
Certified Public Accountants

September 25, 2019

The General Manager and Members of
the Buffalo Sewer Authority Board
Buffalo Sewer Authority
10th Floor City Hall
Buffalo, New York 14202-3378

We have audited the financial statements of the Buffalo Sewer Authority (the “Authority”) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated September 25, 2019. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated June 3, 2019, 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 Authority 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.

We have provided our comments regarding other matters noted during our audit in a separate letter to you dated September 25, 2019.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

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.

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 Authority is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. Except for the matters discussed below, there have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during the year ended June 30, 2019.

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, during the year ended June 30, 2019, the Authority implemented GASB Statements No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* and No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements*. GASB Statement No. 83 establishes criteria for determining the timing and pattern of recognition of a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow for asset retirement obligations. GASB Statement No. 88 improves the information that is disclosed in notes to government financial statements related to debt, including direct borrowings and direct placements, and clarifies which liabilities governments should include when disclosing information related to debt. GASB Statements No. 83 and 88 did not have a material impact on the Authority's financial position or results from operations.

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 for the year ended June 30, 2019 are the allowance for receivables, and the liabilities for compensated absences, judgments and claims, other postemployment benefits obligation and the net pension liability.

Management's estimate of the allowance for receivables is based on historical collections. Management's estimate of the liability for compensated absences is based on available information regarding eligibility, leave balances accrued and current compensation rates. Management's estimates of the liability for judgments and claims, other postemployment benefits obligation and the net pension liability are based on information obtained from third party specialists, including information obtained from insurance companies, loss run reports obtained from third party administrators, and an actuarial valuation performed by a consultant. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates and determined that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

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

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole and each applicable opinion unit. Management has corrected all identified misstatements.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. Material misstatements that we identified as a result of our audit procedures were brought to the attention of, and corrected by, management. Those items are included within the adjusting journal entries for the year ended June 30, 2019, which are attached to the management representation letter dated September 25, 2019 as Exhibit I (copy attached).

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the Authority's financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain representations from management, which are included in the attached letter dated September 25, 2019.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other Significant Matters, Findings or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the Authority, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, 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 Authority's auditors.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board Members and management of the Authority and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drescher & Malecki LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 25, 2019