

**CITY OF WHITEWATER
WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN**

**REQUIRED AUDIT COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Year Ended December 31, 2021

**Johnson Block & Company, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants
9701 Brader Way, Suite 202
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562
(608) 274-2002**

**CITY OF WHITEWATER
WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN**

Year Ended December 31, 2021

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AUDIT MATTERS REQUIRING COMMUNICATION TO THE GOVERNING BODY

To the City Council
City of Whitewater
Whitewater, Wisconsin

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Whitewater for the year ended December 31, 2021. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted 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 December 21, 2021. Professional standards 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 City of Whitewater are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted in 2021. We noted no transactions entered into by the City of Whitewater 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 City of Whitewater's financial statements were:

- Depreciation - Management's estimates of the depreciable lives of property and equipment are based on the expected use of the respective assets and management's experience with similar assets used by the City of Whitewater.
- WRS Pension and Life Insurance Liability and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources - Management's estimate of the pension liability and deferred outflows and inflows of resources are based on various factors. These estimates are computed by the pension plan administrator.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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. Management has elected not to accrue the liability related to the actuarial determined OPEB for retiree health insurance related to the implicit rate subsidy. It was not material. The uncorrected misstatements or the matters underlying them could potentially cause future period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though, in our judgment, such uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements under audit. The addendum to this letter contains adjustments detected as part of the audit.

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 April 15, 2022.

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 City of Whitewater's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on these 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 principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the City of Whitewater'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 budgetary comparison information, and the Wisconsin Retirement System schedules, 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.

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Johnson Block & Company, Inc.

Johnson Block & Company, Inc.
April 15, 2022



MANAGEMENT LETTER

To the City Council
City of Whitewater
Whitewater, Wisconsin

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the City of Whitewater for the year ended December 31, 2021, we considered the City of Whitewater's internal control in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

However, during our audit we became aware of other matters that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. The following pages that accompany this letter summarize our comments and suggestions regarding those matters. This letter does not affect our report dated April 15, 2022, on the financial statements of the City of Whitewater.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many courtesies extended to us by the City of Whitewater's personnel during the course of our work.

We shall be pleased to discuss any of the matters referred to in this letter. Should you desire assistance in implementing any of the following suggestions, we would welcome the opportunity of assisting you in these matters.

Johnson Block & Company, Inc.

Johnson Block & Company, Inc.
April 15, 2022

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ADJUSTING JOURNAL ENTRIES

As your auditor, our role is to substantiate year-end financial balances and information presented by your accounting personnel, and compare it to supporting information and outside confirmations. When information in your records does not agree with audit evidence, an adjusting entry is necessary to correct your records. Sometimes these entries are identified by your staff as they get ready for the audit. Other adjustments are prepared by us as we discover that your general ledger balances need to be changed to reflect the correct balances.

The proposed entries were accepted by the City of Whitewater's management. All of these changes are reflected properly in your audited financial statements. A copy of the adjusting entries has been provided to your staff and they have been posted to your 2021 general ledger.

Due to the technical nature of financial reporting and complying with financial reporting standards, most clients have their CPA firm prepare the year-end financial statements and note disclosures. We have provided these services to your City.

We are communicating this information to you to give you a better understanding of what we do and how the year-end process works. Our job as auditors is to bring in an outside perspective and provide a level of comfort that your financial reporting system is materially correct and accurately reflects the financial activity for the year. However, in many cases, our services go beyond auditing. Our experience and training can provide a very cost-effective means of providing the year-end accounting assistance that you need.

We hope that by providing this information on what we do, you will have a better understanding of our role, and the various ways that we work with your staff.

PASSED JOURNAL ENTRIES

Passed journal entries may occur due to transaction timing, industry practices or lack of overall significance. The liability for health insurance OPEBs was considered immaterial.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Aquatic Center Revenue Projections

While formulating the budget for the Aquatic Center, we recommend that the City of Whitewater also perform revenue projections to gain a more accurate understanding of the fees and other funds the Aquatic Center expects to receive during the year. An example of a potential projection test would be to identify (or estimate) the number of memberships and perform an analysis based off of membership fees for each membership category.

Current Year comment – The City has worked on getting projections in its budget process. The Aquatic Center had a deficit of \$413,428 as of December 31, 2021. This deficit requires an advance of funds from the City and increased subsidies from the general fund.

Leases

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 87 (GASB 87), Leases, effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2021. GASB 87 will significantly change the criteria and conditions for classifying leases. It includes guidance for both lessees and lessors and must be implemented for the year ended December 31, 2022. (Implementation has been delayed 18 months due to COVID-19 but early implementation is still allowed).

GASB 87 defines a lease 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. Examples of nonfinancial assets most commonly include buildings, land, vehicles, and equipment. New lease accounting will include any contracts that meet the GASB 87 definition of a lease, even if the contracts do not identify the agreements as leases. Applicable leases may include water tower/cell phone tower leases, electric pole rental, etc.

GASB 87 requires similar reporting of all leases entered into by the governmental unit. A lessee is required to recognize an asset and lease liability on the statement of net position. With each year of the lease, amortization and interest expense will be allocated to the statement of activities until the lease term is complete.

Leases that meet a “short-term” criteria will continue to be reported as expenses/expenditures by lessees based on the required payments in the lease contract. Short-term leases are defined as contracts with a maximum possible term of 12 months or less.

A listing of all contracts for consideration of meeting the definition of a lease needs to be started and continuously updated. The listing should include key terms of the contracts, including:

- Description of contract
- Underlying asset
- Contract term
- Options for extensions and terminations
- Service components, if any (portion of contract for services, not control of the assets, are expensed)
- Dollar amount of lease

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We will continue requesting potential contracts that meet the definition of a lease and are available to assist with initial and annual journal entries related to implementation of this new standard.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

We would like to thank you for allowing us to serve you. We are committed to assisting you in the long-term financial success of the City of Whitewater and our comments are intended to draw to your attention issues which need to be addressed by the City to meet its goals and responsibilities.

The comments and suggestions in this communication are not intended to reflect in any way on the integrity or ability of the personnel of the City of Whitewater. They are made solely in the interest of establishing sound internal control practices required by changing professional standards. The City of Whitewater's staff is deeply committed to maintaining the financial reporting system so that informed decisions can be made. They were receptive to our comments and suggestions.

We will review the status of these comments during each audit engagement.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this communication or the financial statements, do not hesitate to contact us.