

March 2, 2021

**VIA EMAIL:**

vance.holloman@apexnc.org

Mr. Vance Holloman, Finance Officer  
Town of Apex  
73 Hunter Street  
P.O. Box 250  
Apex, NC 27502

Dear Vance:

This engagement letter between Town of Apex (hereafter referred to as the “Town” or “you” or “your” or “management”) and Cherry Bekaert LLP (the “Firm” or “Cherry Bekaert” or “we” or “us” or “our”) sets forth the nature and scope of the services we will provide, the Town’s required involvement and assistance in support of our services, the related fee arrangements, and other Terms and Conditions, which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference, designed to facilitate the performance of our professional services and to achieve the mutually agreed-upon objectives of the Town.

## Summary of services

We will provide the following services to the Town as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021:

### Audit and attestation services

1. We will audit the basic financial statements of the Town as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021 including the governmental activities, the business type activities, each major fund and the remaining fund information.
2. We will audit the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards. As part of our engagement we will apply certain procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAS”).
3. We will audit the combining and individual fund statements and schedules, budgetary schedules, and other schedules. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements themselves.
4. The supplementary information, such as the introductory and statistical sections accompanying the financial statements, will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and our auditor’s report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that information.

5. We will apply limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), the Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance, the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, and the Other Post-Employment Benefits, which will consist of inquiries of Town's Management about 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 financial statements.

### **Nonattest accounting and other services**

We will provide the following additional services:

1. Complete the appropriate sections and sign the Data Collection Form.

### **Your expectations**

Our services plan, which includes our audit plan, is designed to provide a foundation for an effective, efficient, and quality-focused approach to accomplish the engagement objectives and meet or exceed the Town's expectations. Our services plan will be reviewed with you periodically and will serve as a benchmark against which you will be able to measure our performance. Any additional services that you may request, and that we agree to provide, will be the subject of separate written arrangements.

The Town recognizes that our professional standards require that we be independent from the Town in our audit of the Town's financial statements and our accompanying report in order to ensure that our objectivity and professional skepticism have not been compromised. As a result, we cannot enter into a fiduciary relationship with the Town and the Town should not expect that we will act only with due regard to the Town's interest in the performance of this audit, and the Town should not impose on us special confidence that we will conduct this audit with only the Town's interest in mind. Because of our obligation to be independent of the Town, no fiduciary relationship will be created by this engagement or audit of the Town's financial statements.

The engagement will be led by April Adams, who will be responsible for assuring the overall quality, value, and timeliness of the services provided to you.

### **Audit and attestation services**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether the Town's basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the additional information referred to in the Summary of Services section when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (“Uniform Guidance”), and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states that (1) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town’s internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity’s internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the provisions of Uniform Guidance; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; State Single Audit Implementation Act and OMB *Guidance for Grants and Agreements* (2 CFR 200), and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major programs in accordance with Uniform Guidance, and other procedures as deemed necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will also issue written reports upon completion of our Single Audit. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinion is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or may withdraw from this engagement.

## **Nonattest accounting and other services**

In connection with any of the audit, accounting, or other services noted below, we will provide a copy of all schedules or other support for you to maintain as part of your books and records supporting your basic financial statements. You agree to take responsibility for all documents provided by Cherry Bekaert and will retain copies based on your needs and document retention policies. By providing these documents to you, you confirm that Cherry Bekaert is not responsible for hosting your records or maintaining custody of your records or data and that Cherry Bekaert is not providing business continuity or disaster recovery services. You confirm you are responsible for maintaining internal controls over your books and records including business continuity and disaster recovery alternatives. In addition, any documents provided to Cherry Bekaert by the Town in connection with these services will be considered to be copies and will not be retained by Cherry Bekaert after completion of the accounting and other services. You are expected to retain anything you upload to a Cherry Bekaert portal and are responsible for downloading and retaining anything we upload in a timely manner. Portals are only meant as a method of transferring data, are not intended for the storage of client information, and may be deleted at any time.

You are expected to maintain control over your accounting systems to include the licensing of applications and the hosting of said applications and data. We do not provide electronic security or back-up services for any of your data or records. Giving us access to your accounting system does not make us hosts of information contained within.

The accounting and other services described in this section are nonaudit services, which do not constitute audit services under *Government Auditing Standards*, and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming Town's management responsibilities.

In conjunction with providing these accounting and other services, we may use third party software or templates created by Cherry Bekaert for use on third party software. Management expressly agrees that the Town has obtained no rights to use such software or templates and that Cherry Bekaert's use of the Town's data in those applications is not deemed to be hosting, maintaining custody, providing business continuity, or disaster recovery services.

### **Data collection form**

We will complete the appropriate sections of and sign the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. We will provide copies of our reports to the Town; however, it is the Town's management's responsibility to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the designated federal audit clearinghouse and, if appropriate, to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

### **Town's management responsibilities related to accounting and other services**

For all nonattest services we perform in connection with the engagement, you are responsible for designating a competent employee to oversee the services, make any management decisions, perform any management functions related to the services, evaluate the adequacy of the services, retain relevant copies supporting your books and records, and accept overall responsibility for the results of the services.

Prior to the release of the report, the Town's management will need to sign a representation letter acknowledging its responsibility for the results of these services, and acknowledging receipt of all appropriate copies.

### **Town's management responsibilities related to the audit**

The Town's management is responsible for (1) designing, implementing, and maintaining effective internal controls, including internal controls over federal and state awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that the Town's management and financial information is reliable and properly reported.

The Town's management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. GAAP; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal and

state statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationship in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

The Town's management is responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which it is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance, (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the Town from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Town involving (1) the Town's management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Town received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or other. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Town complies with applicable laws, regulations contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is the Town's management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal and state statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal and state awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan.

The Town's management is responsible for identifying all federal and state awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance.

You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards.

You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes), and (4) the Town has disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP, (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP, (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes), and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

The Town's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. The Town's management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the *Audit and attestation services* section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing Town's management views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

The Town's management agrees to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards and related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide.

You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

## Management Representations

**The Firm will rely on the Town's management providing the above noted representations to us, both in the planning and performance of the audit, and in considering the fees that we will charge to perform the audit.**

## Fees

The estimated fees contemplate only the services described in the Summary of Services section of this letter. If the Town's management requests additional services not listed above, we will provide an estimate of those fees prior to commencing additional work.

The following summarizes the fees for the services described above:

Description of services	Estimated fee
<b>Audit services</b>	
Audit of the financial statements (includes 1 federal and 1 state single audit program)	\$43,000
Audit of each additional single audit program beyond two, if applicable (\$3,500)	
Total	<hr/> <u>\$43,000</u>

The fees will be billed periodically. Invoices are due on presentation. A service charge will be added to past due accounts equal to 1½% per month (18% annually) on the previous month's balance less payments received during the month, with a minimum charge of \$2.00 per month.

If the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding, please sign a copy of this letter in the space provided and return it to us. No change, modification, addition, or amendment to this letter shall be valid unless in writing and signed by all parties. The parties agree that this letter may be electronically signed and that the electronic signatures will be deemed to have the same force and effect as handwritten signatures.

If you have any questions, please call April Adams at 919-782-1040.

Sincerely,

**CHERRY BEKAERT LLP**



ATTACHMENT – Engagement Letter Terms and Conditions

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**TOWN OF APEX**

ACCEPTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## Cherry Bekaert LLP

### Engagement Letter Terms and Conditions

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The following terms and conditions are an integral part of the attached engagement letter and should be read in their entirety in conjunction with your review of the letter.

#### Limitations of the audit report

Should the Town wish to include or incorporate by reference these financial statements and our report thereon into *any* other document at some future date, we will consider granting permission to include our report into another such document at the time of the request. However, we may be required by generally accepted auditing standards (“GAAS”) to perform certain procedures before we can give our permission to include our report in another document such as an annual report, private placement, regulator filing, official statement, offering of debt securities, etc. You agree that the Town will not include or incorporate by reference these financial statements and our report thereon, or our report into any other document without our prior written permission. In addition, to avoid unnecessary delay or misunderstandings, it is important to provide us with timely notice of your intention to issue any such document.

#### Limitations of the audit process

In conducting the audit, we will perform tests of the accounting records and such other procedures as we consider necessary in the circumstances to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion on the financial statements. We also will assess the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Town’s management, as well as evaluate the overall financial statement presentation.

Our audit will include procedures designed to obtain reasonable assurance of detecting misstatements due to errors or fraud that are material to the financial statements. Absolute assurance is not attainable because of the nature of audit evidence and the characteristics of fraud. For example, audits performed in accordance with GAAS are based on the concept of selective testing of the data being examined and are, therefore, subject to the limitation that material misstatements due to errors or fraud, if they exist, may not be detected. Also, an audit is not designed to detect matters that are immaterial to the financial statements. In addition, an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS does not include procedures specifically designed to detect illegal acts having an indirect effect (e.g., violations of fraud and abuse statutes that result in fines or penalties being imposed on the Town) on the financial statements.

Similarly, in performing our audit we will be aware of the possibility that illegal acts may have occurred. However, it should be recognized that our audit provides no assurance that illegal acts generally will be detected, and only reasonable assurance that illegal acts having a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts will be detected. We will inform you with respect to errors and fraud, or illegal acts that come to our attention during the course of our audit unless clearly inconsequential. In the event that we have to consult with the Town’s counsel or counsel of our choosing regarding any illegal acts we identify, additional fees incurred may be billed to the Town. You agree that the Town will cooperate fully with any procedures we deem necessary to perform with respect to these matters.

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Town's financial statements. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit, or are unable to form, or have not formed an opinion on the financial statements, we may decline to express an opinion or decline to issue a report as a result of the engagement. We will notify the appropriate party within your organization of our decision and discuss the reasons supporting our position.

### **Audit procedures – general**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve professional judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Town's management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Town or to acts by the Town's management or employees acting on behalf of the Town. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits, nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste and abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of the Town's management of any material errors and fraud, or illegal acts that come to our attention during the course of our audit. We will also inform you of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditor is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditor.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, creditors and financial institutions. We will request written representations from the Town's attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill the Town for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also require certain written representations from you about the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

## Audit procedures – internal controls

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Town and its environment, including internal controls, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control, including cybersecurity, and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal and state award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to the Town's management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance, and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.

## Audit procedures - compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Town's compliance with provisions of applicable laws and regulations, contracts and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal and state statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal and state awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Town's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the Town's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.

## Nonattest services

All nonattest services to be provided in the attached engagement letter (if applicable) shall be provided pursuant to the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct. The AICPA Code of Professional Conduct requires that we establish objectives of the engagement and the services to be performed, which are described under nonattest services in the attached letter.

You agree that the Town's designated individual will assume all the Town's management responsibilities for the nonattest services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them. In order to ensure we provide such services in compliance with all professional standards, the designated individual is responsible for:

- Making all financial records and related information available to us
- Ensuring that all material information is disclosed to us
- Granting unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence
- Identifying and ensuring that such nonattest complies with the laws and regulations

The accuracy and appropriateness of such nonattest services shall be limited by the accuracy and sufficiency of the information provided by the Town's designated individual. In the course of providing such nonattest services, we may provide professional advice and guidance based on knowledge of accounting, tax and other compliance, and of the facts and circumstances as provided by the Town's designated individual. Such advice and guidance shall be limited as permitted under the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct.

## Communications

At the conclusion of the audit engagement, we may provide the Town's management and those charged with governance a letter stating any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses which may have been identified by us during the audit and our recommendations designed to help the Town make improvements in its internal control structure and operations related to the identified matters discovered in the financial statement audit. As part of this engagement, we will ensure that certain additional matters are communicated to the appropriate members of the Town. Such matters include (1) our responsibilities under GAAS, (2) the initial selection of and changes in significant accounting policies and their application, (3) our independence with respect to the Town, (4) the process used by Town's management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and the basis for our conclusion regarding the reasonableness of those estimates, (5) audit adjustments, if any, that could, in our judgment, either individually or in the aggregate be significant to the financial statements or our report, (6) any disagreements with the Town's management concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements, (7) our views about matters that were the subject of the Town's management's consultation with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, (8) major issues that were discussed with the Town's management in connection with the retention of our services, including, among other matters, any discussions regarding the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, and (9) serious difficulties that we encountered in dealing with the Town's management related to the performance of the audit.

## Other matters

### Access to working papers

The working papers and related documentation for the engagement are the property of the Firm and constitute confidential information. We have a responsibility to retain the documentation for a period of time to satisfy legal or regulatory requirements for records retention. It is our policy to retain all workpapers and client information for seven years from the date of issuance of the report. It is our policy to retain emails and attachments to emails for a period of 12 months, except as required by any governmental regulation. Except as discussed below, any requests for access to our working papers will be discussed with you prior to making them available to requesting parties. Any parties seeking voluntary access to our working papers must agree to sign our standard access letter.

We may be requested to make certain documentation available to regulators, governmental agencies (e.g., SEC, PCAOB, HUD, DOL, etc.), or their representatives ("Regulators") pursuant to law or regulations. If requested, access to the documentation will be provided to the Regulators. The Regulators may intend to distribute to others, including other governmental agencies, our working papers and related documentation without our knowledge or express permission. You hereby acknowledge and authorize us to allow Regulators access to and copies of documentation as requested. In addition, our Firm, as well as all other major accounting firms, participates in a "peer review" program covering our audit and accounting practices as required by the AICPA. This program requires that once every three years we subject our quality assurance practices to an examination by another accounting firm. As part of the process, the other firm will review a sample of our work. It is possible that the work we perform for the Town may be selected by the other firm for their review. If it is, they are bound by professional standards to keep all information confidential. If you object to having the work we do for you reviewed by our peer reviewer, please notify us in writing.

### Electronic transmittals

During the course of our engagement, we may need to electronically transmit confidential information to each other, within the Firm, and to other entities engaged by either party. Although email is an efficient way to communicate, it is not always a secure means of communication and thus, confidentiality may be compromised. As an alternative, we recommend using our Client Portal ("Portal") to transmit documents. Portal allows the Town, us, and other involved entities to upload and download documents in a secure location. You agree to the use of email, Portal, and other electronic methods to transmit and receive information, including confidential information, between the Firm, the Town, and other third party providers utilized by either party in connection with the engagement.

### Use of third party providers

In the normal course of business, we may on occasion use the services of an independent contractor or a temporary or loaned employee, all of whom may be considered a third party service provider. On these occasions, we remain responsible for the adequate oversight of all services performed by the third party service provider and for ensuring that all services are performed with professional competence and due professional care. We will adequately plan and supervise the services provided by the third party service provider; obtain sufficient relevant data to support the work product; and review compliance with technical standards applicable to the professional services rendered.

We will enter into a contractual agreement with the third party service provider to maintain the confidentiality of information and be reasonably assured that the third party service provider has appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of confidential information to others.

## Subpoenas

In the event we are requested or authorized by the Town, or required by government regulation, subpoena, or other legal process to produce our working papers or our personnel as witnesses with respect to our engagement for the Town, the Town will, so long as we are not a party to the proceeding in which the information is sought, reimburse us for our professional time and expense, as well as the fees and expenses of our counsel, incurred in responding to such a request at standard billing rates.

## Dispute resolution provision

This Dispute Resolution Provision sets forth the dispute resolution process and procedures applicable to any dispute or claim arising out of or relating to this engagement letter or the services provided hereunder, or any other audit or attest services provided by or on behalf of the Firm or any of its subcontractors or agents to the Town or at its request (“Disputes”), and shall apply to the fullest extent of the law, whether in contract, statute, tort (such as negligence), or otherwise.

## Mediation

All Disputes shall be first submitted to nonbinding confidential mediation by written notice to the parties, and shall be treated as compromise and settlement negotiations under the standards set forth in the Federal Rules of Evidence and all applicable state counterparts, together with any applicable statutes protecting the confidentiality of mediations or settlement discussions. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (“CPR”), at the written request of a party, shall designate a mediator.

## Arbitration procedures

If a Dispute has not been resolved within 90 days after the effective date of the written notice beginning the mediation process (or such longer period, if the parties so agree in writing), the mediation shall terminate and the Dispute shall be settled by binding arbitration to be held at a mutually agreeable location. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the CPR Rules for Non-Administered Arbitration that are in effect at the time of the commencement of the arbitration, except to the extent modified by this Dispute Resolution Provision (the “Rules”). The arbitration shall be conducted before a panel of three arbitrators. Each of the Town and the Firm shall designate one arbitrator in accordance with the “screened” appointment procedure provided in the Rules, and the two party-designated arbitrators shall jointly select the third in accordance with the Rules. No arbitrator may serve on the panel unless he or she has agreed in writing to enforce the terms of the engagement letter and to abide by the terms of the Rules. Except with respect to the interpretation and enforcement of these arbitration procedures (which shall be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act), the arbitrators shall apply the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia (without giving effect to its choice of law principles) in connection with the Dispute. The arbitrators may render a summary disposition relative to all or some of the issues, provided that the responding party has had an adequate opportunity to respond to any such application for such disposition. Any discovery shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules. The result of the arbitration shall be binding on the parties, and judgment on the arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

### **Costs**

Each party shall bear its own costs in both the mediation and the arbitration; however, the parties shall share the fees and expenses of both the mediators and the arbitrators equally.

### **Waiver of trial by jury**

**In the event the parties are unable to successfully arbitrate any dispute, controversy, or claim, the parties agree to WAIVE TRIAL BY JURY and agree that the court will hear any matter without a jury.**

### **Independent contractor**

Each party is an independent contractor with respect to the other and shall not be construed as having a trustee, joint venture, agency, or fiduciary relationship.

### **No third party beneficiaries**

The parties do not intend to benefit any third party by entering into this agreement, and nothing contained in this agreement confers any right or benefit upon any person or entity who or which is not a signatory of this agreement.

### **Statute of limitations**

The Town agrees not to bring any claims against any partner or employee of the Firm in any form for any reason. The Town and the Firm agree that any suit arising out of or related to the services contemplated by this engagement letter must be filed within two years after the cause of action arises. The cause of action arises upon the earlier of (i) delivery of the final work product for which the firm has been engaged, (ii) where applicable, filing of the final work product for which the firm has been engaged, or (iii) the date which the services contemplated under this engagement letter are terminated by either party.

### **Terms and conditions supporting fees**

The estimated fees set forth in the attached engagement letter are based on anticipated full cooperation from the Town's personnel, timely delivery of requested audit schedules and supporting information, timely communication of all significant accounting and financial reporting matters, the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit, as well as working space and clerical assistance as mutually agreed upon and as is normal and reasonable in the circumstances. We strive to ensure that we have the right professionals scheduled on each engagement. As a result, sudden Town requested scheduling changes or scheduling changes necessitated by the agreed information not being ready on the agreed-upon dates can result in expensive downtime for our professionals. Any last minute schedule changes that result in downtime for our professionals could result in additional fees. Our estimated fees do not include assistance in bookkeeping or other accounting services not previously described. If, for any reason, the Town is unable to provide such schedules, information, and assistance, the Firm and the Town will mutually revise the fee to reflect additional services, if any, required of us to achieve these objectives.



The estimated fees contemplate that the Town will provide adequate documentation of its systems and controls related to significant transaction cycles and audit areas.

In providing our services, we will consult with the Town with respect to matters of accounting, financial reporting, or other significant business issues as permitted by professional standards. Accordingly, time necessary to affect a reasonable amount of such consultation is reflected in our fees. However, should a matter require research, consultation, or audit work beyond that amount, the Firm and the Town will agree to an appropriate revision in our fee.

The estimated fees are based on auditing and accounting standards effective as of the date of this engagement letter and known to apply to the Town at this time, but do not include any time related to the application of new auditing or accounting standards that impact the Town for the first time. If new auditing or accounting standards are issued subsequent to the date of this letter and are effective for the period under audit, we will estimate the impact of any such standard on the nature, timing, and extent of our planned audit procedures and will communicate with the Town concerning the scope of the additional procedures and the estimated fees.

The Town agrees to pay all costs of collection (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that the Firm may incur in connection with the collection of unpaid invoices. In the event of nonpayment of any invoice rendered by us, we retain the right to (a) suspend the performance of our services, (b) change the payment conditions under this engagement letter, or (c) terminate our services. If we elect to suspend our services, such services will not be resumed until your account is paid. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, the Town will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and reimburse us for all expenses through the date of termination.

This engagement letter sets forth the entire understanding between the Town and the Firm regarding the services described herein and supersedes any previous proposals, correspondence, and understandings whether written or oral. Any subsequent changes to the terms of this letter, other than additional billings, will be rendered in writing and shall be executed by both parties. Should any portion of this engagement letter be ruled invalid, it is agreed that such invalidity will not affect any of the remaining portions.



January 21, 2020

Michelle Thompson  
Cherry Bekaert LLP  
2626 GLENWOOD AVE STE 200  
RALEIGH, NC 27608-1367

Dear Michelle Thompson:

It is my pleasure to notify you that on January 15, 2020, the National Peer Review Committee accepted the report on the most recent System Review of your firm. The due date for your next review is October 31, 2022. This is the date by which all review documents should be completed and submitted to the administering entity.

As you know, the report had a peer review rating of pass. The Committee asked me to convey its congratulations to the firm.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Michael Fawley  
Chair, National PRC  
nprc@aicpa.org  
+1.919.402.4502

National Peer Review Committee

cc: Marc Fogarty, David Bettler

Firm Number: 900010011816

Review Number: 568293

## Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

October 22, 2019

To the Partners of Cherry Bekaert LLP and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Cherry Bekaert LLP (the firm) applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended April 30, 2019. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards). A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at [www.aicpa.org/prsummary](http://www.aicpa.org/prsummary). The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

### Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

### Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

### Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under Government Auditing Standards, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans, an audit performed under FDICIA, an audit of broker-dealers, and an examination of service organizations [SOC 1 engagement].

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Cherry Bekaert LLP applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended April 30, 2019, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiency(ies) or fail. Cherry Bekaert LLP has received a peer review rating of pass.

*EisnerAmper LLP*  
EisnerAmper LLP

