



Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P.

February 14, 2023

To the Town Council  
Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina  
1121 N. Lake Park Blvd  
Carolina Beach, North Carolina 28428

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina (the “Town”) for the year ended June 30, 2023.

### **Audit Scope and Objectives**

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management’s discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina’s basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina’s RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist 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 will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- Management’s Discussion and Analysis
- Local Government Employees’ Retirement System
- Law Enforcement Officers’ Special Separation Allowance
- Other Post-Employment Benefits

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS, and will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements:

1. Combining Balance Sheet – Nonmajor Governmental Funds
2. Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance– Nonmajor Governmental Funds
3. Schedule of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual:
  - General Fund
  - Grant Fund
  - Island Greenway Improvement Fund
  - Marina Project Fund
  - Cape Fear Multi-Use Path Project Fund
  - Hamlet Bathroom/Ocean Rescue Fund
  - Clarendon Ave MUP Fund
  - Utility Fund
  - Water Project
  - Stormwater Improvement
  - AIA Wastewater Project
  - Northend Project
4. Schedule of Ad Valorem Taxes Receivable
5. Analysis of Current Year Levy

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

The objectives also include reporting on internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable 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 government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. 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 or 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 an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS 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. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivable and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

We have identified the following significant risk(s) of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

1. Management override of controls
2. Improper revenue recognition due to fraud
3. The Town has several significant capital project funds for major additions and replacements-risk that when projects are completed the assets are not captured correctly

We may, from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

#### **Audit Procedures – Internal Control**

We will obtain an understanding of the Town and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. 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 and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### **Audit Procedures—Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, 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*.

## **Other Services**

We will assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes, supplementary information, perform a conversion from cash basis to accrual basis of accounting, and preparation of supplemental schedules of the Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit 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. The other services are limited to the financial statements, related notes, supplementary information, performing of cash basis to accrual basis accounting adjustments, and preparation of supplemental schedules previously defined. 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 management responsibilities.

## **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for (1) designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, 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 management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.

You are also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management 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 of each opinion unit 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) 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 others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Town complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. You are also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that we report.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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. 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; (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.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. 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 Scope and Objectives 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 studies. You are also responsible for providing management's 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.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statements, related notes, supplementary information, performing of cash basis to accrual basis accounting adjustments, preparation of supplemental schedules 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 and related notes, supplementary information, performing of cash basis to accrual basis accounting adjustments, and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements 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.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on the Town's website, management understands that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

If applicable, the use of any portal set up by Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P. is designed for the secure exchange of information, rather than the storage of information. Management is responsible for providing its own data backup for business continuity and disaster recovery, and our copies of any information maintained by Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P. are not to be used for these purposes. Any information uploaded to the portal will be deleted after 270 days.

### **Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing. We will schedule the engagement based in part on deadlines, working conditions, and the availability of your key personnel. We will plan the engagement based on the assumption that your personnel will cooperate and provide assistance by performing tasks such as preparing requested schedules, retrieving supporting documents, and preparing confirmations. If, for whatever reason, your personnel are unavailable to provide the necessary assistance in a timely manner, it may substantially increase the work we have to do to complete the engagement within the established deadlines, resulting in an increase in fees over our original fee estimate.

We will provide copies of our reports to Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P. and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P. personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the Town. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Victor Blackburn is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. Our audit engagement ends on delivery of our audit report. Any follow-up services that might be required will be a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific engagement letter for that service.

To ensure that Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P.'s independence is not impaired under the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, you agree to inform the engagement partner before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel.

We estimate our fees for these services will not exceed \$34,000. However, for each major program that a single audit is required, there will be an additional \$2,000 per program. Our fees are based on the actual time spent at our standard hourly rates, plus travel and other out-of-pocket costs such as report production, word processing, postage, etc. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of personnel assigned. Our fees are based on anticipated cooperation from the Organization's personnel, timely completion of all requested items, and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If circumstances occur and additional time is necessary to complete the audit, we will discuss this with management promptly to arrive at a new estimate before we incur the additional costs. The time related to any additional services we are required to perform in order to complete the audit will be billed separately. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered throughout the engagement as work progresses and are payable on presentation. All costs relating to collection of these fees will also be the responsibility of Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina including, but not limited to, attorney fees and collection agency fees. Invoiced fees outstanding past 60 days will be subject to a 1½% monthly finance charge.

We have attached our most recent external peer review report.

You agree to hold us harmless and to release, indemnify, and defend us from any liability or costs, including attorney's fees, resulting from management's knowing misrepresentations to us.

You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

## **Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit. Our report will be addressed to the Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council of Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. 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 we may withdraw from this engagement.

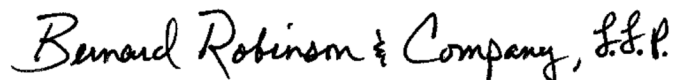
We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of



internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Government's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Government's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant term of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



BERNARD ROBINSON & COMPANY, L.L.P.

**RESPONSE:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Town of Carolina Beach, North Carolina.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_



**POTTER & COMPANY**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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

January 27, 2021

To the Partners of Bernard Robinson & Company, LLP and the Peer Review Committee  
of Coastal Peer Review, Inc.

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Bernard Robinson & Company, LLP (the firm) in effect for the year ended May 31, 2020. 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 plan and an Examination of Service Organization (SOC Type 2). 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 Bernard Robinson & Company, LLP, in effect for the year ended May 31, 2020, 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*. Bernard Robinson & Company, LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

*Potter & Company, PA*

Mooresville, North Carolina