# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND REPORT OF AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

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# LERCH, VINCI & HIGGINS, LLP

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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Commissioners Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216 Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

#### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (the "Fund") as of and for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

#### 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; 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 audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free 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 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 the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the respective changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Other Matters

#### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and ten-year claims development information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it 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.

#### Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's basic financial statements as a whole. The supplementary schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The supplementary schedules listed in the table of contents are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary schedules listed in the table of contents are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

# Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated May 6, 2019 on our consideration of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

LERCH, VINCI & HIGGINS, LLP Certified Public Accountants Registered Municipal Accountants

Gary J. Vinci

Registered Municipal Accountant

RMA Number CR00411

Fair Lawn, New Jersey May 6, 2019

# LERCH, VINCI & HIGGINS, LLP CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

# REGISTERED MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANTS

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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

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**Board of Commissioners** Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216 Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

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 the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements which collectively comprise the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents, and have issued our report thereon dated May 6, 2019.

#### Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund'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 opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund'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 the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund'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 <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>.

# 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 Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> in considering the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

LERCH, VINCI & HIGGINS, LLP Certified Public Accountants Registered Municipal Accountants

Gary J. Vinci

Registered Municipal Accountant

RMA Number CR00411

Fair Lawn, New Jersey May 6, 2019



#### **Management Discussion and Analysis**

This section of the annual financial report of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (the "BMED" or the "Fund") presents a discussion and analysis of the financial performance of the Fund for the year ended December 31, 2018. Please read it in conjunction with the basic financial statements, the notes and supplementary schedules that follow this section.

#### **Overview of Basic Financial Statements**

The Fund's basic financial statements are prepared on the basis of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for governmental entities and insurance enterprises where applicable. The primary purpose of the Fund is to provide medical and other health coverage for the members of the Fund. The Fund maintains separate enterprise funds by policy years and line of coverage. The basic financial statements are presented on an accrual basis of accounting. The three basic financial statements presented are as follows:

Statement of Net Position – This statement presents information reflecting the Fund's assets, liabilities, and net position. Net position represents the amount of total assets less total liabilities.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position — This statement reflects the Fund's operating revenues and expenses, as well as nonoperating items during the reporting period. The change in net position for an enterprise fund is similar to net profit or loss for any other insurance company.

Statement of Cash Flows – The statement of cash flows is presented on the direct method of reporting, which reflects cash flows from operating, investing and noncapital financing activities. Cash collections and payments are reflected in this statement to arrive at the net increase or decrease in cash for the calendar year.

#### Financial Highlights

The following schedules summarize the financial position and results of operations for the Fund as of and for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016.

#### **Summary Statement of Net Position**

•				2018 vs	<u>. 2017</u>
				Increase/	Increase/
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	(Decrease)	(Decrease)
Assets					
Cash and Investments	\$ 14,845,355	\$ 18,206,592	\$ 16,875,376	\$ (3,361,237)	-18.5%
Accounts Receivable	2,587,388	2,289,039	2,312,941	298,349	13.0%
Prepaid Items	1,454	55,414	52,154	(53,960)	-97.4%
Total Assets	17,434,197	20,551,045	19,240,471	(3,116,848)	-15.2%
Liabilities					
Other Liabilities	557,845	1,899,198	126,611	(1,341,353)	-70.6%
Loss Reserves	2,110,000	3,297,000	2,140,000	(1,187,000)	-36.0%
Total Liabilities	2,667,845	5,196,198	2,266,611	(2,528,353)	-48.7%
<b>Net Position</b>	\$ 14,766,352	\$ 15,354,847	<u>\$ 16,973,860</u>	\$ (588,495)	-3.8%

## **Management Discussion and Analysis**

# Summary Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

•				2018 vs.	2017
				Increase/	Increase/
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	(Decrease)	(Decrease)
Operating Revenues					
Assessments and Other Income	\$ 31,998,452 \$	31,410,086	\$ 26,693,606	\$ 588,366	1.9%
Operating Expenses					
Provision for Claims	23,492,370	24,448,322	18,154,513	(955,952)	-3.9%
Excess Insurance Premiums	1,464,170	1,895,503	1,838,897	(431,333)	-22.8%
HMO/PPO Premiums	67,095	54,833	53,794	12,262	22.4%
Medicare Advantage	2,405,548	823,601	557,700	1,581,947	192.1%
Retiree Surcharge	20,839	27,494	32,713	(6,655)	-24.2%
General and Administrative	2,006,274	2,041,821	1,861,002	(35,547)	-1.7%
Total Operating Expenses	29,456,296	29,291,574	22,498,619	164,722	0.6%
Operating Income	2,542,156	2,118,512	4,194,987	423,644	20.0%
Nonoperating Revenues and Distributions					
Equity Distribution	(4,072,535)	(4,373,828)	(799,089)	301,293	-6.9%
Interest and Dividend Income	941,884	636,303	251,856	305,581	48.0%
Total Nonoperating Revenues/Distributions	(3,130,651)	(3,737,525)	(547,233)	606,874	-16.2%
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	\$ (588,495) \$	(1,619,013)	\$ 3,647,754	\$ 1,030,518	63.7%

In 2018, BMED's total assets decreased by 15%. The year end cash and investment balance decreased in excess of 3.3 million due to a significant refund of prior year surplus balances. Liabilities decreased from the previous year due to a decrease in IBNR reserves and a decrease in unearned revenue/dividends due to members. Operating revenues of the Fund increased by almost 2%. The Fund experienced a decrease of approximately \$956,000 or 4% in provision for claims and claims expense. Overall, BMED's unrestricted net position, or surplus, decreased by approximately \$588 thousand.

In 2017, BMED's total assets increased by 6.8%. The year end cash and investment balance increased in excess of \$1.3 million. Liabilities more than doubled from the previous year due to an increase in unearned revenue and dividends payable resulting from the refund of surplus funds. Operating revenues of the Fund increased by 18% due to increases in membership. The Fund experienced an increase of approximately \$6 million or 35% in provision of claims and claims expense. Overall, BMED's unrestricted net position, or surplus, decreased by \$1,619,013.

## **Management Discussion and Analysis**

# **Economic Conditions**

The BMED continues to be affected by inflation of health benefit costs. The Fund's strategy is to continue to attempt to moderate such increases by leveraging purchasing power with other Funds, using one of the largest and most effective medical networks in the nation, and assisting members with plan design and labor negotiation efforts.

# **Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund's finances for all those who are interested. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to PERMA Risk Management Services, 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054.



# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017

	2018	<u>2017</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 5,092,837	\$ 8,609,572
Investments	9,752,518	9,597,020
Receivables		
Assessments	1,238,352	1,683,225
Interest	55,237	17,867
Excess Insurance	1,269,710	565,110
Other	24,089	22,837
Prepaid Items	1,454	55,414
Total Assets	17,434,197	20,551,045
LIABILITIES		
-1100		
Liabilities	115 500	112.010
Accounts Payable	115,500	113,910
Dividend Payable	442,345	1,673,828
Unearned Revenue	-	111,460
Loss Reserves	2 110 000	2 207 000
IBNR	2,110,000	3,297,000
Total Liabilities	2,667,845	5,196,198
Total Liabilities		3,190,196
NET POSITION		
	14,766,352	15,354,847
Unrestricted	14,700,332	15,557,047
Total Net Position	\$ 14,766,352	\$ 15,354,847
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# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

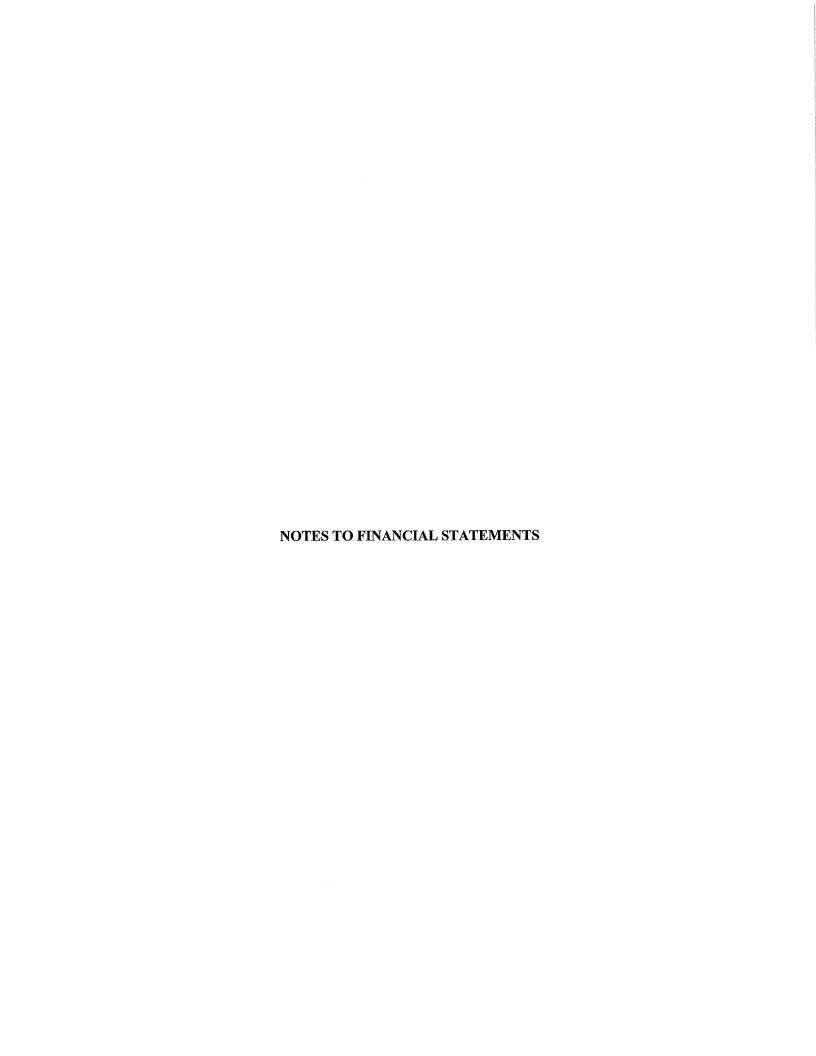
# FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017

	<u> 2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
OPERATING REVENUES		
Assessments		
Employer Contributions	\$ 31,766,617	\$ 31,098,352
Employee/Cobra Contributions	231,835	311,734
Total Operating Revenues	31,998,452	31,410,086
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Provisions for Claims		
Benefits Paid To/For Participants	26,200,395	24,587,062
Excess Insurance Recoverable	(704,600)	(575,415)
Other Recoverables	(816,425)	(720,325)
Increase/(Decrease) in Loss Reserves	(1,187,000)	1,157,000
HMO/PPO Premiums	67,095	54,833
Medicare Advantage	2,405,548	823,601
Retiree Surcharge	20,839	27,494
Excess Insurance Premiums	1,464,170	1,895,503
General and Administrative	2,006,274	2,041,821
Total Operating Expenses	29,456,296	29,291,574
Operating Income	2,542,156	2,118,512
NONOPERATING REVENUES		
Dividend Income	676,015	497,708
Interest Income	265,869	138,595
Total Nonoperating Revenues	941,884	636,303
Change in Net Position	3,484,040	2,754,815
Net Position, January 1,	15,354,847	16,973,860
	18,838,887	19,728,675
Equity Distribution	(4,072,535)	(4,373,828)
Net Position, December 31,	<u>\$ 14,766,352</u>	\$ 15,354,847

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of these Statements.

# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash Received from Members	\$ 32,443,325	\$ 31,924,941
Cash Paid for Claims, Premiums and Services	(31,293,598)	(28,592,201)
Cush I and 101 Channes, 1 Territorial and 552 (1005)		
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	1,149,727	3,332,740
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Net (Purchase) Redemption of Investments	(155,498)	(1,593,998)
Dividend Received	676,015	497,708
Interest Received	228,499	134,957
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	749,016	(961,333)
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING		
ACTIVITIES	(E A1E A70)	(2 (24 190)
Equity Distribution	(5,415,478)	(2,634,189)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Noncapital Financing Activities	(5,415,478)	(2,634,189)
Net Change in Cash	(3,516,735)	(262,782)
Cash, January 1,	8,609,572	8,872,354
Cash, December 31,	\$ 5,092,837	\$ 8,609,572
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET		
CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ 2,542,156	\$ 2,118,512
Operating Income	Ψ 2,572,150	Ψ 2,110,312
Adjustments: Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase) Decrease in Assessments Receivable	444,873	514,855
(Increase) Decrease in Excess Insurance Recoverable	(704,600)	(541,841)
(Increase) Decrease in Other Receivables	(1,252)	54,526
(Increase) Decrease in Other Receivables  (Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Items	53,960	(3,260)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	1,590	32,948
Increase (Decrease) in IBNR	(1,187,000)	1,157,000
mercase (Decrease) in iDian		
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 1,149,727	\$ 3,332,740



#### NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. Reporting Entity

The Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (the "Fund") was established on April 1, 1992, in accordance with P.L. 1983, C. 372, entitled "An act concerning joint insurance funds for local units of government, and supplementing Chapter 10 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes". The Fund is a self-administered group of local government entities formed for the purpose of providing employee benefits for its members. The following coverages are offered by the Fund to its members at the choice of the individual member unit.

- a) Medical
- b) Dental
- c) Prescription

Each entity assigns a Commissioner to the Fund. The Board of Commissioners (the "Board), which governs as the executive committee, is elected and consists of five (5) commissioners and two (2) alternates. The Board also elects the chairperson and secretary who serve co-terminously with their underlying local office until January 1st of the following year.

The Board may approve subsequent membership by two-thirds vote or may terminate any member by two-thirds vote after proper notice has been given. A participant may withdraw its membership by giving appropriate notice.

The exact terms and conditions of coverage are detailed in the Fund's Risk Management Plan.

#### B. Basis of Presentation – Financial Statements

The accounts of the Fund are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounting records that comprise its assets, liabilities, net position, revenues and expenses. The Fund's resources are allocated and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The various activities are grouped by Fund Year into one generic fund.

The Fund reports the following major proprietary fund:

<u>Enterprise Fund</u> - The Enterprise Fund is used to account for the Fund's operations which are financed and operated in a manner similar to private enterprises, where the intent of the Board is that the costs (insurance claims, administrative expenses) of providing goods or services to its users on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges (i.e., insurance assessments).

The Proprietary Fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. All assets and all liabilities associated with these operations are included on the Statement of Net Position. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

# NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The Fund utilizes the accrual basis of accounting whereby income is recorded as earned and expenses recorded as incurred. Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues are assessments to government entities and former employees of those entities. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of services (i.e., adjudication and processing of insurance claims) and administrative expenses. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

Monies are disbursed solely for the payment of claims, allocated claim expenses, and excess insurance premiums by fund year for the following funds:

<u>Medical Fund</u> – Insures against any and all medical claims under the terms of the individual municipality's agreement. This fund also includes Medicare Advantage which provides medical coverage to individual municipality's Medicare eligible retirees.

<u>Dental Fund</u> - Insures against any and all dental claims under the terms of the individual municipality's agreement.

<u>Prescription Fund</u> – Insures against any and all prescription claims under the terms of the individual municipality's agreement.

<u>Rate Stabilization Reserve (RSR) Fund</u> – Provides resources to stabilize the rate to insure against unforeseen occurrences.

<u>Reinsurance Fund</u> – Provides excess insurance coverage for medical claims over the Fund's self-insured retention.

<u>General and Administrative Fund</u> – Utilized for payment of the Fund's operating expenses, loss prevention activities and various professional fees.

#### **Cash and Investments**

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits as well as short-term investments with a maturity date within three months of the date acquired by the government. Investments are stated at fair value and are limited by N.J.S.A. 40A:5 et seq.

#### **Assessments**

Assessments are computed annually by the Executive Director and approved by the Board of Commissioners. The rates are approved annually for each type of coverage. The Executive Director bills the participating members monthly based on the entity's employee census for each type of coverage. Assessments are accrued as revenue in the Fund Year for which they are levied against.

## NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

# C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

#### **Assessments Receivable**

All receivables are reported at their gross value and when appropriate, are reduced by the estimated portion that is expected to be uncollectible.

#### **Expenses**

Expenses are recognized in the accounting period in which the liability is incurred and measurable.

#### **Accounts Payable**

Purchase orders outstanding for services rendered prior to December 31 are reported as expenses through the establishment of accounts payable.

#### **Income Taxes**

In the opinion of management, the Fund is not subject to federal or state income taxes.

#### **Budgets**

An annual budget is adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year. Budgets are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The legal level of budgetary control is established by line item account and total resources available within each Fund Year. All budget amendments must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. Budget amendments during the year were insignificant. Formal budgetary integration into the accounting system is employed as a management control device during the year. Unexpended appropriations lapse at year end.

# **Loss Reserves**

The Fund established claim liabilities is based on estimates of the ultimate cost of claims (including future claim adjustment expenses) that have been reported but not settled, and of claims that have been incurred but not reported (IBNR). The length of time for which such costs must be estimated varies depending on the coverage involved. Estimated amounts of salvage and subrogation and reinsurance recoverable on unpaid claims are deducted from the liability for unpaid claims. Because actual claims costs depend on such complex factors as inflation, changes in doctrines of legal liability, and damage awards, the process used in computing claims liabilities does not necessarily result in an exact amount. Claim liabilities are recomputed periodically using a variety of actuarial and statistical techniques to produce current estimates that reflect recent settlements, claim frequency, and other economic and social factors. A provision for inflation in the calculation of estimated future claims costs is implicit in the calculation because reliance is placed both on actual historical data that reflects past inflation and on other factors that are considered to be appropriate modifiers of past experience. Adjustments to claims liabilities are charged or credited to expense in the periods in which they are made.

# NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

#### Reinsurance/Excess Insurance

The Fund uses reinsurance agreements to reduce its exposure to significant losses on insurance claims. The Fund has entered into a Joint Purchase Agreement with the Municipal Reinsurance Health Insurance Fund (MRHIF) by purchasing excess insurance with other New Jersey health insurance funds. The MRHIF provides the members of the participating health insurance funds with reinsurance. The Fund does not report excess risks as liabilities unless it is probable that those risks will not be covered by reinsurers.

Reinsurance premiums for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 were \$1,464,170 and \$1,895,503, respectively. Currently, the total claims in the medical, dental and prescription loss funds do not exceed the self-insured retention level for Fund Years 2018 and 2017.

#### **Unearned Revenue**

Balance of equity distribution, which was not disbursed to the members but will be utilized to offset future assessments.

#### **Prepaid Items**

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items.

## **Total Columns**

The combining financial statements include a total column to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Interfund transactions have not been eliminated from the total column of the individual fund year combining financial statements, but have been eliminated on the basic financial statements.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements requires management of the Fund to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

# NOTE 2 CASH DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The Fund considers cash in banks, certificates of deposit and deposits with the New Jersey Cash Management Fund as cash and cash equivalents.

#### **Cash Deposits**

The Fund's cash deposits are insured through either the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) or New Jersey's Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA). The Fund is required to deposit funds in a depository which is protecting such funds pursuant to GUDPA. The New Jersey Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act requires all banks doing business in the State of New Jersey to pledge collateral equal to at least 5% of the average amount of its public deposits and 100% of the average amount of its public funds in excess of the lesser of 75% of its capital funds or \$200 million for all deposits not covered by the FDIC.

#### NOTE 2 CASH DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

#### **Cash Deposits** (Continued)

Bank balances are insured up to \$250,000 in the aggregate by the FDIC for each bank. At December 31, 2018 and 2017, the book value of the Fund's deposits was \$5,092,837 and \$8,609,572 and bank balances of the Fund's cash and deposits amounted to \$5,696,575 and \$9,016,362. The Fund's deposits which are displayed on the statement of net position as "cash" are categorized as:

 Depository Account
 Bank Balance

 2018
 2017

 Insured
 \$5,696,575
 \$9,016,362

<u>Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits</u> – Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Fund does have a policy for custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2018 and

2017, the Fund's bank balances were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

#### **Investments**

The Fund is permitted to invest public funds in accordance with the types of securities authorized by New Jersey Statutes. Investments include bonds or other obligations of the United States or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America, Government Money Market Mutual Funds, Local Government investment pools, and agreements or the repurchase of fully collateralized securities, if transacted in accordance with the New Jersey Statutes.

As of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the fair value of the Fund's outstanding investments was:

U.S. Government Securities \$9,752,518 \$9,597,020

<u>Interest Rate Risk</u> – The Fund does have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

<u>Credit Risk</u> – State Law limits investments as noted above (N.J.S.A 40A:5-15.1). The Fund does not have an investment policy that would further limit its investment choices.

The fair value of the above-listed investment was based on quoted market prices.

#### NOTE 3 UNPAID CLAIMS LIABILITIES

The Fund has established a liability for both reported and unreported insured events, which includes estimates of both future payments of losses and related claim adjustment expenses.

# NOTE 3 UNPAID CLAIMS LIABILITIES (Continued)

The Fund has established a liability for unreported insured events. This liability includes estimates of both future payments of losses and related claim adjustment expenses. The following represents changes in the aggregate reserves for the Fund for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017:

	Fund	Years
<u>December 31, 2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	2018
Unpaid Claims and Claim Adjustment Expenses, January 1, 2018	\$ 3,297,000	
Incurred Claims and Claim Adjustment Expenses		
Provision for Insured Events of the		
Prior Years	(384,089)	
Current Year		\$ 25,305,011
	2,912,911	25,305,011
Payments		
Claims and Claim Adjustment Expenses		
Attributable to Insured Events of the	(2.977.120)	<b>A</b>
Prior Years Current Year	(2,876,129)	) (23,231,793)
		•
Unpaid Claims and Claim Adjustment Expenses, December 31, 2018	\$ 36,782	\$ 2,073,218
		Cund Voors
D I 31 A01E	2015	Fund Years 2016 2017
<u>December 31, 2017</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2010</u> <u>2017</u>
Unpaid Claims and Claim Adjustment Expenses, January 1, 2017	\$ 12,865	\$ 2,127,135
Incurred Claims and Claim Adjustment Expenses		
Provision for Insured Events of the	20.277	211 452
Prior Years	39,377	311,452 - \$25,474,818
Current Year		Ψ23,171,010
	52,242	2,438,587 25,474,818
Payments	,	, , ,
Claims and Claim Adjustment Expenses		
Attributable to Insured Events of the	(50.040)	(2.429.597)
Prior Years	(52,242)	(2,438,587) - (22,177,818)
Current Year		- (22,177,010)
Unpaid Claims and Claim Adjustment Expenses, December 31, 2017	\$	\$ - \$ 3,297,000

#### NOTE 4 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS

## **Receivables**

Receivables as of December 31, 2018 and 2017 for the fund's individual major funds in the aggregate are as follows. In the opinion of management the year end receivables are collectible, thus, an allowance for uncollectible accounts is not required.

<b>December 31, 2018</b>										
-	Clo	osed Year		<u>2017</u>		2018	-	<u>Total</u>		
Receivables: Assessments Interest Excess Insurance Other	\$				\$	278,975 6,222 657,551	\$	959,377 12,877 612,159 24,089	\$	1,238,352 55,237 1,269,710 24,089
	\$	36,138	<u>\$</u>	942,748	<u>\$</u>	1,608,502	\$	2,587,388		
<b>December 31, 2017</b>			Fı	und Years						
<b>December 31, 2017</b>	Clo	osed Year	Fı	und Years 2016		2017	-	<u>Total</u>		
December 31, 2017 Receivables:	Clo	osed Year	Fı			2017		<u>Total</u>		
	<u>Clo</u>	osed Year 33,313	Fi		\$	2017 1,429,675	. \$	<u>Total</u> 1,683,225		
Receivables:				2016	\$		- \$			
Receivables: Assessments		33,313		2016 220,237	\$	1,429,675	\$	1,683,225		
Receivables: Assessments Interest		33,313		2016 220,237 3,276	\$	1,429,675 3,275	\$	1,683,225 17,867		

## NOTE 5 DEFICIT NET POSITION

At December 31, 2018 and 2017, the following individual funds net position accounts were in a deficit position:

	<u> 2018</u>	2017
Fund Year 2018		
Reinsurance	\$12,005	
Fund Year 2017		
Prescription General and Administrative	49,321	\$ 11,849 127,202
Fund Year 2016		
General and Administrative		165,904 13,837

Currently, the Fund's management has no plans to levy additional assessments to the participating municipalities to eliminate the above deficits.

#### NOTE 6 MEMBERSHIP IN JOINT INSURANCE FUNDS

The Fund is a member of the Municipal Reinsurance Health Insurance Fund (the "MRHIF"). The MRHIF is an insured and self-administered group of New Jersey health insurance funds established for the purpose of providing low-cost health insurance coverage for their respective members in the form of reinsurance. Each member appoints an official to represent their respective entity for the purpose of creating a governing body from which officers of the MRHIF are elected.

As a member of the MRHIF, the Fund could be subject to supplemental assessments in the event of a deficiency. If the assets of the MRHIF were to be exhausted, members would become responsible for their respective shares of the MRHIF's liabilities.

The MRHIF can declare and distribute dividends to members upon approval of the State of New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. These distributions are divided among the members in the same ratio as their individual assessment related to the total assessments of the participating Funds for that Fund Year.

Selected financial information for the MRHIF Fund as of and for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 is as follows:

	2018 (Unaudited)	<u>2017</u>
Total Assets	\$23,292,036	\$20,481,693
Net Position	13,718,468	12,717,863
Total Operating Revenues	14,912,333	13,528,544
Investment Income	348,604	168,874
Total Operating Expenses	10,152,488	9,512,774
Change in Net Position	1,000,605	497,228
Equity Distributions	4,107,844	3,687,416

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

#### BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND TEN-YEAR CLAIMS DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FUND YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2018

	Fund Years														
		2009	2010	2011		2012		2013	 2014		2015	2016	2017	-	2018
Net Earned Required Contribution and Investment Revenue	\$	24,663,035 \$	22,550,672	19,775,803	\$	20,735,363	\$	21,865,205	\$ 19,646,269	\$	21,840,865	\$ 26,983,840	\$ 31,755,951	\$	32,041,126
Unallocated Expenses		3,754,052	3,630,232	2,865,908		2,785,665		3,242,428	3,335,181		3,377,559	4,279,532	4,820,290		6,041,566
Estimated Incurred Claims and Expenses, End of Policy Year		21,056,306	20,039,554	16,541,764		17,337,047		16,841,029	14,516,444		15,567,851	18,766,900	24,623,245		24,393,950
Paid (Cumulative) as of: End of Initial Year One Year Later Two Years Later Three Years Later Four Years Later Five Years Later Six Years Later Seven Years Later Eight Years Later Nine Years Later		19,016,448 20,663,997 20,663,997 20,663,997 20,663,997 20,663,997 20,663,997 20,663,997 20,663,997	18,119,554 19,779,519 19,779,519 19,779,519 19,779,519 19,779,519 19,779,519 19,779,519	15,522,864 17,214,160 17,214,160 17,214,160 17,214,160 17,214,160 17,214,160 17,214,160		16,128,759 17,170,710 16,882,587 16,882,587 16,882,587 16,882,587		15,224,219 16,356,437 16,356,437 16,356,437 16,356,437 16,356,437	13,360,128 13,966,932 13,966,932 13,966,932 13,966,932		13,989,773 14,955,183 14,955,183 14,955,183	16,662,843 18,760,845 18,760,845	21,326,245 24,123,301		22,932,891
Reestimated Incurred Claims and Expenses End of Policy Year One Year Later Two Years Later Three Years Later Four Years Later Five Years Later Six Years Later Seven Years Later Eight Years Later Nine Years Later		21,056,306 20,693,997 20,693,997 20,693,997 20,693,997 20,693,997 20,693,997 20,693,997 20,693,997	20,039,554 19,210,364 19,210,364 19,210,364 19,210,364 19,210,364 19,210,364 19,210,364	16,541,764 16,788,000 16,788,000 16,788,000 16,788,000 16,788,000 16,788,000		17,337,047 16,899,568 16,882,587 16,882,587 16,882,587 16,882,587		16,841,029 16,364,562 16,364,562 16,364,562 16,364,562	14,516,444 13,974,296 13,974,296 13,974,296 13,974,296		15,567,851 14,967,857 14,967,857 14,967,857	18,766,900 18,634,185 18,634,185	24,623,245 23,502,532		24,393,950
Increase (Decrease) in Estimated Incurred Claims and Expenses From End of Initial Year		(362,309)	(829,190)	246,236		(454,460)		(476,467)	(542,148)	)	(599,994)	(132,715)	(1,120,713)		-

Note: In the third or fourth year of the above Fund Years, the Board created a Closed Years Contingency Fund, which consolidated the prior year open Fund Years. As a result, the above individual Fund Years have not be updated to report the respective transactions for years three to ten.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES

# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND COMBINING STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

	Closed Years Contingency	Fund		
ASSETS	<u>Fund</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash Investments Receivables	\$ 3,476,501 6,657,319	\$ 866,468 1,659,241	\$ 749,868 1,435,958	\$ 5,092,837 9,752,518
Assessments Interest Excess Insurance Other	36,138	278,975 6,222 657,551	959,377 12,877 612,159 24,089	1,238,352 55,237 1,269,710 24,089
Prepaid Items		1,454		1,454
Total Assets	10,169,958	3,469,911	3,794,328	17,434,197
LIABILITIES				
Liabilities Accounts Payable Dividend Payable Unearned Revenue	442,345		115,500	115,500 442,345
Loss Reserves IBNR		36,782	2,073,218	2,110,000
Total Liabilities	442,345	36,782	2,188,718	2,667,845
NET POSITION Unrestricted	9,727,613	3,433,129	1,605,610	14,766,352
Total Net Position	\$ 9,727,613	\$ 3,433,129	\$ 1,605,610	\$ 14,766,352

# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	osed Years ontingency	Fund	Yea	ars		
	<u>Fund</u>	 2017		2018		<u>Total</u>
OPERATING REVENUES						
Assessments						
Employer Contributions			\$	31,766,617	\$	31,766,617
Employee/Cobra Contributions	 _	 		231,835	_	231,835
Total Revenues	 	 -		31,998,452		31,998,452
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Provision for Claims						
Benefits Paid to/for Participants	\$ 92,473	\$ 2,876,129		23,231,793		26,200,395
Excess Insurance Recoverable	126,660	(219,101)		(612,159)		(704,600)
Other Recoverables		(517,523)		(298,902)		(816,425)
Increase/(Decrease) in Loss Reserves		(3,260,218)		2,073,218		(1,187,000)
HMO/PPO Premiums		2,045		65,050		67,095
Medicare Advantage		·		2,405,548		2,405,548
Retiree Surcharge		(1,454)		22,293		20,839
Excess Insurance Premiums				1,464,170		1,464,170
General and Administrative	 (350)	 (77,881)	_	2,084,505		2,006,274
Total Expenses	 218,783	 (1,198,003)		30,435,516		29,456,296
Operating Income	 (218,783)	 1,198,003		1,562,936		2,542,156
NONOPERATING REVENUES						
Dividend Income	378,927	297,088				676,015
Interest Income	 190,970	 32,225		42,674		265,869
Total Nonoperating Revenues	 569,897	 329,313		42,674	_	941,884
Change in Net Position	351,114	1,527,316		1,605,610		3,484,040
Net Position, January 1, 2018	 13,449,034	 1,905,813				15,354,847
	13,800,148	3,433,129		1,605,610		18,838,887
Equity Distribution	 (4,072,535)	 •				(4,072,535)
Net Position, December 31, 2018	\$ 9,727,613	\$ 3,433,129	\$	1,605,610	\$	14,766,352

# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND COMBINING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

		Closed Years Contingency			Fund Years			
		<u>Fund</u>		2017		2018		<u>Total</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES								
Cash Received from Members	\$	253,550	\$	1,150,700	\$ :	31,039,075	\$	32,443,325
Cash Paid for Claims, Premiums and Services		(92,473)		(2,318,079)	_(	28,883,046)	_(	31,293,598)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities		161,077		(1,167,379)		2,156,029		1,149,727
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES								
Net (Purchase) Redemption of Investments		1,165,042		115,418		(1,435,958)		(155,498)
Dividend Received		378,927		297,088				676,015
Interest Received		169,424		29,278		29,797		228,499
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities		1,713,393		441,784		(1,406,161)		749,016
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES								
Equity Distribution		(5,415,478)				-		(5,415,478)
Net Cash (Used) by Noncapital Financing Activities		(5,415,478)	_	-				(5,415,478)
Net Change in Cash		(3,541,008)		(725,595)		749,868		(3,516,735)
Cash, January 1, 2018		7,017,509	_	1,592,063		-		8,609,572
Cash, December 31, 2018	\$	3,476,501	<u>\$</u>	866,468	<u>\$</u>	749,868	<u>\$</u>	5,092,837
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME								
TO NET CASH PROVIDED (USED)								
BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	φ	(210 702)	φ	1 100 002	\$	1 562 026	\$	2,542,156
Operating Income (Loss)  Adjustments:	\$	(218,783)	Ф	1,198,003	Φ	1,562,936	Ф	2,342,130
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities								
(Increase) Decrease in Assessments Receivable		253,550		1,150,700		(959,377)		444,873
(Increase) Decrease in Excess Insurance Recoverable		126,660		(219,101)		(612,159)		(704,600)
(Increase) Decrease in Other Receivable		•		22,837		(24,089)		(1,252)
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses				53,960				53,960
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable		(350)		(113,560)		115,500		1,590
Increase (Decrease) in IBNR				(3,260,218)		2,073,218		(1,187,000)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	\$	161,077	\$	(1,167,379)	<u>\$</u>	2,156,029	<u>\$</u>	1,149,727

# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND HISTORICAL OPERATING RESULTS FROM INCEPTION THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2018

		Closed Years Contingency		Fund	Year	·s
		Fund		2017	7 000	2018
UNDERWRITING INCOME Assessments Other Income (Except Investments)	\$	484,445,938 1,977,925	\$	31,098,352 311,734	\$	31,766,617 231,835
		486,423,863		31,410,086		31,998,452
INCURRED LIABILITIES						
Claims						
Paid		403,570,534		24,123,301		22,932,891
Excess Insurance Recoverable and Other Recoverables				(657,551)		(612,159)
Loss Reserves		-	-	36,782		2,073,218
Limited Incurred Claims		403,570,534	<del></del>	23,502,532		24,393,950
EXPENSES						
Excess Insurance Premiums		24,169,153		1,895,503		1,464,170
HMO/PPO Premiums		3,431,624		56,878		65,050
Medicare Advantage		1,688,082		823,601		2,405,548
Retiree Surcharge		31,993		26,760		22,293
General and Administrative		36,579,758		2,017,548		2,084,505
Subtotal Expenses		65,900,610		4,820,290		6,041,566
Total Incurred Liabilities		469,471,144		28,322,822		30,435,516
UNDERWRITING SURPLUS		16,952,719		3,087,264		1,562,936
Investment/Dividend Income	<u></u>	7,181,320		345,865		42,674
GROSS STATUTORY SURPLUS		24,134,039		3,433,129		1,605,610
Equity Distribution		(14,406,426)		-		-
NET STATUTORY SURPLUS	<u>\$</u>	9,727,613	\$	3,433,129	\$	1,605,610

# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND STATEMENT OF BUDGETARY EXPENSES FUND YEAR 2018

Account Description		Modified Budget		Expenses	Loss Reserves	Variance Excess/ (Deficit)
Claims						
Medical	\$	20,545,876	\$	17,953,356	\$ 1,867,218	\$ 725,302
Dental		2,266,704		1,674,540	87,000	505,164
Prescription		2,560,462		2,692,836	119,000	(251,374)
HMO/PPO Premiums		56,607		65,050		(8,443)
Medicare Advantage		2,405,548		2,405,548		-
Reinsurance		1,464,170		1,464,170		-
Rate Stabilization		318,795				318,795
Retiree Surcharge				22,293		(22,293)
General and Administrative						
Claims Administration		743,779		707,423		36,356
Administrator		329,295		329,599		(304)
Legal		29,183		29,182		1
Actuary		38,500		38,500		-
Auditor		18,000		18,000		-
Treasurer		18,922		18,922		-
Risk Management Consultants		602,097		578,792		23,305
Employee Benefit Consultant		243,540		255,540		(12,000)
Board Advisor		12,735		12,691		44
Miscellaneous/Contingency		147,135		95,856	 -	 51,279
	<u>\$</u>	31,801,348	<u>\$</u>	28,362,298	\$ 2,073,218	\$ 1,365,832

# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND PROGRAM SUMMARY FUND YEAR 2018

		Coverages				
		Medical	<u>Dental</u>	<u>F</u>	rescription	
Limits:						
Specific		Unlimited	N/A		Unlimited	
Aggregate	\$	10,000,000	N/A	\$	10,000,000	
Fund Retention:						
Specific		275,000	N/A		275,000	
Aggregate		24,393,785	N/A		3,114,450	
Excess Insurers	]	Municipal Rein	surance Health	Insu	rance Fund	
Number of Governmental Entities		15	28		11	
Limited Incurred Claims	\$	19,820,574	\$ 1,761,540	\$	2,811,836	
Exposure Units: Eligible Employees (1)		1,075	2,092		576	
Limited Incurred Claims/Units	\$	18,438	\$ 842	\$	4,882	

<sup>(1)</sup> Based on December 31, 2018 Census

# BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

#### Part I - Summary of Auditor's Results

#### **Financial Statements**

Type of auditors' report issued:	Unmodified				
Internal control over financial reporting:					
1) Material weakness(es) identified	yes	Xno			
2) Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	yes	Xnone reported			
Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?	yes	X no			

## Part 2 - Schedule of Financial Statement Findings

This section identifies the significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, and instances of noncompliance related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with Paragraph 5.18-5.20 of *Government Auditing Standards*.

There are none.

# SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

This section identifies the status of prior-year findings related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with Paragraph 6.12 of *Governmental Auditing Standards*.

#### STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

There were none.

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Finding</u> – At December 31, 2018, there was \$276,767 of assessments receivable for Fund Year 2017 that remains uncollected from a member municipality.

**Recommendation** – Continued efforts be made to collect the prior year outstanding receivable balance.

<u>Management's Response</u> – Management is working with the member on a payment plan that will satisfy the receivable by December 31, 2019.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the Fund and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to us.

LERCH, VINCI & HIGGINS, LLF Certified Public Accountants

Registered Municipal Accountants