension plan assets are legally protected from the creditors of employers, nonemployer contributing entities, and the pension plan administrator. If the plan is a defined benefit pension plan, plan assets also are legally protected from creditors of the plan members. The requirements of GASB Statement Nos. 25 and 50 remain applicable to pension plans that are not administered through trusts covered by the scope of this statement and to defined contribution plans that provide post-employment benefits other than pensions. The statement makes a number of changes in the financial statement presentation, measurement, and required disclosures relating to the reporting of these types of pension plans. This statement is effective for financial statements for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2013. Earlier application is encouraged.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 68 – ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR PENSIONS – AN AMENDMENT OF GASB STATEMENT NOS. 27 AND 50

The primary objective of this statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for pensions. This statement replaces the requirements of GASB Statement Nos. 27 and 50, as they relate to pensions that are provided through pension plans administered as trusts or equivalent arrangements that meet certain criteria (as described earlier for GASB Statement No. 67). The requirements of GASB Statement Nos. 27 and 50 remain applicable for pensions that are not covered by the scope of this statement.

This statement establishes standards for measuring and recognizing liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. In addition, this statement details the recognition and disclosure requirements for employers with liabilities (payables) to a defined benefit pension plan and for employers whose employees are provided with defined contribution pensions. This statement also addresses circumstances in which a nonemployer entity has a legal requirement to make contributions directly to a pension plan. This statement is effective for financial statements for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. Earlier application is encouraged.

Included in this statement are major changes in how employers that participate in cost-sharing pension plans, such as the Teachers' Retirement Association (TRA) and PERA, account for pension benefit expenses and liabilities. In financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting (government-wide and proprietary funds), a cost-sharing employer that does not have a special funding situation is required to recognize a liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability of all employers with benefits provided through the pension plan. A cost-sharing employer is required to recognize pension expense and report deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions for its proportionate share of collective pension expense and collective deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions. In addition, the effects of (1) a change in the employer's proportion of the collective net pension liability and (2) differences during the measurement period between the employer's contributions and its proportionate share of the total of contributions from employers included in the collective net pension liability are required to be determined. These effects are required to be recognized in the employer's pension expense in a systematic and rational manner over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all active and inactive employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 69 – GOVERNMENT COMBINATIONS AND DISPOSALS OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

This statement provides accounting and financial reporting guidance, including disclosure requirements, for government combinations and disposals of government operations. Government combinations include mergers, acquisitions, and transfers of operations. Included within the scope of this statement are combinations of governmental entities, or combinations of governmental entities with nongovernmental entities (such as a nonprofit entity), as long as the new or continuing organization is a government. This statement does not apply to combinations in which a government acquires an organization that continues to exist as a separate entity, or acquires an equity interest in an organization that remains legally separate from the acquiring government. A disposal of operations occurs when a government either transfers or sells specific operations. The provisions of this statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after December 15, 2013. Earlier application is encouraged.

CHANGES TO REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL GRANTS

In December 2013, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Audits,” which supersedes all or parts of eight OMB circulars; consolidating federal cost principles, administrative principles, and audit requirements in one document. The “Super Circular” includes a number of significant changes to the federal Single Audit process, including an increase in dollar threshold for requiring a Single Audit, changes to the thresholds and process used for determining major programs, a reduction in the percentage of expenditures required to be covered by a Single Audit, revised criteria for determining low-risk auditees, and an increase in the threshold for reporting questioned costs. The draft version of this guidance also included proposed reductions in the number of compliance requirements to be tested in a Single Audit, but final guidance on those changes will not be available until an updated compliance supplement is issued in 2014.