

**CITY OF WHITEWATER
WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN
REQUIRED AUDIT COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Year Ended December 31, 2022

**Johnson Block & Company, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants
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**CITY OF WHITEWATER
WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN**

Year Ended December 31, 2022

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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, 2022. 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, 2022. 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. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the City implemented accounting policies and financial statement presentation changes by adopting Statement of Governmental Accounting Standards (GASB Statement) No. 87, Leases, effective January 1, 2022. 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.
- Management's estimates of the other postemployment benefits are based on various factors. The estimated liabilities were computed by an actuarial study.
- Management's estimate of accrued compensated absences liability is based on the remaining accrued hours earned by the eligible employees of the Village.



- Management's estimate of leased receivable, deferred lease inflows and lease revenue are based on applicable lease terms, projected future payments, and a discount rate.

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. The entries made included reclassification entries related to debt issuance expenses, an adjustment to accrued interest, an accrual of WRS pension assets, lease receivable entries, equity additions related to the City's fire and EMS fund, and capitalization of CDA assets. Management was involved in the determination of these entries.

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 June 2, 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 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.
June 2, 2023



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, 2022, 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 June 2, 2023, 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.
June 2, 2023

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 2022 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 the lawsuit settlement was considered immaterial.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Aquatic Center Revenue Projections

While formulating the budget for the Aquatic Center, we recommend that the City of Whitewater address the fund deficit in the Aquatic center.

Current Year comment – The City has worked on getting projections in its budget process. The Aquatic Center had a deficit of \$425,029 as of December 31, 2022. This deficit requires an advance of funds from the City and increased subsidies from the general fund. The city is in the process of negotiations with the School District and formalizing a plan for long-term stability.

Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 96 (GASB 96), Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA). GASB 96 provides guidance on accounting for SBITA when a government contracts for the right to use another party's software. The standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in GASB Statement No. 87, Leases. GASB 96 is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022.

A SBITA is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use a vendor's software, alone or in combination with the underlying information technology (IT) assets, as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.

A SBITA can be for software as a service, infrastructure as a service, or a platform as a service arrangement. One important question to ask when determining if a SBITA exists is: will this software no longer work/will we no longer be able to log in once the contract term ends? If your answer is yes, it is likely that a SBITA exists.

The subscription term includes the period during which a government has a noncancelable right to use the underlying IT assets. The subscription term also includes periods covered by an option to extend or to terminate (if it is reasonably certain that the government or SBITA vendor will not exercise that option).

When applicable under GASB 96, a government will recognize a right to use subscription asset and a corresponding subscription liability.

GASB 96 provides an exception for short-term SBITAs. Short-term SBITAs have a maximum possible term under the SBITA contract of 12-months (or less), including any options to extend, regardless of their probability of being exercised. Subscription payments for short-term SBITAs should be recognized as outflows of resources (for example, expenditures).

We are here to help. Ongoing tracking and annual journal entries may be a large undertaking for our clients. To assist with GASB 96 compliance, many different accounting software packages are available for purchase. Instead of our clients potentially purchasing new software, we will be offering a new nonaudit service. This service will include tracking of SBITA in a software purchased by Johnson Block and Company, Inc. Our software will make the necessary calculations needed to record the annual GASB 96 journal entries.

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.