

# ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

**DATE:** October 20, 2017

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Roberta Lambert, County Administrator  
County of Highland, Virginia

**FROM:** Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates

**REGARDING:** FY 17 Audit

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the County of Highland, Virginia for the year ended June 30, 2017, we considered the County's internal controls to plan our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal controls.

However, during our audit, we noted certain matters involving the internal controls and other operational matters that are presented for your consideration. This letter does not affect our report, dated October 20, 2017, on the financial statements of the County of Highland, Virginia. Our comments and recommendations, all of which have been discussed with appropriate members of management, are intended to improve the internal controls or result in other operating efficiencies. We will be pleased to discuss these comments in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations.

## **County**

### **Internal Control over Payroll**

Based upon our audit procedures it was disclosed that the payroll processing duties are concentrated in one employee. In order to provide greater control over this area, we suggest that management implement a review process for the payroll report prepared and processed by the County for each payroll period. We also suggest that documentation of the review of these reports be made on the reports and maintained.

### **Component Unit – School Board**

#### **Credit Card Support**

During the audit process, it was determined that several receipts and/or other supporting documentation for charges made to the School Board's credit cards were not maintained. This practice could result in the payment of unsubstantiated expenses. We recommend that the School Board adhere to its policy requiring card users to submit supporting receipts and appropriate forms within five (5) working days of the activity.

### **Governmental Accounting Standards Board Pronouncements**

In order to assist your staff in preparing for upcoming accounting changes, we have included the following summaries of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements that will affect the County in upcoming years.

Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pension*, improves accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for postemployment benefits other than pensions (other postemployment benefits or OPEB). 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. This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017.

## **Governmental Accounting Standards Board Pronouncements (Continued)**

Statement No. 81, Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements, improves 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. The requirements of this Statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and should be applied retroactively. 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. This Statement establishes criteria for determining the timing and pattern of recognition of a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow of resources for AROs. The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2018.

Statement No. 84, Fiduciary Activities, 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. 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. 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. The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018.

Statement No. 86, Certain Debt Extinguishment Issues, 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. The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2017.

Statement No. 87, Leases, 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. The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019.