

REPORT TO THE BOARD

May 28, 2020

To the Supervisor and Members
of the Town Board
Town of Ulster, New York

Dear Board Members:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Ulster, New York (the Town) for the year ended December 31, 2019. 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 engagement letter. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Accounting Principles

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. Significant accounting policies used by the Town are described in note 1 to the financial statements. 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.

As described in note 1(o) to the financial statements, the Town adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No 84 - "Fiduciary Activities," during the year ended December 31, 2019.

Accounting Estimates

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:

- Management's estimate of the compensated absences liability is based on vested accumulated sick, vacation and/or leave payouts.

- Pension plans - Management's estimate for pension plan amounts are derived from reports provided by New York State and Local Retirement System.
- Total OPEB liability - Management's estimate of postemployment benefits is calculated using assumptions for future years health care benefits and contributions. Full detail of assumptions is located in note 4 of the financial statements.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used by management in determining that accounting estimates were reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Significant Disclosures

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

- The disclosure of retirement plans in note 3.
- The disclosure of total other postemployment benefits liability in note 4.
- The disclosure of tax abatements in note 5.
- The disclosure of contingencies in note 6.

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 misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this report, 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 auditors' 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.

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 Town’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors’ 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.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to management’s discussion and analysis, the schedule of changes in the Town’s total OPEB liability and related ratios, the schedule of Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liabilities, the schedule of Town’s pension contributions, and the statements of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balances - budget to actual for the general, highway, sewer and water funds, which are 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 engaged to report on the other supplementary information, which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

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

Very truly yours,

EFPR Group, CPAs, PLLC

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