

TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA

**REPORT ON COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS,
ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS,
AND REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS**

June 30, 2017

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

To the Members of Town Council
Town of Vinton, Virginia

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Vinton, Virginia (the "Town") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Town's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and to comply with *Government Auditing Standards*, but not for the purpose of expressing opinions on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express opinions on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. In addition, because of the inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. However, as presented in this letter, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

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.

If material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified during our procedures they are appropriately designated as such in this report. Additional information on material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and compliance and other matters is included in the ***Independent Auditor's 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*** which should be read in conjunction with this report.

Additionally, during our audit, we may have become aware of certain other matters that provide opportunities for improving your financial reporting system and/or operating efficiency. Such comments and suggestions regarding these matters, if any, are also included in the attached report. Since our audit is not designed to include a detailed review of all systems and procedures, these comments should not be considered as being all inclusive of areas where improvements might be achieved. We also have included information on accounting and other matters that we believe is important enough to merit consideration by management and those charged with governance. It is our hope that our suggestions will be taken in the constructive light in which they are offered.

We have already discussed these comments and suggestions with management, and we will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations. A review of the status of our prior year comments and suggestions is included on pages 6 through 7.

The Town's responses to our recommendations are included in this report. The responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of Council, management, and the appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specific parties.

Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Roanoke, Virginia
November 15, 2017

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

INVENTORY

During our audit of inventory, it was noted that the final inventory listing was incomplete and missing water meters with a total value of approximately \$3,800. We recommend preparing an up-to-date and complete final inventory listing at year-end.

Management Response: *The Town agrees and will try to ensure that all inventory items are included in the final listing. During the year, there was turnover in this position, and practices were not documented for the new employee assuming this role. The Town is working on training with the new employee.*

PRIOR YEAR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

SEGREGATION OF DUTIES (Current and Prior Year Material Weakness)

Internal controls are designed to safeguard assets and detect losses from employee dishonesty or error. A fundamental concept in a good system of internal control is the segregation of duties. Although the size of the Town's accounting staff prohibits complete adherence to this concept, we believe that the following practices could be implemented to improve existing internal control without impairing efficiency:

- Mail should be opened by an employee not responsible for accounting, such as the Town Clerk. Cash receipts could be recorded and the deposit prepared by this person. The cash receipts journal, supplemented by remittance advice, could be forwarded to the accounting staff for postings to the general ledger and detail customer accounts.
- Customer complaints, returned checks, disputed items, and other such matters should be investigated by someone who is independent of preparing daily cash receipts and preparing deposits.
- Checks and remittance advice should be placed into envelopes and mailed by someone with no other accounting responsibilities.
- Water and sewer billing should be independent of the accounts receivable function.
- Checks are printed and mailed by the person entering invoices into the accounting software for payment. Checks are printed with electronic signatures. Check printing and mailing should be performed by someone who does not have any other accounts payable functions.

Current Year Status: *Conditions are still present.*

Management Response: *Management indicated that mail being sorted and delivered to the Treasurer's Office by the Town Clerk may be an option, but will not be receipted and deposited by the Town Clerk. Customer complaints, returned checks, and disputed items being investigated by someone independent of preparing daily cash receipts is limited by the small staff in the Treasurer's Office. Checks and remittance advice for accounts payable items are reviewed before mailing by two individuals signing for the checks. With the limited staffing and the job responsibilities within the office, all staff members have accounting responsibilities. Water and Sewer billings are reviewed by the Treasurer. A lock has been placed into the system where the four individuals that have check signing responsibilities are required to authorize the accounts payable before the Financial Analyst can proceed to print checks. Checks have electronic signatures on them but still require a two person sign-off on a control sheet verifying check numbers and check dates. Delegation of responsibilities within the Finance department is limited by the staffing. Management will segregate these functions as much as possible.*

**PRIOR YEAR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS
(Continued)**

SEGREGATION OF DUTIES (Current and Prior Year Material Weakness) (Continued)

Employee setup and maintenance in the accounting software is being performed by Human Resources, but at times, the Finance Department is involved with employee maintenance in the accounting software. All employee setup and maintenance should be handled by the Human Resource Department. The Finance Department should not have access to make changes to employee information, and should be responsible for reviewing the payroll change log to ensure completeness and accuracy.

Current Year Status: *Condition cleared during the current year.*

We noted that several employees have the ability to edit the master vendor file. Although there are compensating controls in place such as the review and purging of the vendor listing yearly, the review of vendors names during the check preparation process by multiple finance employees, and budget to actual variances, we recommend someone independent of the accounts payable function review the master vendor list periodically for new vendors added and also changes to vendor addresses. This review should include a verification of the vendor's validity. Additionally there should be a standard operating procedure in place to document the review.

Current Year Status: *Condition is still present.*

We noted that the Town does not currently have a formal process to periodically generate and review write-offs and adjustments. There is a compensating control in place; the employee who initiates the adjustment does not have system access to post the adjustment. However, we recommend that an employee in an oversight position, who does not initiate or post the adjustment or write-off, generate a monthly report showing each entry and review the detail to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of each transaction.

Current Year Status: *Condition cleared during the current year.*

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS

In this section, we would like to make you aware of certain confirmed and potential changes that are on the horizon that may affect your financial reporting and audit.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 75

GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits other than Pensions* improves accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for postemployment benefits other than pensions (other postemployment benefits or OPEB). It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for OPEB that is provided by other entities. This Statement results from a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing standards of accounting and financial reporting for all postemployment benefits (pensions and OPEB) with regard to providing decision-useful information, supporting assessments of accountability and interperiod equity, and creating additional transparency.

This Statement replaces the requirements of Statements No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits other than Pensions*, as amended, and No. 57, *OPEB Measurements by Agent Employers and Agent Multiple-Employer Plans, for OPEB*. Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans other than Pension Plans*, establishes new accounting and financial reporting requirements for OPEB plans.

The scope of this Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting for OPEB that is provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers. This Statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. For defined benefit OPEB, this Statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discount projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service. Note disclosure and required supplementary information requirements about defined benefit OPEB also are addressed.

In addition, this Statement details the recognition and disclosure requirements for employers with payables to defined benefit OPEB plans that are administered through trusts that meet the specified criteria and for employers whose employees are provided with defined contribution OPEB. This Statement also addresses certain circumstances in which a nonemployer entity provides financial support for OPEB of employees of another entity.

In this Statement, distinctions are made regarding the particular requirements depending upon whether the OPEB plans through which the benefits are provided are administered through trusts that meet the following criteria:

- Contributions from employers and nonemployer contributing entities to the OPEB plan and earnings on those contributions are irrevocable.
- OPEB plan assets are dedicated to providing OPEB to plan members in accordance with the benefit terms.
- OPEB plan assets are legally protected from the creditors of employers, nonemployer contributing entities, the OPEB plan administrator, and the plan members.

GASB Statement No. 75 will be effective for the year ending June 30, 2018. To prepare for implementation of this new Statement, management should consult with the entity's external OPEB actuarial firm to ensure timely reporting and compliance with the requirements of this Statement.

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS **(Continued)**

GASB STATEMENT NO. 81

GASB Statement No. 81, *Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements* will improve accounting and financial reporting for irrevocable split-interest agreements by providing recognition and measurement guidance for situations in which a government is a beneficiary of the agreement.

Split-interest agreements are a type of giving agreement used by donors to provide resources to two or more beneficiaries, including governments. Split interest agreements can be created through trusts – or other legally enforceable agreements with characteristics that are equivalent to split-interest agreements – in which a donor transfers resources to an intermediary to hold and administer for the benefit of a government and at least one other beneficiary. Examples of these types of agreements include charitable lead trusts, charitable remainder trusts, and life-interests in real estate.

This Statement requires that a government that receives resources pursuant to an irrevocable split-interest agreement recognize assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources at the inception of the agreement. Furthermore, this Statement requires that a government recognize assets representing its beneficial interests in irrevocable split-interest agreements that are administered by a third party, if the government controls the present service capacity of the beneficial interests. This Statement requires that a government recognize revenue when the resources become applicable to the reporting period.

GASB Statement No. 81 will be effective for the year ending June 30, 2018.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 82

The objective of **GASB Statement No. 82**, *Pension Issues – an amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, No. 68, and No. 73* is to address certain issues that have been raised with respect to Statements No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*, No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, and No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets* that are not within the scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68. Specifically, this Statement addresses issues regarding the presentation of payroll-related measures in required supplementary information, the selection of assumptions and the treatment of deviations from the guidance in an Actuarial Standard of Practice for financial reporting purposes, and the classification of payments made by employers to satisfy employee (plan member) contribution requirements.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for the year ended June 30, 2017, except for the requirements of this Statement for the selection of assumptions in a circumstance in which an employer's pension liability is measured as of a date other than the employer's most recent fiscal year-end. In that circumstance, the requirements for the selection of assumptions are effective for that employer in the first reporting period in which the measurement date of the pension liability is on or after June 15, 2017.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 83

GASB Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* addresses accounting and financial reporting for certain asset retirement obligations (AROs). An ARO is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. A government that has legal obligations to perform future asset retirement activities related to its tangible capital assets should recognize a liability based on the guidance in this Statement.

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

GASB STATEMENT NO. 83 (Continued)

This Statement establishes criteria for determining the timing and pattern of recognition of a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow of resources for AROs. This Statement requires that recognition occur when the liability is both incurred and reasonably estimable. The determination of when the liability is incurred should be based on the occurrence of external laws, regulations, contracts, or court judgments, together with the occurrence of an internal event that obligates a government to perform asset retirement activities. Laws and regulations may require governments to take specific actions to retire certain tangible capital assets at the end of the useful lives of those capital assets, such as decommissioning nuclear reactors and dismantling and removing sewage treatment plants. Other obligations to retire tangible capital assets may arise from contracts or court judgments. Internal obligating events include the occurrence of contamination, placing into operation a tangible capital asset that is required to be retired, abandoning a tangible capital asset before it is placed into operation, or acquiring a tangible capital asset that has an existing ARO.

This Statement requires the measurement of an ARO to be based on the best estimate of the current value of outlays expected to be incurred. The best estimate should include probability weighting of all potential outcomes, when such information is available or can be obtained at reasonable cost. If probability weighting is not feasible at reasonable cost, the most likely amount should be used. This Statement requires that a deferred outflow of resources associated with an ARO be measured at the amount of the corresponding liability upon initial measurement.

This Statement requires the current value of a government's AROs to be adjusted for the effects of general inflation or deflation at least annually. In addition, it requires a government to evaluate all relevant factors at least annually to determine whether the effects of one or more of the factors are expected to significantly change the estimated asset retirement outlays. A government should re-measure an ARO only when the result of the evaluation indicates there is a significant change in the estimated outlays. The deferred outflows of resources should be reduced and recognized as outflows of resources (for example, as an expense) in a systematic and rational manner over the estimated useful life of the tangible capital asset.

A government may have a minority share (less than 50 percent) of ownership interest in a jointly owned tangible capital asset in which a nongovernmental entity is the majority owner and reports its ARO in accordance with the guidance of another recognized accounting standards setter. Additionally, a government may have a minority share of ownership interest in a jointly owned tangible capital asset in which no joint owner has a majority ownership, and a nongovernmental joint owner that has operational responsibility for the jointly owned tangible capital asset reports the associated ARO in accordance with the guidance of another recognized accounting standards setter. In both situations, the government's minority share of an ARO should be reported using the measurement produced by the nongovernmental majority owner or the nongovernmental minority owner that has operational responsibility, without adjustment to conform to the liability measurement and recognition requirements of this Statement.

In some cases, governments are legally required to provide funding or other financial assurance for their performance of asset retirement activities. This Statement requires disclosure of how those funding and assurance requirements are being met by a government, as well as the amount of any assets restricted for payment of the government's AROs, if not separately displayed in the financial statements.

This Statement also requires disclosure of information about the nature of a government's AROs, the methods and assumptions used for the estimates of the liabilities, and the estimated remaining useful life of the associated tangible capital assets. If an ARO (or portions thereof) has been incurred by a government but is not yet recognized because it is not reasonably estimable, the government is required to disclose that fact and the reasons therefor. This Statement requires similar disclosures for a government's minority shares of AROs.

GASB Statement No. 83 will be effective for the year ending June 30, 2019.

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

GASB STATEMENT NO. 84

The objective of **GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*** is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported.

This Statement establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities of all state and local governments. The focus of the criteria generally is on (1) whether a government is controlling the assets of the fiduciary activity and (2) the beneficiaries with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. Separate criteria are included to identify fiduciary component units and postemployment benefit arrangements that are fiduciary activities.

An activity meeting the criteria should be reported in a fiduciary fund in the basic financial statements. Governments with activities meeting the criteria should present a statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. An exception to that requirement is provided for a business-type activity that normally expects to hold custodial assets for three months or less.

This Statement describes four fiduciary funds that should be reported, if applicable: (1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, (2) investment trust funds, (3) private-purpose trust funds, and (4) custodial funds. Custodial funds generally should report fiduciary activities that are not held in a trust or equivalent arrangement that meets specific criteria.

A fiduciary component unit, when reported in the fiduciary fund financial statements of a primary government, should combine its information with its component units that are fiduciary component units and aggregate that combined information with the primary government's fiduciary funds.

This Statement also provides for recognition of a liability to the beneficiaries in a fiduciary fund when an event has occurred that compels the government to disburse fiduciary resources. Events that compel a government to disburse fiduciary resources occur when a demand for the resources has been made or when no further action, approval, or condition is required to be taken or met by the beneficiary to release the assets.

GASB Statement No. 84 will be effective for the year ending June 30, 2020.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 85

The objective of **GASB Statement No. 85, *Omnibus 2017***, is to address practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements. This Statement addresses a variety of topics including issues related to blending component units, goodwill, fair value measurement and application, and postemployment benefits (pensions and other postemployment benefits [OPEB]). Specifically, this Statement addresses the following topics:

- Blending a component unit in circumstances in which the primary government is a business-type activity that reports in a single column for financial statement presentation
- Reporting amounts previously reported as goodwill and “negative” goodwill
- Classifying real estate held by insurance entities
- Measuring certain money market investments and participating interest earning investment contracts at amortized cost
- Timing of the measurement of pension or OPEB liabilities and expenditures recognized in financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

GASB STATEMENT NO. 85 (Continued)

- Recognizing on-behalf payments for pensions or OPEB in employer financial statements
- Presenting payroll-related measures in required supplementary information for purposes of reporting by OPEB plans and employers that provide OPEB
- Classifying employer-paid member contributions for OPEB
- Simplifying certain aspects of the alternative measurement method for OPEB
- Accounting and financial reporting for OPEB provided through certain multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plans.

GASB Statement No. 85 will be effective for the year ending June 30, 2018.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 86

The primary objective of **GASB Statement No. 86, *Certain Debt Extinguishment Issues*** is to improve consistency in accounting and financial reporting for in-substance defeasance of debt by providing guidance for transactions in which cash and other monetary assets acquired with only existing resources – resources other than the proceeds of refunding debt – are placed in an irrevocable trust for the sole purpose of extinguishing debt. This Statement also improves accounting and financial reporting for prepaid insurance on debt that is extinguished and notes to financial statements for debt that is defeased in substance.

In-Substance Defeasance of Debt Using Only Existing Resources

Statement No. 7, *Advance Refundings Resulting in Defeasance of Debt*, requires that debt be considered defeased in substance when the debtor irrevocably places cash or other monetary assets acquired with refunding debt proceeds in a trust to be used solely for satisfying scheduled payments of both principal and interest of the defeased debt. The trust also is required to meet certain conditions for the transaction to qualify as an in-substance defeasance. This Statement establishes essentially the same requirements for when a government places cash and other monetary assets acquired with only existing resources in an irrevocable trust to extinguish the debt. However, in financial statements using the economic resources measurement focus, governments should recognize any difference between the reacquisition price (the amount required to be placed in the trust) and the net carrying amount of the debt defeased in substance using only existing resources as a separately identified gain or loss in the period of the defeasance.

Governments that defease debt using only existing resources should provide a general description of the transaction in the notes to financial statements in the period of the defeasance. In all periods following an in-substance defeasance of debt using only existing resources, the amount of that debt that remains outstanding at period-end should be disclosed.

Prepaid Insurance Related to Extinguished Debt

For governments that extinguish debt, whether through a legal extinguishment or through an in-substance defeasance, this Statement requires that any remaining prepaid insurance related to the extinguished debt be included in the net carrying amount of that debt for the purpose of calculating the difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying amount of the debt.

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

GASB STATEMENT NO. 86 (Continued)

Additional Disclosure for All In-Substance Defeasance Transactions

One of the criteria for determining an in-substance defeasance is that the trust holds only monetary assets that are essentially risk-free. If the substitution of essentially risk-free monetary assets with monetary assets that are not essentially risk-free is not prohibited, governments should disclose that fact in the period in which the debt is defeased in substance. In subsequent periods, governments should disclose the amount of debt defeased in substance that remains outstanding for which that risk of substitution exists.

GASB Statement No. 86 will be effective for the year ending June 30, 2018.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 87

The objective of **GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases***, is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities.

Definition of a Lease

A lease is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Examples of nonfinancial assets include buildings, land, vehicles, and equipment. Any contract that meets this definition should be accounted for under the leases guidance, unless specifically excluded in this Statement.

Lease Term

The lease term is defined as the period during which a lessee has a non-cancelable right to use an underlying asset, plus the following periods, if applicable:

- Periods covered by a lessee's option to extend the lease if it is reasonably certain, based on all relevant factors, that the lessee will exercise that option
- Periods covered by a lessee's option to terminate the lease if it is reasonably certain, based on all relevant factors, that the lessee will not exercise that option
- Periods covered by a lessor's option to extend the lease if it is reasonably certain, based on all relevant factors, that the lessor will exercise that option
- Periods covered by a lessor's option to terminate the lease if it is reasonably certain, based on all relevant factors, that the lessor will not exercise that option.

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

GASB STATEMENT NO. 87 (Continued)

A fiscal funding or cancellation clause should affect the lease term only when it is reasonably certain that the clause will be exercised.

Lessees and lessors should reassess the lease term only if one or more of the following occur:

- The lessee or lessor elects to exercise an option even though it was previously determined that it was reasonably certain that the lessee or lessor would not exercise that option.
- The lessee or lessor elects not to exercise an option even though it was previously determined that it was reasonably certain that the lessee or lessor would exercise that option.
- An event specified in the lease contract that requires an extension or termination of the lease takes place.

Short-Term Lease

A short-term lease is defined as a lease that, at the commencement of the lease term, has a maximum possible term under the lease contract of 12 months (or less), including any options to extend, regardless of their probability of being exercised. Lessees and lessors should recognize short-term lease payments as outflows of resources or inflows of resources, respectively, based on the payment provisions of the lease contract.

Lessee Accounting

A lessee should recognize a lease liability and a lease asset at the commencement of the lease term, unless the lease is a short-term lease or it transfers ownership of the underlying asset. The lease liability should be measured at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term (less any lease incentives). The lease asset should be measured at the amount of the initial measurement of the lease liability, plus any payments made to the lessor at or before the commencement of the lease term and certain direct costs.

A lessee should reduce the lease liability as payments are made and recognize an outflow of resources (for example, expense) for interest on the liability. The lessee should amortize the lease asset in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset. The notes to financial statements should include a description of leasing arrangements, the amount of lease assets recognized, and a schedule of future lease payments to be made.

Lessor Accounting

A lessor should recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources at the commencement of the lease term, with certain exceptions for leases of assets held as investments, certain regulated leases, short-term leases, and leases that transfer ownership of the underlying asset. A lessor should not derecognize the asset underlying the lease. The lease receivable should be measured at the present value of lease payments expected to be received during the lease term. The deferred inflow of resources should be measured at the value of the lease receivable plus any payments received at or before the commencement of the lease term that relate to future periods.

A lessor should recognize interest revenue on the lease receivable and an inflow of resources (for example, revenue) from the deferred inflows of resources in a systematic and rational manner over the term of the lease. The notes to financial statements should include a description of leasing arrangements and the total amount of inflows of resources recognized from leases.

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

GASB STATEMENT NO. 87 (Continued)

Contracts with Multiple Components and Contract Combinations

Generally, a government should account for the lease and non-lease components of a lease as separate contracts. If a lease involves multiple underlying assets, lessees and lessors in certain cases should account for each underlying asset as a separate lease contract. To allocate the contract price to different components, lessees and lessors should use contract prices for individual components as long as they do not appear to be unreasonable based on professional judgment, or use professional judgment to determine their best estimate if there are no stated prices or if stated prices appear to be unreasonable. If determining a best estimate is not practicable, multiple components in a lease contract should be accounted for as a single lease unit. Contracts that are entered into at or near the same time with the same counterparty and that meet certain criteria should be considered part of the same lease contract and should be evaluated in accordance with the guidance for contracts with multiple components.

Lease Modifications and Terminations

An amendment to a lease contract should be considered a lease modification, unless the lessee's right to use the underlying asset decreases, in which case it would be a partial or full lease termination. A lease termination should be accounted for by reducing the carrying values of the lease liability and lease asset by a lessee, or the lease receivable and deferred inflows of resources by the lessor, with any difference being recognized as a gain or loss. A lease modification that does not qualify as a separate lease should be accounted for by re-measuring the lease liability and adjusting the related lease asset by a lessee and re-measuring the lease receivable and adjusting the related deferred inflows of resources by a lessor.

Subleases and Leaseback Transactions

Subleases should be treated as transactions separate from the original lease. The original lessee that becomes the lessor in a sublease should account for the original lease and the sublease as separate transactions, as a lessee and lessor, respectively.

A transaction qualifies for sale-leaseback accounting only if it includes a sale. Otherwise, it is a borrowing. The sale and lease portions of a transaction should be accounted for as separate sale and lease transactions, except that any difference between the carrying value of the capital asset that was sold and the net proceeds from the sale should be reported as a deferred inflow of resources or a deferred outflow of resources and recognized over the term of the lease.

A lease-leaseback transaction should be accounted for as a net transaction. The gross amounts of each portion of the transaction should be disclosed.

GASB Statement No. 87 will be effective for the year ending June 30, 2021.

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

CURRENT GASB PROJECTS

GASB currently has a variety of projects in process. Some of these projects are as follows:

- **Conceptual Framework – Recognition.** The project’s objective is to develop recognition criteria for *whether* information should be reported in state and local governmental financial statements and *when* that information should be reported. This project ultimately will lead to a Concepts Statement on recognition of elements of financial statements. The project is currently in deliberations with an exposure draft expected in March 2020, with a final statement in November 2021.
- **Financial Reporting Model.** The objective of this project is to make improvements to the financial reporting model, including Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management’s Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments*, and other reporting model-related pronouncements (Statements No. 35, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management’s Discussion and Analysis – for Public Colleges and Universities*, No. 37, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management’s Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments: Omnibus*, No. 41, *Budgetary Comparison Schedules – Perspective Differences*, and No. 46, *Net Assets Restricted by Enabling Legislation, and Interpretation No. 6, Recognition and Measurement of Certain Liabilities and Expenditures in Governmental Fund Financial Statements*). The objective of these improvements would be to enhance the effectiveness of the model in providing information that is essential for decision-making and enhance the ability to assess a government’s accounting and address certain application issues, based upon the results of the pre-agenda research on the financial reporting model. The project is currently in deliberations with an exposure draft expected in March 2020, with a final statement in November 2021.
- **Revenue and Expense Recognition.** The objective of this project is to develop a comprehensive application model for the recognition of revenues and expenses that arise from nonexchange, exchange, and exchange-like transactions, including guidance for exchange transactions that has not been specifically addressed in the current literature. The purpose for developing a comprehensive model is (1) to improve the information regarding revenues and expenses that users need to make decisions and assess accountability, (2) to provide guidance regarding exchange and exchange-like transactions that have not been specifically addressed, (3) to evaluate revenue and expense recognition in the context of the conceptual framework, and (4) to address application issues identified in practice, based upon the results of the pre-agenda research on revenue for exchange and exchange-like transactions. The project is currently in deliberations with an exposure draft expected in March 2021, with a final statement in June 2022.
- **Capitalization of Interest Cost.** The objective of this project is to reconsider the accounting and financial reporting standards for capitalization of interest cost, with the goal of enhancing the relevance of capital asset information and potentially simplifying financial reporting. In particular, the guidance will be reviewed in light of the definitions of financial statement elements now established in the GASB’s conceptual framework. This project has been added to the current technical agenda, with a final statement expected in June 2018.

ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS
(Continued)

CURRENT GASB PROJECTS (Continued)

- ***Equity Interest Ownership Issues.*** This project will address certain issues related to the reporting of majority equity ownership in legally separate entities. The project will consider improvements to the existing guidance in Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, on the presentation of ownership interest in a legally separate entity. The project also will consider improvements to the recognition and measurement guidance for wholly-owned legally separate entities that are presented as component units. The project is currently in deliberations with a final statement expected in November 2018.

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

Honorable Members of Town Council
Town of Vinton, Virginia

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, collectively hereafter referred to as the “Town”, for the year ended June 30, 2017. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated May 18, 2017. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

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 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2017. 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 financial statements are described below.

- Management’s estimate of the useful lives of capital assets, the allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable, and the value of inventory are based on management’s knowledge and judgment, which is based on historical review of capital asset usage, the collectability of aged accounts receivable, and lower of cost or market, respectively.
- Management’s estimate of the annual required contribution, other post-employment benefits (OPEB) costs, and ultimate OPEB obligation are based on third-party actuarial calculations and assumptions that utilize census data provided by management.
- The net pension liability is based on an actuarial study provided by actuaries engaged by the Virginia Retirement System.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that, except for the value of inventory, they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Significant Audit Findings (Continued)

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices (Continued)

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements include:

- Capital assets, long-term liabilities, defined benefit pension plan, other postemployment benefits, commitments and contingencies, and major customer/taxpayer.

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

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our 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 trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements.

The following misstatements, detected as a result of audit procedures and either corrected or uncorrected by management, were deemed immaterial to the financial statements taken as a whole. All amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Corrected Misstatement:

- An entry in the amount of \$23,000 to decrease water and sewer accounts receivable and water and sewer revenue to correct unbilled accounts receivable at June 30.

Uncorrected Misstatement:

Management has determined that the effect of the following uncorrected misstatement is immaterial to the financial statements.

- \$4,000 to increase inventory and decrease supplies expense to record additional inventory at year-end that was not included on the final inventory listing.

In addition, as part of our engagement terms with the Town, we assisted with year-end entries related to pensions.

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 November 15, 2017, a copy of which is attached.

Management's 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 Town'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.

Significant Audit Findings (Continued)

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.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the 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 were not engaged to report on the introductory and statistical sections, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Restriction on Use

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

Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Roanoke, Virginia
November 15, 2017



Town of Vinton

311 S. Pollard Street
Vinton, VA 24179
Phone (540) 983-0607
Fax (540) 983-0626

November 15, 2017

Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P.
Certified Public Accountants
319 McClanahan Street, S.W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24014-7705

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audits of the financial statements of Town of Vinton, Virginia (the "Town"), which comprise the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of November 15, 2017, the following representations made to you during your audit.

Financial Statements

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated May 18, 2017, including our responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP and for preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria.
- 2) The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with U.S. GAAP and include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- 3) We acknowledge our responsibility for 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.
- 4) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- 5) Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Financial Statements (Continued)

- 6) Related party relationships and transactions, including revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 7) Adjustments or disclosures have been made for all events, including instances of noncompliance, subsequent to the date of the financial statements that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements or in the schedule of findings and responses.
- 8) The effect of the following uncorrected misstatement is immaterial to the financial statements.
 - a) \$3,800 to increase inventory and decrease supplies expense to record additional inventory at yearend that was not on the final inventory listing.
- 9) The effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 10) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the Town is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.
- 11) We have provided the planning communication letter to all members of those charged with governance as requested.

Information Provided

- 12) We have provided you with:
 - a) Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters and all audit or relevant monitoring reports, if any, received from funding sources, if applicable.
 - b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c) Unrestricted access to persons within the Town from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d) Minutes of the meetings of Town Council or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- 13) All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- 14) We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- 15) We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the Town and involves:
 - a) Management,
 - b) Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
 - c) Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 16) We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Town's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators, or others.
- 17) We have no knowledge of instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

Information Provided (Continued)

- 18) We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- 19) We have disclosed to you the identity of the Town's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Government – Specific

- 20) There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
- 21) We have taken timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud, noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or abuse that you have reported to us, if applicable.
- 22) We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations, if applicable.
- 23) We have identified to you any previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- 24) We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for the report, if applicable.
- 25) The Town has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
- 26) We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- 27) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances, which have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws and regulations that we believe have a material effect on the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance.
- 28) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances, which have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of noncompliance with provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
- 29) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of abuse that could be quantitatively or qualitatively material to the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
- 30) There are no violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, laws and regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.

Government – Specific (Continued)

- 31) As part of your audit, you assisted with preparation of the financial statements and related notes, pension entries, and tax reconciliation. We acknowledge our responsibility as it relates to those nonaudit services, including that we assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services performed; and accept responsibility for the results of the services. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements and related notes, pension entries, and reconciliations.
- 32) We understand that you prepared the trial balance for use during the audit and that your preparation of the trial balance was limited to formatting information into a working trial balance based on management's chart of accounts.
- 33) The Town has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
- 34) The Town has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
- 35) The financial statements include all component units, if applicable as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures and other related organizations.
- 36) The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities, in accordance with GASB Statement No. 34.
- 37) All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASBS Nos. 34 and 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
- 38) Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted), and components of fund balance (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
- 39) Investments, derivative instruments, and land and other real estate held by endowments are properly valued.
- 40) Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
- 41) Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
- 42) Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
- 43) Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
- 44) Special and extraordinary items are appropriately classified and reported, if applicable.
- 45) Deposits and investment securities and derivative instruments are properly classified as to risk and are properly disclosed.
- 46) Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
- 47) We believe that the actuarial assumption and methods used to measure pension and OPEB liabilities and costs for financial accounting purposed are appropriate in the circumstances.

Government – Specific (Continued)

- 48) We have not completed the process of evaluating the impact that will result from adopting new *Governmental Accounting Standards* Board Statements that are not yet effective, as discussed in the notes to financial statements. The Town is therefore unable to disclose the impact that adopting these Statements will have on its financial position and the results of its operations when the Statements are adopted.
- 49) We agree with the findings of specialists in evaluating the accrual of pension and other post-employment retirement benefits and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialist in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an impact on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.
- 50) We believe that the actuarial assumptions and methods used to measure pension and OPEB liabilities and costs for financial accounting purposes are appropriate in the circumstances, if applicable.
- 51) We have appropriately disclosed the Town's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available and have determined that net position is properly recognized under the policy.
- 52) We are following our established accounting policy regarding which resources (that is, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned) are considered to be spent first for expenditures for which more than one resource classification is available. That policy determines the fund balance classifications for financial reporting purposes.
- 53) We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
- 54) With respect to the supplementary information on which an in-relation-to opinion is issued.
 - a) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the supplementary in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.
 - b) If the supplementary information is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
- 55) Expenditures of federal awards were below the \$750,000 threshold in the audit period, and we were not required to have an audit in accordance with Uniform Guidance.

Government – Specific (Continued)

56) We reaffirm the representations made to you in our letter dated November 18, 2016 regarding your audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

Signature: Gary W. Thompson
Title: Town Manager

Signature: Anne W. Cantell
Title: Treasurer/Finance Director