

# **CITY OF STOUGHTON**

Stoughton, Wisconsin

**COMMUNICATION TO THOSE CHARGED  
WITH GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2018

# CITY OF STOUGHTON

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**REQUIRED COMMUNICATION OF INTERNAL CONTROL RELATED MATTERS  
IDENTIFIED IN THE AUDIT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

To the City Council  
City of Stoughton  
Stoughton, Wisconsin

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the City of Stoughton as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered its internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of its internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of its internal control.

A separate report on Internal Control was issued to the Utility Commission. The information contained in that report is not included with this report.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the following deficiencies in the city's internal control to be material weaknesses:

- > Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
- > Internal Control Environment

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the city management, the city council, and others within the organization and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP*

Madison, Wisconsin  
May 3, 2019

Auditing standards require that we perform procedures to obtain an understanding of your government and its internal control environment as part of the annual audit. This includes an analysis of significant transaction cycles and an analysis of the city's year-end financial reporting process and preparation of your financial statements.

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## **INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

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Properly designed systems of internal control provides your organization with the ability to process and record accurate monthly and year end transactions and prepare annual financial reports.

Our audit includes a review and evaluation of the city's internal controls relating to financial reporting. Common attribute of a properly designed system of internal control for financial reporting is as follows:

- > Material misstatements are identified and corrected during the normal course of duties.

Our evaluation of the city's internal controls relating to financial reporting has identified a control deficiency that is considered a material weakness.

Material misstatements in the general ledger were identified during the financial audit.

This level of internal control over financial reporting can be a difficult task for governments that operate with only enough staff to process monthly transactions and reports, and often rely on their auditors to prepare certain year-end audit entries.

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## **INTERNAL CONTROL ENVIRONMENT**

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A properly designed system of internal control includes adequate staffing as well as policies and procedures to properly segregate duties. This includes systems that are designed to limit the access or control of any one individual to your government's assets or accounting records, and to achieve a higher likelihood that errors or irregularities in the city's accounting processes would be discovered by your staff in a timely manner.

At this time, due to staffing and financial limitations, the city does not have proper internal controls in place to achieve adequate segregation of duties. As a result, errors or irregularities could occur as part of the financial process that may not be discovered by the city. Therefore, we are reporting a material weakness related to the city's internal control environment.

There are also certain controls that are not currently in place related to significant transaction cycles. As a result, there is a risk that erroneous or unauthorized transactions or misstatements could occur without the knowledge of management or the governing body. Our recommendations for strengthening controls are listed below.

### ***CONTROLS OVER PROPERTY TAXES***

Bank reconciliations should be performed by someone independent of the tax collection process.

We recommend that a designated employee review the segregation of duties, risks, and these potential controls and determine whether additional controls should be implemented. This determination should take into consideration a cost/benefit analysis.

**OTHER COMMUNICATIONS TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

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## **TWO WAY COMMUNICATION REGARDING YOUR AUDIT**

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As part of our audit of your financial statements, we are providing communications to you throughout the audit process. Auditing requirements provide for two-way communication and are important in assisting the auditor and you with more information relevant to the audit.

As this past audit is concluded, we use what we have learned to begin the planning process for next year's audit. It is important that you understand the following points about the scope and timing of our next audit:

- a. We address the significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, through our detailed audit procedures.
- b. We will obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control sufficient to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. We will obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to evaluate the design of controls relevant to an audit of financial statements and to determine whether they have been implemented. We will use such knowledge to:
  - > Identify types of potential misstatements.
  - > Consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement.
  - > Design tests of controls, when applicable, and substantive procedures.

We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant programs.

- c. The concept of materiality recognizes that some matters, either individually or in the aggregate, are important for fair presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles while other matters are not important. In performing the audit, we are concerned with matters that, either individually or in the aggregate, could be material to the financial statements. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material misstatements, whether caused by errors or fraud, are detected.
- d. Your financial statements contain components, as defined by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of American, which we also audit.

We are very interested in your views regarding certain matters. Those matters are listed here:

- a. We typically will communicate with your top level of management unless you tell us otherwise.
- b. We understand that the city council has the responsibility to oversee the strategic direction of your organization, as well as the overall accountability of the entity. Management has the responsibility for achieving the objectives of the entity.
- c. We need to know your views about your organization's objectives and strategies, and the related business risks that may result in material misstatements.
- d. Which matters do you consider warrant particular attention during the audit, and are there any areas where you request additional procedures to be undertaken?
- e. Have you had any significant communications with regulators or grantor agencies?
- f. Are there other matters that you believe are relevant to the audit of the financial statements?

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**TWO WAY COMMUNICATION REGARDING YOUR AUDIT (cont.)**

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Also, is there anything that we need to know about the attitudes, awareness, and actions of the city concerning:

- a. The city's internal control and its importance in the entity, including how those charged with governance oversee the effectiveness of internal control?
- b. The detection or the possibility of fraud?

We also need to know if you have taken actions in response to developments in financial reporting, laws, accounting standards, governance practices, or other related matters, or in response to previous communications with us.

With regard to the timing of our audit, here is some general information. If necessary, we may do preliminary audit work during the months of October-December, and sometimes early January. Our final fieldwork is scheduled during the spring to best coincide with your readiness and report deadlines. After fieldwork, we wrap up our audit procedures at our office and may issue drafts of our report for your review. Final copies of our report and other communications are issued after approval by your staff. This is typically 6-12 weeks after final fieldwork, but may vary depending on a number of factors.

Keep in mind that while this communication may assist us with planning the scope and timing of the audit, it does not change the auditor's sole responsibility to determine the overall audit strategy and the audit plan, including the nature, timing, and extent of procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

We realize that you may have questions on what this all means, or wish to provide other feedback. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you.



**COMMUNICATION OF OTHER CONTROL DEFICIENCIES, RECOMMENDATIONS  
AND INFORMATIONAL POINTS TO MANAGEMENT THAT ARE NOT  
MATERIAL WEAKNESSES OR SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES**

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## **PRIOR YEAR POINT**

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### ***COLLATERAL FOR BANK DEPOSITS (PER 12/31/08 LETTER)***

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 40 requires disclosures about various risks associated with the city's deposits and investments. These disclosures can be found in Note IV.A of the financial statements.

One of the required disclosures is custodial credit risk. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the city's deposits may not be returned. To address this risk, the city has collateral agreements with its primary bank to cover deposits in excess of the FDIC limits. However, a portion of the city's deposits and investments was exposed to custodial credit risk because the collateral was insufficient to cover all city deposits. In addition, the current collateral agreement in place with the city's primary bank allows for the collateral to be held in the trust department of this bank. GASB No. 40 states that this type of custodial arrangement exposes the city to greater risk than if the collateral was held by an independent third party custodian.

We recommend that the city evaluate its current collateral situation to determine if adjustments are desired.

### ***Status (12/31/18)***

A total of \$4,386,025 of deposits and investments were exposed to some level of custodial credit risk as of December 31, 2018.

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## **INFORMATIONAL POINTS**

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### ***DECENTRALIZED CASH COLLECTIONS***

As part of our annual audit process, we focus our efforts on the primary accounting systems, internal controls, and procedures used by the city. This is in keeping with our goal to provide an audit opinion which states that the financial statements of the city are correct in all material respects.

In some cases, the primary system of accounting procedures and controls of the city are supported by smaller systems which are decentralized, and reside within a department or outside location. Specifically, for the City of Stoughton, there are departments that collect cash and periodically remit those collections to city hall. Examples include the recreation department and senior center, among others.

Generally, the more centralized a function is, the easier it is to design and implement accounting controls that provide some level of checks and balances. That is because you are able to divide certain tasks over the people available to achieve some segregation of duties. For those tasks that are decentralized, it is usually very difficult to provide for proper segregation of duties. Therefore, with one person being involved in most or all aspects of a transaction, you lose the ability to rely on the controls to achieve the safeguarding of assets and reliability of financial records.

As auditors, we are required to communicate with you on a variety of topics. We believe it is appropriate to make sure that you are informed about the risks that can occur with decentralized cash collections.

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## **INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)**

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### ***CONTROLS OVER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY***

As part of our audit, we evaluated the information technology controls as they relate to financially significant applications. Our procedures primarily focused on documenting and evaluating general computer controls, including:

- > Logical access to data and applications
- > Change and incident management
- > Systems development and deployment
- > Data backup and recovery

The following points contain suggestions for strengthening internal controls in these areas.

- > Passwords should be changed every 90 days, require a minimum of 6 characters, require strong (complex) passwords, and password history should be remembered so users can't reuse recent (3-6) previous passwords. Additionally, users should lock after 3-5 failed login attempts.
- > Back-ups should be stored offsite or in a fire proof location.

We recommend that a designated employee review the risks and these potential controls and determine whether additional controls should be implemented. This determination should take into consideration a cost / benefit analysis.

### ***CYBER SECURITY MANAGEMENT***

The sources of cyber threats continue to grow in number and sophistication. We have seen social engineering, including email phishing, and ransomware attacks cause disruption and monetary losses in the government landscape. Cybersecurity controls are imperative and may be of several different types:

- > Preventative – activities that make attacks more difficult such as user access and password controls
- > Detective – activities conducted to discover security incidents such as automated or manual reviews of firewall and server logs
- > Responsive – activities performed once an incident has been identified such as a communication plan

Step one in determining which types of controls are best suited for your government is completing a data classification. This process includes identifying what types of data exist, determining data location, and measuring costs associated with the loss of data (i.e. – operational downtime, regulatory fines, or civil lawsuits). This information will help management and those charged with governance be able to evaluate the cost-benefit of control implementation. Even if your government has chosen to obtain cyber liability insurance to mitigate risk, the data classification remains an important exercise to help evaluate the policy coverage, pricing, and what, if any, exposure remains outside of your policy.

Data classification is only one piece of a sustainable cyber security management plan. We have professionals dedicated to cyber security and information technology risk to assist with your cyber security questions, assessments, and programs.

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## **INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)**

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### ***GOVERNMENT FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION: NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT***

When it comes to preventing and detecting fraud in government, being proactive is critical. In fact, government is the third most likely industry to be impacted by fraud. According to the audit standards, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management. To get started, your government should conduct a fraud risk assessment to identify where and how fraud might occur and what individuals may be in a position to commit fraud. Once you've identified your entity's fraud risk areas, the next step is to develop a fraud risk assessment and investigation policy.

As you begin your fraud risk assessment or develop tools to prevent and detect fraud, it is important to keep in mind the following information provided by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners:

- > Misappropriation of assets accounts for 87 percent of fraud
- > The primary internal control weaknesses observed are lack of internal controls, lack of management review, override of existing internal controls and poor tone at the top.
- > A tip is by far the most common detection method of fraud followed by internal audit and then management review. Consider providing and promoting a reporting mechanism for tips in your government.
- > The professional requirements and objectives of a financial audit are different than a forensic audit. Due to the nature of a financial audit, less than 10 percent of frauds have been discovered as a result of a financial audit conducted by an independent accounting firm.

Performing a fraud risk assessment will help determine what risks exist, how existing controls apply to those risks and where there are opportunities to enhance controls or accept the risk. We recommend your government consider performing one and periodically updating it. We are available to assist you with this process.

### ***GOVERNMENT FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION: VENDOR FRAUD***

Vendor fraud poses a unique threat to governments. Due to the public and transparent nature of operations, government entities have an increased susceptibility for this type of criminal activity. Since governments publish a significant amount of information online — for example, meeting minutes, which often contain vendor names, contract amounts and project status — it is easier for fraudsters to create falsified documents.

Fraud specialists have noted recent fraud cases where criminals falsified vendor change requests for legitimate vendors, including company addresses and bank account information for Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT). When governments unwittingly process these fraudulent changes, the perpetrators can collect payments on legitimate and approved vendor invoices — while legitimate vendors go unpaid. Preventing vendor fraud completely may be impossible; however, governments can go a long way towards protecting themselves by taking appropriate safety and control measures.

Help ensure your vendor transactions are secure and authentic by:

- > Performing a risk assessment that focuses on vendor accounts payable activities.
- > Periodically revisiting your control activities.
- > Educate your employees on potential fraud schemes.
- > Identify which vendors may be high-risk targets.

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## **INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)**

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### ***GOVERNMENT FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION: VENDOR FRAUD (cont.)***

Our fraud experts are also available to assist with your fraud risk questions, assessments, and programs.

### ***GASB UPDATES***

The Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) has been very active in recent years, issuing new standards at a fast pace. Over the next few years, your government will have many new standards to evaluate and implement. Here are the standards which may impact you in the next year:

- > GASB 83 provides accounting and financial reporting for asset retirement obligations, effective for reporting periods beginning on or after June 15, 2018
- > GASB 84 improves guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities and how they should be reported, effective for reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2018
- > GASB 88 improves certain disclosures related to debt, including direct borrowings and placements, effective for reporting periods beginning on or after June 15, 2018
- > GASB 90 clarifies accounting and financial reporting for majority equity interests, effective for reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2018

Other GASB pronouncements on the horizon, while the implementation dates are in the near term these are anticipated to have significant impacts on many government financial statements:

- > GASB 87 improves accounting and financial reporting for leases, effective for reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2019
- > GASB 89 provides guidance for accounting for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period, effective for reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2019

Looking even further ahead, the Technical Agenda, below, outlines significant areas GASB is currently working on:

- > Conceptual Framework
  - Disclosure
  - Recognition
- > Major Projects
  - Financial Reporting Model
  - Revenue and Expense Recognition
  - Public-Private Partnerships
- > Practice Issues
  - Conduit Debt
  - Deferred Compensation Plans
  - Secured Overnight Financing Rate
  - Subscription-Based IT arrangements
  - Implementation Guidance
- > Pre-Agenda Research
  - Going Concern
  - Compensated Absences
  - Prior-Period Adjustments, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections

Through our firm involvement on AICPA committees, Baker Tilly follows these developments closely so that we can help you prepare for the changes as they evolve. This participation also allows us to share with GASB the experiences and perspectives of our clients to potentially influence the direction of future projects.

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## **INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)**

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### ***GASB UPDATES (cont.)***

Full lists of projects, as well as many resources, are available on GASB's website which is located at [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org).

### ***RESOURCES FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARDS***

Expectations and accountability are at all-time high and the knowledge required to be an effective board member is substantial. As a benefit to our clients, we have compiled a number of resources dedicated to educating state and local government board members. Go to our Board Governance Resource Center at [www.bakertilly.com/board-governance](http://www.bakertilly.com/board-governance) for more information.

The Resource Center includes the following:

#### **Podcasts**

1. Managing cyber threats: Developing a sustainable cybersecurity program to address your unique risks
2. Understanding utility finances
3. Benefits of a fraud risk assessment
4. Financial ratios and benchmarks
5. Fund balance and other financial policies

#### **Articles**

1. Securitization of deposits and investments
2. Five easy internal controls your government should implement
3. Fund balance levels: What works for your government?
4. The importance of smart spending cuts

We encourage you to subscribe to our complimentary newsletter "Government Connection" to stay abreast of the latest issues impacting state and local governments. You can do so by clicking on the "subscribe" button and indicating "State and Local Government" as an area of interest on the subscription form. Also, if you or your board members have suggested topics to feature on our Board Governance webpage or Government Connection newsletter, we invite you to submit your ideas in person or online.

### ***UPCOMING LEASE STANDARD***

In June 2017, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued new guidance to establish a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. This standard is effective for fiscal years ending on or after December 31, 2020. Statement No. 87, *Leases*, requires recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that were previously classified as operating leases and recognize as inflows of resources or outflow of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract.

Under the new standard, a lease is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Control is defined by 1) the right to obtain the present service capacity from the use of the underlying asset and 2) the right to determine the nature and manner of use of the underlying asset. Any contract that meets this definition should be accounted for under the lease guidance, unless specifically excluded in this statement. Leases include contracts that, although not explicitly identified as leases, meet the above definition of a lease.

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**INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)**

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***UPCOMING LEASE STANDARD (cont.)***

There are some exemptions outlined in the standard including, intangible assets, service concession arrangements and supply contracts.

We recommend the city review this standard and start planning how this will affect your financial reporting. An inventory of all contracts that might meet the definition of a lease should be started. The contract listing should include key terms of the contracts such as:

- > Description of contract
- > Underlying asset
- > Contract term
- > Options for extensions and terminations
- > Service components, if any
- > Dollar amount of lease

In addition, the City of Stoughton should begin to establish a lease policy to address the treatment of common lease types, including a dollar threshold for each lease. We are available to discuss this further and help you develop an action plan.

**REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS BY THE AUDITOR TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**



To the City Council  
City of Stoughton  
Stoughton, Wisconsin

Thank you for using Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP as your auditor.

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of the City of Stoughton for the year ended December 31, 2018 and have issued our report thereon dated May 3, 2019. This letter presents communications required by our professional standards.

***OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA***

The objective of a financial statement audit is the expression of an opinion on the financial statements. We conducted the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are free of material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraud. Our audit included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit does not relieve management or the city council of their responsibilities.

As part of the audit we obtained an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. The audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control.

***OTHER INFORMATION IN DOCUMENTS CONTAINING AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

Our responsibility does not extend beyond the audited financial statements identified in this report. We do not have any obligation to and have not performed any procedures to corroborate other information contained in client prepared documents, such as official statements related to debt issues.

***PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT***

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our management letter about planning matters dated May 16, 2018, and our meeting with the finance committee and council on May 22, 2018.

***QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF THE ENTITY'S SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRACTICES***

***Accounting Policies***

Management is responsible for selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the City of Stoughton are described in Note I to the financial statements. We noted no transactions entered into by the City of Stoughton during the year that were both significant and unusual, and of which, under professional standards, we are required to inform you, or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

**QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF THE ENTITY'S SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRACTICES (cont.)**

**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 financial statements were:

1. Management's estimate of the allowance for uncollectible EMS receivables is based on historical collections.
2. Management's estimate of the net pension asset and related deferred outflows and inflows of resources is based on technical information obtained from the Wisconsin Retirement System.
3. Management's estimate of useful lives of capital assets.
4. Management's estimate of the firemen's pension liability and related deferred outflows and inflows is based on an actuarial study.

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

**Financial Statement Disclosures**

The disclosures in the notes to the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear.

**DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing our audit.

**CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatement identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.

A summary of uncorrected financial statement misstatements (A) follows this required communication.

Management has determined that their effects are immaterial to the financial statements taken as a whole. The following is a summary of material financial statement misstatements (audit adjustments):

	<u>Amount</u>
Transfer debt refunding to TIF 7	\$ 4,241,700
Set up retirement internal service fund	347,587
Record capital assets contributions for storm	481,166

In addition, we prepare GASB No. 34 conversion entries which are summarized in the "Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position" and the "Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities" in the financial statements.

(A) Related to post employment benefits and an unrecorded accounts payable.

### ***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 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.

### ***CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS***

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit'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.

### ***MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS***

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter. This letter follows this required communication.

### ***INDEPENDENCE***

We are not aware of any relationships between Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP and the city that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

Relating to our audit of the financial statements of the City of Stoughton for the year ended December 31, 2018, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP hereby confirms that we are, in our professional judgment, independent with respect to the city in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We provided no services to the city other than audit services provided in connection with the audit of the current year's financial statements and nonaudit services which in our judgment do not impair our independence:

- > Financial Statement Preparation
- > Adjusting Journal Entries
- > Compiled TIF Financial Statements
- > Compiled Regulatory Reports
- > Maintenance of capital asset records
- > Accounting assistance
- > Municipal advisory service

None of these nonaudit services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

### ***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 City of Stoughton'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 the 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 supplementary information which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to the 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 use of the city council and management and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the information included in this letter and any other matters. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you.

*Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP*

Madison, Wisconsin  
May 3, 2019

**SUMMARY OF UNCORRECTED FINANCIAL STATEMENT MISSTATEMENTS**

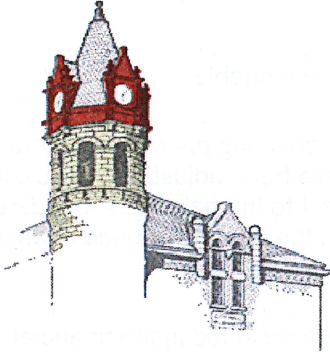
**City of Stoughton**  
**SUMMARY OF UNCORRECTED FINANCIAL STATEMENT MISSTATEMENTS**

December 31, 2018

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	Financial Statements Effect - Debit (Credit) to Financial Statement Total				
	<u>Total Assets/ Deferred Outflows</u>	<u>Total Liabilities/ Deferred Inflows</u>	<u>Total Net Position/ Fund Balances</u>	<u>Total Expenses/ Expenditures</u>	<u>Change in Net Position/ Fund Balances</u>
Governmental Activities	28,752	(898,551)	869,799	869,799	869,799
Business-Type Activities	10,058	(258,359)	248,301	248,301	248,301
General Fund	-	-	-	(35,200)	(35,200)
Water	1,885	(46,917)	45,032	45,032	45,032
Wastewater	1,953	(48,623)	46,670	46,670	46,670
Electric	5,654	(140,750)	135,095	135,095	135,095
Remaining Funds	566	(22,069)	21,504	21,504	21,504

## **MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS**



CITY OF STOUGHTON

381 East Main Street, Stoughton, WI 53589  
(608) 873-6677 [www.ci.stoughton.wi.us](http://www.ci.stoughton.wi.us)

May 3, 2019

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
Ten Terrace Court  
P.O.Box 7398  
Madison WI 53707-7398

Dear Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the City of Stoughton as of December 31, 2018 and for the year then ended for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Stoughton and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the previously mentioned financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting, and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your audit.

*Financial Statements*

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter.
2. The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have engaged you to advise us in fulfilling that responsibility. The financial statements include all properly classified funds of the primary government required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to be included in the financial reporting entity.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
4. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.



5. Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, if any, are reasonable.
6. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. No other events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the balance sheet date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the aforementioned financial statements.
7. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
8. We believe the effects of the uncorrected financial statement misstatements listed here are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole. The city chose not to record postemployment benefit liabilities and related deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources and expenses/expenditure for Governmental activities, Business-type activities, Water utility, Wastewater utility, Electric utility, EMS and Storm sewer enterprise funds. The liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, deferred outflows of resources and expenses/expenditures are understated and net position is overstated for each opinion unit. Amounts are listed in attached summary. The city had also chosen to not record an additional payable for the general fund in the amount of \$35,200, in 2017, so 2018 expenses and beginning of year fund balance are overstated for that fund. In addition, you have recommended adjusting journal entries, and we are in agreement with those adjustments.
9. There are no known or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. There are no unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
10. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the City is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

*Information Provided*

11. We have provided you with:
  - a. Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as financial records and related data, documentation, and other matters.
  - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
  - d. Minutes of the meetings of the City Council or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
12. We have not completed an assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
13. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
  - a. Management,
  - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
  - c. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
14. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others.

15. We have no knowledge of known instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

16. There are no known related parties or related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

*Other*

17. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.

18. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.

19. We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.

20. The City has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.

21. We are responsible for compliance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits, debt contracts, and IRS arbitrage regulations; and we have identified and disclosed to you all federal, state, and local laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.

22. There are no:

- a. Violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, federal, state, and local laws or regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance, except those already disclosed in the financial statement, if any.
- b. Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- c. Nonspendable, restricted, committed, or assigned fund balances that were not properly authorized and approved.
- d. Rates being charged to customers other than the rates as authorized by the applicable authoritative body.
- e. Violations of restrictions placed on revenues as a result of bond resolution covenants such as revenue distribution or debt service funding.

23. In regards to the nonattest services performed by you listed below, we have 1) accepted all management responsibility; 2) designated an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee the services; 3) evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed, and 4) accepted responsibility for the results of the services.

- a. Financial statement preparation
- b. Adjusting journal entries
- c. Compiled TIF financial statements
- d. Compiled regulatory reports
- e. Maintenance of capital asset records
- f. Accounting assistance
- g. Municipal advisory

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

24. The City of Stoughton has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
25. The City of Stoughton has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statement in the event of noncompliance.
26. There are no component units that should be disclosed in the financial statements. There are no joint ventures with an equity interest, and we have properly disclosed all other joint ventures and other related organizations.
27. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
28. All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement No. 34 and No. 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
29. Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and components of fund balance (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
30. The City of Stoughton has no derivative financial instruments such as contracts that could be assigned to someone else or net settled, interest rate swaps, collars or caps.
31. Provisions for uncollectible receivables, if any, have been properly identified and recorded.
32. Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
33. Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues and general revenues.
34. Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
35. Deposits and investments are properly classified, valued, and disclosed (including risk disclosures, collateralization agreements, valuation methods, and key inputs, as applicable).
36. Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated/amortized. Any known impairments have been recorded and disclosed.

37. Tax-exempt bonds issued have retained their tax-exempt status.
38. We have appropriately disclosed the City of Stoughton's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available and have determined that net position were properly recognized under the policy. We have also disclosed our policy regarding which resources (that is, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned) are considered to be spent first for expenditures for which more than one resource classification is available.
39. We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
40. With respect to the supplementary information, (SI):
- a. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SI in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the SI, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the SI have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.
  - b. If the SI is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
41. We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the information provided by the Wisconsin Retirement System as audited by the Legislative Audit Bureau relating to the net pension asset/liability and related deferred outflows and deferred inflows and have adequately considered the reasonableness of the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We also assume responsibility for the census data that has been reported to the plan.
42. We are responsible for the estimation methods and assumptions used in measuring assets and liabilities reported or disclosed at fair value, including information obtained from brokers, pricing services or third parties. Our valuation methodologies have been consistently applied from period to period. The fair value measurements reported or disclosed represent our best estimate of fair value as the measurement date in accordance with the requirements of GASB 72 – *Fair Value Measurement*. In addition our disclosures related to fair value measurements are consistent with the objectives outlined in GASB 72. We have evaluated the fair value information provided to us by brokers, pricing services or other parties that has been used in the financial statements and believe this information to be reliable and consistent with the requirements.

Sincerely,

City of Stoughton

Signed: 

Signed: 