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March 3, 2025

City of Deadwood  
102 Sherman Street  
Deadwood, SD 57732

Dear Client:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for the City of Deadwood (the City) for the year ended December 31, 2024.

### **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 entity's basic financial statements as of and for the year end stated above. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the 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. The City has elected to omit the RSI including, the Management Discussion and Analysis, Budgetary Comparison Schedules, Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability), and Schedule of City Contributions.

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the City'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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a separate written report accompanying our auditor's report on the financial statements:

#### 1. Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

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 (GAAP); 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 judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements. The objectives also include reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with the 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*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards 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).

**Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements and Single Audit**

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; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with Uniform Guidance, 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 City or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the City. 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 or on major programs. 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. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. 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 City’s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures may include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We may also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry.

In designing our audit procedures, professional standards require us to evaluate the financial statements and assess the risk that a material misstatement could occur. Areas that are potentially more susceptible to misstatements, and thereby require special audit considerations, are designated as “significant risks.” Although our audit planning has not yet been concluded, we anticipate the following significant risks of material misstatement will be identified:

1. Revenue recognition
2. Management override of controls

If we conclude that the above risks are no longer significant or if new significant risks are identified, we will communicate those to you as part of our planning process.

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

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

We will obtain an understanding of the City and its environment, including the system of internal control, 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*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, 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 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.

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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

### **Audit Procedures – Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the City's compliance with the 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*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal 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 City's major programs. For federal programs that are included in the Compliance Supplement, our compliance and internal control procedures will relate to the compliance requirements that the Compliance Supplement identifies as being subject to audit. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the City's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements and Single Audit**

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, including internal controls over federal 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 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 the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with GAAP with the oversight of those charged with governance; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes), rules, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, 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); and for the evaluation of whether there are any conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the City's ability to continue as a going concern for the twelve months after the financial statements date or shortly thereafter (for example within an additional three months if currently known). 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) 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 City 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; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and related matters.

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 City 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 City received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the City 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. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal 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 summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review at the beginning of fieldwork.

You are responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the SEFA (including notes and noncash assistance received, and COVID-19 related concepts, such as lost revenues, if applicable) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the SEFA in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the SEFA. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the SEFA 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 SEFA in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the SEFA, 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) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the SEFA.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with 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. 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, are 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.

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 or other engagements. 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.

### **Other Services**

We will assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes, including GASB 34 adjustments, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) and related notes, and the data collection form of the City in conformity with GAAP based on information provided by you. Other non-audit services provided by Ketel Thorstenson, LLP and its affiliates are:

1. Pension adjustments
2. Assistance with implementation of new accounting standards

These non-audit 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. 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.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statements, SEFA and related notes, and data collection form preparation services, and any other non-audit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter the services provided and our assistance with the preparation of the financial statements, the SEFA, and related notes and that you have evaluated the adequacy of our services and have reviewed and approved the results of the services, the financial statements, the SEFA, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the non-audit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them.

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

Jeff Yennie is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it. We expect to begin our audit on approximately April 28, 2025 and to issue our reports soon thereafter.

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations and schedules 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 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 from our original fee estimate. If the engagement is rescheduled due to lack of providing enough information in a timely manner, we may assess a rescheduling fee up to 10 percent of your service fee, with a minimum rescheduling fee of \$1,000. We will not undertake any accounting services (including but not limited to reconciliation of accounts and preparation of requested schedules) without obtaining your approval.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of and sign the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, SEFA, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report for you to include with the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the City; 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.

We will utilize portals, collaborative, virtual workspaces in a protected, online environment. Our portals permit real-time collaboration across geographic boundaries and time zones and allow us to share data, engagement information, knowledge, and deliverables in a protected environment. To use the portals, you may be required by the provider of portals to execute a client portal agreement and agree to be bound by the terms, conditions and limitations of such agreement. You agree that we have no responsibility for the activities of the portals and agree to indemnify and hold us harmless with respect to all claims arising from your misuse of the portals.

You are responsible for maintaining your own copy of information provided on the portals. We do not provide back-up services for any of your data or records, including information we provide to you. Portals are utilized solely as a method of transferring data and are not intended for the storage of your information. Information on the portals may be deleted at any time.

If you decide to transmit your confidential information to us in a manner other than a secure portal, you accept responsibility for all unauthorized access to your confidential information. If you request that we transmit confidential information to you in a manner other than a secure portal or encrypted email, you agree that we are not responsible for any liability, including but not limited to, (a) any loss or damage of any nature, whether direct or indirect, that may arise as a result of our sending confidential information in a manner other than a secure portal, and (b) any damages arising as a result of any virus being passed on or with, or arising from any alteration of, any email message.

In providing our services to you, we may send data over the Internet, temporarily store electronic data via computer software applications hosted remotely on the Internet or utilize cloud-based storage. Your confidential electronic data may be transmitted or stored using these methods. In using these data communication and storage methods, our firm employs measures designed to maintain data security. We use reasonable efforts to keep such communications and electronic data secure in accordance with our obligations under applicable laws, regulations, and professional standards. You recognize and accept that we have no control over the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications or electronic data once it has been transmitted or if it has been subject to unauthorized access while stored, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by us. You consent to our use of these electronic devices and applications during this engagement.

In the interest of enhancing our availability to meet your professional service needs while maintaining service quality and timeliness, we may use third-party service providers, subcontractors, commercially-available artificial intelligence, or software tools, some of which may utilize or offer artificial intelligence capabilities (collectively, "external parties") to assist us. We may provide your confidential information to external parties in support of our services. We require our external parties to have established procedures and controls designed to protect client confidentiality and maintain data security. Our firm remains responsible for exercising reasonable care in providing our services, and our work product will be subjected to our firm's customary quality control procedures. By accepting the terms and conditions of our engagement, you are providing your consent and authorization to disclose your confidential information to external parties, if such disclosure is necessary to deliver professional services or provide support services to our firm.

With regard to electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, you understand that electronic sites are a means of distributing information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in those sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Ketel Thorstenson, LLP, 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 an oversight or grantor agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or 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 our audit 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. Your acceptance of this engagement letter will serve as your advance consent to our compliance with these requests. We may bill you separately for our time and expenses in responding to any such requests.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by your oversight or grantor agency. 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.

Assisting you with your compliance with the Corporate Transparency Act (“CTA”), including beneficial ownership information (“BOI”) reporting, is not within the scope of this engagement. You have sole responsibility for your compliance with the CTA, including its BOI reporting requirements and the collection of relevant ownership information. We shall have no liability resulting from your failure to comply with CTA. Information regarding the BOI reporting requirements can be found at <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>. Consider consulting with legal counsel if you have questions regarding the applicability of the CTA’s reporting requirements and issues surrounding the collection of relevant ownership information.

If you have engaged Ketel Thorstenson, LLP to assist with your BOI reporting, that service will be governed by a separate engagement letter.

Our professional fees for the services outlined above will be \$36,750 for the audit, and \$8,000 for the Uniform Guidance audit, which includes one major program, plus applicable sales tax. Any additional major programs will be charged at a rate of \$5,000 per program. This fee is based upon the complexity of the work to be performed and our professional time. You will also be billed for our professional time for implementation of any new accounting standards applicable in 2024. In addition, this fee depends upon the timely delivery, availability, quality, and completeness of the information you provide to us. If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter, and our fees will be adjusted accordingly. You agree that you will deliver all records requested and respond to all inquiries made by our staff to complete this engagement on a timely basis. If you choose to have us maintain lease calculations and schedules, an additional fee of \$150 per lease will be billed. You will also be billed for travel and other out-of-pocket costs such as postage. We will provide you with an electronic copy of the financial statements. If you elect to have paper copies produced by us, they will be billed at \$25 each. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed, even if we have not issued our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. At completion of the engagement, we will submit a final invoice which is due upon receipt.

Our audit engagement ends on delivery of our audit report. You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you concerning 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.

Either party may terminate this agreement at any time, and we reserve the right to withdraw from the engagement without completing services for any reason, including, but not limited to, non-payment of fees, your failure to comply with the terms of this agreement, or as we determine professional standards require. If our work is suspended or terminated, you agree that we will not be responsible for your failure to meet governmental and other deadlines, or for any liability, including but not limited to, penalties or interest that may be assessed against you resulting from your failure to meet such deadlines. If this agreement is terminated before services are completed, you agree to compensate us for the services performed and expenses incurred through the effective date of termination.

In the event we are requested pursuant to subpoena or other legal process to produce documents relating to current or prior engagements for the City in legal, administrative, arbitration, or similar proceedings to which we are not a party, the City shall reimburse us at our standard billing rates for our professional time and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by us in responding to such requests. In the event of a dispute, the courts of the state of South Dakota shall have jurisdiction, and all disputes will be submitted to the state of South Dakota, which is the proper and most convenient venue for resolution. We also agree that the law of the state of South Dakota shall govern all such disputes.

If a dispute arises out of or relates to this Agreement, including the scope of services contained herein, or the breach thereof, and if the dispute cannot be settled through negotiation, the parties agree first to try to settle the dispute by mediation administered by the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") under the AAA Accounting and Related Services Arbitration Rules and Mediation Procedures before resorting to arbitration, litigation, or some other dispute resolution procedure. The mediator will be selected by mutual agreement of the parties. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, a mediator shall be designated by the AAA. The mediation will be conducted in the state noted above.

The mediation will be treated as a settlement discussion and, therefore, all discussions during the mediation will be confidential. The mediator may not testify for either party in any later proceeding related to the dispute. No recording or transcript shall be made of the mediation proceedings. The costs of any mediation proceedings shall be shared equally by all parties. Any costs of legal representation shall be borne by the hiring party.

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.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this agreement, Ketel Thorstenson, LLP shall not be liable for any lost profits, indirect, special, incidental, punitive, consequential, or similar damages, to the extent such damages may be lawfully limited or excluded, of any nature even if we have been advised by you of the possibility of such damages.

You agree that any claim arising out of this agreement shall be commenced within 3 years from the date our services conclude as outlined in this agreement, regardless of any longer period of time for commencing such claim as may be set by law. A claim is understood to be a demand for money or services, the service of a suit, or the institution of arbitration proceedings against Ketel Thorstenson, LLP.

We are independent within the meaning of the AICPA *Code of Professional Conduct*.

You acknowledge we have invested time and money into developing and training our personnel. To ensure our 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. If you should choose to hire one of our employees, we may, at our discretion, charge you a recruiting fee of fifty percent of the annual salary offered to our employee to compensate us for the loss of our valued and extensively trained employee.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report, and any subsequent peer review reports received during the period of the contract, when requested by you. Our September 23, 2022, peer review report accompanies this letter.

We understand that our services are subject to advance approval by the Auditor General. Such approval should be requested by you directly to the Auditor General.

### **Reporting**

We will issue written reports upon completion of our Single Audit. Our reports will be addressed to the City Commission. 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 paragraph or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are 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 opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.



If circumstances occur related to the condition of your records, the availability of sufficient, appropriate audit evidence, or the existence of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements caused by error, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets, which in our professional judgment prevent us from completing the audit or forming an opinion on the financial statements, we retain the right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including declining to express an opinion or issue a report, or withdrawing from the engagement.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will state that (1) 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 entity'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 state 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.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you. Please sign below and return it to us to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our engagement, and our respective responsibilities.

Sincerely,

KETEL THORSTENSON, LLP



Jeff T. Yennie, CPA, CVA  
Partner

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This letter correctly sets forth our understanding of our contract. I have read it and fully understand its terms and provisions.

Management Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Governance Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

To the Partners of Ketel Thorstenson, LLP  
and the Peer Review Committee of the Oklahoma Society of CPAs

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Ketel Thorstenson, LLP (the Firm) in effect for the year ended March 31, 2022. 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 and complying with a system of quality control to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the requirements of 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 on in conformity with the requirements of applicable 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 and compliance with the firm's system of quality control based on our review.

### **Required Selections and Considerations**

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including a compliance audit under the Single Audit Act; and audits of employee benefit plans.

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 Ketel Thorstenson, LLP in effect for the year ended March 31, 2022, 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*. Ketel Thorstenson, LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

*Anderson Zurmuehlen + Co, P.C.*

Billings, Montana  
September 23, 2022