

GALVESTON COUNTY



Office of County Auditor

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July 26, 2021

Honorable Mark A. Henry, County Judge, and
Members of the Commissioners Court
722 Moody Avenue
Galveston, Texas 77550

Honorable Mark A. Henry and Members of the Court:

Attached to be received and filed is the internal audit report of the County Engineering Department Audit that covered the period June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021. Also attached is the response letter from Michael C. Shannon, County Engineer, dated July 6, 2021.

Sincerely,

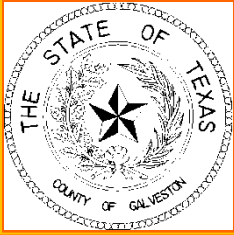
Randall Rice CPA

Digitally signed by Randall Rice CPA
Date: 2021.07.14 15:39:58 -05'00'

Randall Rice CPA
County Auditor

cc: Michael C. Shannon, County Engineer

Attachment: County Engineering Department Audit Report
Response Letter, Michael C. Shannon



County Engineering Department Audit

June 10, 2021

Galveston County
Internal Audit Division

Randall Rice CPA
CITP CISA CIO CBM DABFA CGMA
County Auditor

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Executive Summary

Reliability and Integrity of Information (page 3)

- Adequate controls are in place to ensure proper separation of duties.

Safeguarding of Assets (page 4)

- Physical security over assets (collections) is adequate.
- There were no material exceptions when issuing manual receipts.

Compliance with Statutes, Policies and Procedures (page 5)

- Collections were not consistently deposited in accordance with LGC §113.022.
- No material exceptions were noted in testing permit fees for compliance with the Floodplain Management Regulations.
- The office had no refunds during the audit period.
- No exceptions were noted in the testing of voided receipts.

General Information (page 6)

- The Engineering Department collects revenue for three divisions: Engineering, Building Inspector and Right of Way.

Introduction

The Internal Audit Division conducted an internal audit of the County Engineering Department, in accordance with Local Government Code (LGC) §115. The internal audit covered the period June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021. The audit was performed from June 2, 2021 through June 10, 2021.

The primary objectives of the internal audit are to provide reasonable assurance concerning:

- Reliability and integrity of the information
- Safeguarding of assets
- Compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, policies, plans and procedures

The scope of the internal audit encompassed the financial records and administrative procedures related to the County Engineering Department. The internal audit included, but was not limited to, the books, accounts, reports and records of the County Engineering Department.

The internal audit included examining transactions on a test basis and required exercising judgment in the selection of such tests. As the internal audit was not a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that errors or fraud were not detected during the internal audit. The official therefore retains the responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the financial information.

Because of certain statutory duties required of the County Auditor, we are not independent with regard to the County Engineering Department as defined by the AICPA professional standards. However, our internal audit was performed with objectivity and due professional care.

Celeste Wood, Internal Auditor, performed the audit.

Reliability and Integrity of Information

Reliable information is accurate, timely, complete and useful. In order to achieve this, controls over record keeping and reporting must be adequate and effective.

Separation of Duties

One of the most important internal controls is to have proper separation of duties. No one person should authorize a transaction, record the transaction and have custody of the assets.

The Permit Technician and Compliance Officer collect building permit fees and engineering fees for services rendered and record the transactions in the manual receipt book and receipt log. The receipts are totaled and all payments are entered on the cash receipt in ONESolution. The Administrative Coordinator provides a signature of approval on the receipt log and the ONESolution batch report. The collections, along with proper support documentation, are taken to the Treasurer's Office for deposit.

The Engineer's Office has proper separation of duties.

Safeguarding of Assets

Safeguarding of assets has three basic components: 1) physical security of assets, 2) minimal exposure to loss and 3) proper management of the assets.

Physical Security - Collections

Physical security encompasses any method to physically secure the collections from loss. Monies collected should be kept in a locked drawer or safe until they are deposited.

As part of the audit, a surprise cash count was conducted on June 3, 2021. The County Engineering Department does not accept cash payments. Any payments made must be in the form of check, money order or credit card. Checks and money orders are restrictively endorsed immediately upon receipt. The County Engineering Department uses a lockable bank bag secured in a desk drawer to hold the collections until the day of deposit.

Physical Security – Manual Receipts

A pre-numbered, county-issued manual receipt is provided for each check or money order payment. The receipts are filled out in triplicate with the original going to the customer and the copies remaining in the receipt book. When the cash receipt is filled out, the checks to be deposited are compared to the receipt book to reconcile receipts with collection totals. The receipt book is kept in a drawer, inaccessible to customers, at the front counter.

Compliance with Statutes, Policies and Procedures

The following areas were tested to provide reasonable assurance the office is in compliance with statutes, policies and procedures.

Timeliness of Deposits

LGC §113.022 Time For Making Deposits requires that money received shall be deposited “on or before the fifth business day after the day on which the money is received.”

Finding: Collections were not consistently deposited in accordance with LGC §113.022.

Recommendation ENG-21-01: To ensure compliance with LGC §113.022 Time for Making Deposits, collections should be deposited on or before the next regular business day but no later than 5 business days.

Court-Approved Fees

Building permit fees collected by the County Engineering Department are contingent upon the Floodplain Management Regulations as required by the National Flood Insurance Act (Title 42). The County Engineering Department can collect these fees as approved by Commissioners Court and may not collect any amount that exceeds what is required.

No material exceptions were noted in testing permit fees for compliance with the Floodplain Management Regulations.

Refunded Payments

Payments are refunded when an applicant is unable to provide all documents needed to continue processing the permit or if construction never began and the applicant will no longer be moving forward with construction. The permit fee will be refunded less any application fees.

There were no refunds issued by the Engineering Department during the audit period.

Voided Receipts

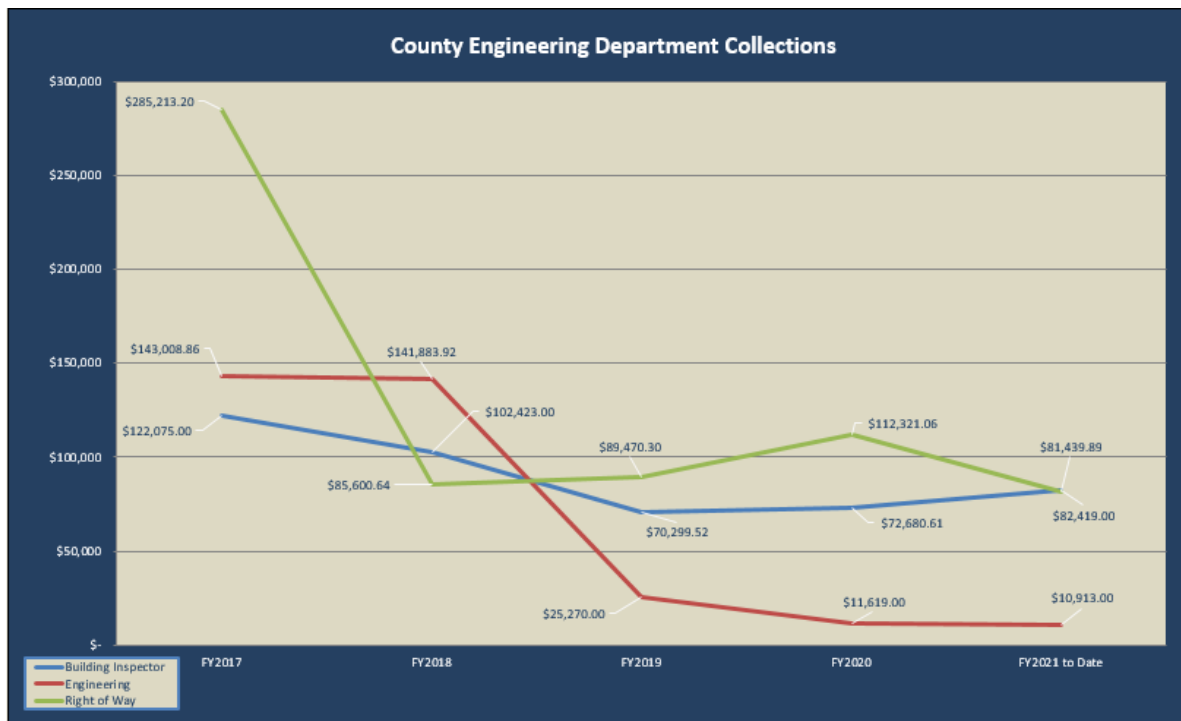
The County Engineering Department policy dictates all voided receipts must be approved by the County Engineer or an approved employee in his absence. Void is written across the receipt, the County Engineer or approved employee sign the receipt and an explanation for the void is documented. All copies of the receipt are retained in the manual receipt book.

No exceptions were noted in the testing of voided receipts.

General Information

A statistical analysis was performed on the revenue collected by the County Engineering Department for FY2017, FY2018, FY2019, FY2020 and FY2021 (through May 31, 2021). The department collects revenue for three divisions: Engineering, Building Inspector and Right of Way. The following charts illustrate revenue by fiscal year for the three divisions.

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021 <i>as of 5/31/2021</i>
Engineering					
Seawall/Levee Inspections	\$102,463.00	\$71,228.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Army Corp of Engineers Reviews Reimbursements	\$30,276.21	\$61,917.28	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Road Opening Application Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Engineering Fees	\$10,269.65	\$8,738.64	\$12,270.00	\$11,619.00	\$10,663.00
	\$143,008.86	\$141,883.92	\$25,270.00	\$11,619.00	\$10,913.00
Building Inspector					
Building Permits	\$122,075.00	\$102,423.00	\$70,299.52	\$72,680.61	\$82,419.00
Right of Way					
Leases of ROW	\$207,410.35	\$42,865.35	\$42,865.35	\$42,865.35	\$42,865.34
Reimbursements From TXDOT	\$47,632.26	\$159.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
State Reimbursements	\$25,070.59	\$25,070.59	\$25,041.95	\$25,030.69	\$24,989.20
Encroachment and Abandonment	\$5,100.00	\$17,505.00	\$21,563.00	\$44,425.02	\$13,585.35
	\$285,213.20	\$85,600.64	\$89,470.30	\$112,321.06	\$81,439.89



MICHAEL C. SHANNON, PE, CFM
COUNTY ENGINEER



NANCY M. BAHER, PE
ASSISTANT COUNTY ENGINEER

THE COUNTY OF GALVESTON
Office of the County Engineer
722 Moody, Galveston, TX 77550
(409) 770-5453

July 6, 2021

Randall Rice, CPA
County Auditor
722 Moody, 4th Floor
Galveston, TX 77550

Re: County Engineering Department internal audit June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021

Dear Mr. Rice:

I have received your draft internal audit report dated June 18, 2021. The audit indicated that adequate controls are in place, physical security of assets is adequate, and no material exceptions were noted when issuing receipts. The audit also indicated that collections were not consistently deposited in accordance with LGC §113.022

LGC §113.022 requires that money received shall be deposited on or before the fifth business day after the day on which the money is received. While deposits were made two times a week, there were two occasions where only one deposit was made for the week. This resulted in some collections being deposited after the sixth day. In the future, we deposited every Tuesday and Thursday to ensure compliance with this requirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MCS", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael C. Shannon, PE, CFM
County Engineer

cc: Nancy Baher, Assistant County Engineer
Elizabeth Robertson, Administrative Coordinator
Nicole Stelly, Floodplain and Permitting Manager