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March 5, 2024

Town of Stow
Select Board
Stow, MA

Dear Honorable Board:

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Stow, Massachusetts “the Town” as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Governmental Audit Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We communicated such information to the Town’s management prior to our commencement of auditing procedures. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Scope limitation

There were no scope limitations.

GAAP Departure

There were no GAAP departures.

Material Weaknesses/Significant Deficiencies

There were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Town are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the Town 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 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 Town's financial statements were:

The presentation of the Town's total pension liability and related accounts is determined through biennial actuarial studies, which are rolled forward by an actuary to June 30 each year. We have received an AU805 report from the independent auditor of the County pension system.

The presentation of the Town's total OPEB liability and related accounts is determined through biennial actuarial studies, which are rolled forward by an actuary to June 30 each year. We have received the actuarial report from the actuary.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements are those that describe the Town's net pension and OPEB liabilities at June 30, 2023.

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

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

There were no difficulties encountered in completing the audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. None of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the Town's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is 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 March 5, 2024

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 Plan'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 Town's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

The following highlight communication matters:

1. We continue to recommend that the Town develop a financial policies and procedures manual. Not only will such a manual provide a road map in the efficient administration of financial policies and procedures but is also a document that is often requested during the Town's bond rating process.
2. We continue to remind our clients to remain vigilant in the fight against cyber fraud. Ongoing challenges to the system in place in addition to periodic training of employees is critical in combatting these threats.
3. We also continue to remind our clients in the fight against fraud in the workplace. Setting up preventative and detective controls in addition to annual risk assessments of cash handling processes are an important part of this process.
4. We applaud the Treasurer's Office for taking advantage of the spike in investment yields caused by the recent FOMC monetary policies. Undertaking more aggressive investment strategies that are both safe and that result in greater yields has been an active process with the assistance of the Town's investment manager.
5. We observed that the Town has made best efforts to spend down, eliminate and repurpose stagnant balances in both Special Revenue and Capital Projects. Current stagnant balances number less than twenty.
6. We were made aware that a credit card was established by the administrative offices. Certain charges such as international fees and sales taxes have been generated by use of the card. If the Town wishes to use credit cards, it is important that policies are created for credit card use that may be enforced.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the System's required supplementary information ("RSI") that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI. We also made verbal communications about matters that we deemed appropriate to Town Management throughout the course of the engagement and through the time of issuance of the financial statements.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Select Board and management of the Town of Stow and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Roselli Clark & Associates

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