



February 17, 2023

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To the Members of the Town Council and Town Manager
Town of Merrimack
6 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

Dear Members of the Town Council and Town Manager:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, major governmental and proprietary fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Merrimack for the year ended June 30, 2022 and have issued our report thereon dated February 14, 2023. Professional standards require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated August 1, 2022, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Town of Merrimack solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you in our engagement letter dated August 1, 2022.

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our Firm, as appropriate and our Firm, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

We follow the AICPA Ethics Standard Rule 201 and in conjunction with the Firm's Quality Control Document, we annually review with all engagement staff potential conflicts and obtain an independence certification. In addition, we inquire on each engagement about potential conflicts with staff. We have not identified any relationships or other matters that in the auditor's judgment may be reasonably thought to bear on independence.

PLODZIK & SANDERSON, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants

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Significant Risks Identified

We have identified the following significant risks:

- Management override of controls;
- Improper revenue recognition; and
- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Town of Merrimack is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. As described in Note 2-C to the financial statements, the Town of Merrimack changed accounting principles to change the way the Town reports leases, by adopting Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*, in the fiscal year 2022. The Town had no leases that would qualify under this pronouncement. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on 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 markedly from management's current judgments.

The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements are:

Management's estimate of the capital asset useful lives is based on historical information and industry guidance. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the capital asset useful lives in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the allowance for uncollectible property taxes are based on historical data and information known concerning the assessment appeals. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the uncollectible property taxes in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the uncollectible ambulance receivables is based on knowledge of past collection rates. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the uncollectible ambulance receivables in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the accrued landfill postclosure care costs is based on estimates provided by the Town's engineer. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used, by the Town's engineer, to develop the accrued landfill postclosure care costs in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the net pension liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are based on assumptions of future events, such as employment, mortality and estimates of value of reported amounts. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net pension liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the other postemployment benefit liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources are based on the assumption of future events, such as employment, mortality, and healthcare cost trend, as well as estimates of the value of reported amounts. We evaluated key factors and assumptions used to develop the



other postemployment benefits liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to the other postemployment benefits in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial Statement Disclosures

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

Significant Unusual Transactions

There are no significant or unusual transactions identified during our audit.

Significant Difficulties Encountered During the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

None of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit'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 February 14, 2023.

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 of Merrimack'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.

Key Audit Matters

We have determined that there are no key audit matters to communicate.

Other Audit Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the Town of Merrimack, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the Town, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the Town of Merrimack's auditors.

Capital Asset Policy

We noted that the Town does not have a policy regarding capital assets. The Town should have a policy regarding capital assets which would describe the thresholds for capitalization of expenditures as well as the useful lives of various categories of assets as determined by management. We recommend that the Town adopt a capital asset policy in line with their current practices.



Other Matters

Implementation of New GASB Pronouncements

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued several pronouncements that have effective dates that may impact future financial presentations. Management has not currently determined what, if any, impact implementation of the following statements may have on the financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*, issued in May 2019, will be effective for the Town with its fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. This Statement will provide a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations and eliminate differences in practice.

GASB Statement No. 92, *Omnibus 2020*, issued in January 2020, will be effective for the Town with its fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements.

GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, issued in March 2020, will be effective for the Town with its fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The objectives of this Statement are to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (PPPs).

GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, issued in May 2020, will be effective for the Town with its fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The objectives of this Statement are to provide guidance on accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements for government end users.

GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2021*, issued in April 2022, will be effective for the Town with its fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees.

GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections—an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*, issued in June 2022, will be effective for the Town with its fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The primary objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability.

GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, issued in June 2022, will be effective for the Town with its fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences.

We applied certain limited procedures to the following, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis,
- Schedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability,
- Schedule of Town Contributions – Pensions,
- Schedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of the Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability,
- Schedule of Town Contributions – Other Postemployment Benefits,
- Schedule of Changes in the Town's Total Other Postemployment Benefits Liability and Related Ratios, and
- Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

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 combining and individual fund schedules, and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, which accompany the financial statements but are 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.

Restriction on Use

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

Respectfully,

Plodzick & Sanderson

PLODZIK & SANDERSON
Professional Association
Concord, New Hampshire

