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External audit gives county financial report a 'clean' opinion

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NEW BRAUNFELS — External auditors have given Comal County's annual financial report an unqualified, or "clean," opinion, meaning it is free of material misstatements.

The report was presented Thursday to the Comal County Commissioners Court.

"It's the highest opinion we can give," Jeremy Barbatto, ABIP's supervisor of assurance services, told the court. "It basically means the financial statements we audited are in line with accepted accounting standards."

The Texas Local Government Code requires counties to produce a set of audited financial reports each year. The Comal County Auditor's Office prepares the annual report, which is then reviewed by an external accounting firm. The San Antonio firm ABIP P.C. examined the report for the 2016 calendar year and found the statements are presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

"We take great effort to ensure that Comal County remains financially sound, and that our financial reporting is transparent to everyone," said Interim County Auditor Jessie Rahe.

In 2016, the Comal County general fund received \$49.85 million in revenue while spending \$48.4 million. The \$1.45 million surplus raised the county's fund balance to \$22.3 million, or more than five months' reserves. Last August, commissioners approved a \$54.5 million general fund budget as part of an overall \$84 million 2017 budget. The 2018 budget-approval process is underway.

The 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report will be available at the county's financial transparency webpage: co.comal.tx.us/Transparency_Financial.htm.



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