

## External audit gives county financial report clean bill of health

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*NEW BRAUNFELS* — External auditors have given Comal County’s annual financial report an unqualified opinion, meaning a clean bill of health without exceptions.

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 examined the report for the 2015 calendar year and found the statements are presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

“We work hard every year to make sure the county is sound financially and transparent in how our finances are reported,” said County Auditor David Renken. “We continue to be grateful that our external auditors have once again confirmed that.”

In 2015, the Comal County general fund received about \$45.6 million in revenue while spending \$44.95 million. The \$661,229 surplus raised the fund balance to \$20.8 million, or about five months’ reserves. Last August, commissioners approved a \$51.1 million general-fund budget for 2016. The 2017 budget-approval process is underway.

“We’re really proud of the financial situation we’re in,” Renken said.

The 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report will be available at the county’s financial transparency webpage: [co.comal.tx.us/Transparency\\_Financial.htm](http://co.comal.tx.us/Transparency_Financial.htm).

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**Comal County Public Information Office**  
830.221.1110 | [anthop@co.comal.tx.us](mailto:anthop@co.comal.tx.us)  
[www.comalcountytexas.com](http://www.comalcountytexas.com)



**Paul A. Anthony**  
Public Information Officer  
100 Main Plaza, Suite 109  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
O: 830-221-1110 | C: 325-660-9913  
[www.comalcountytexas.com](http://www.comalcountytexas.com)