



July 31, 2023

Jean Lane
Business Services Manager
Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission
500 SE 4th St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Re: Engagement Letter for GASB 75 Actuarial Services – Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission

Dear Jean:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide GASB 75 Other Postemployment Benefit (OPEB) actuarial services to Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (the Commission). This letter documents the services we will provide for the Commission's retiree health plan and our fees for those services. This letter and attachments (collectively, the "Agreement") document the Scope of Services ("Services") that Northern Consulting Actuaries, Inc. d/b/a VIA Actuarial Solutions (hereafter, "VIA" or "we" or "our") will provide to the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (hereafter "Commission" or "you" or "yours" or "Client") and the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission retiree healthcare plan (hereafter "Plan"). It also describes our fees, expenses, and the Terms and Conditions for those services.

After reviewing the enclosed Scope of Services and Terms and Conditions, please sign and date the Acknowledgement and Consent form. Future actuarial services will be provided under this same engagement letter for a fee agreed to by both parties, or we can provide an updated engagement letter if you prefer.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the proposed actuarial engagement. We will commence work under this engagement upon receipt of a signed copy of this Agreement.

Thank you again for choosing VIA Actuarial Solutions to be your trusted actuarial consultant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron J. Driessen".

Aaron J. Driessen
Actuarial Manager

L/D/C/R: 3/dmk/ajd



Scope of Services

The GASB 75 accounting rules require a “full” actuarial valuation every two years, while a simplified roll-forward report is required in the “off years”. Our proposed scope and fees outlined below only cover an estimate of the liabilities to be reported in a “full” valuation. A separate engagement letter will be provided to cover full and roll-forward valuations if the Commission, in consultation with its auditors, determines the liability is material and annual reports are needed.

Services Provided	Fixed Fee
FYE 2023 OPEB liability estimate under GASB 75 Alternative Measurement Method (AMM)	\$750

Out-of-scope projects will be billed separately based on the time and expense needed to complete these projects. For calendar year 2023, our hourly rates are \$125 to \$225 for actuarial analysts and managers and \$335 to \$385 for consulting actuaries. We are glad to estimate fees for additional projects as requested. Out-of-scope projects may include time spent on:

- meetings and preparation, and
- cleanup of inaccurate data or data not provided in the form requested.

Out-of-pocket expenses will be passed on to you without markup. Bills are sent as often as monthly, and your payment is due within 30 days of the invoice date. Interest will accrue on the unpaid balance at the rate of ½% per month. If we receive your payment within 30 days, the interest will be waived.

Terms and Conditions

COOPERATION AND WARRANTY REGARDING DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION.

You understand that in order for us to provide the Services to you we will require your assistance and cooperation. You agree to provide us with all documents and information reasonably requested by us in order for us to perform the Services and you warrant that such documents and information are true and accurate to the best of your knowledge after due inquiry. We will not be liable for any inaccurate results of our Services due to our reliance upon incorrect or incomplete documents or information.

CONFIDENTIALITY. All data, records, and information concerning the Plan and the participants of the Plan provided by you or on your behalf to VIA in connection with this Agreement, other than information that is either in the public domain, obtained from third parties, or which is otherwise developed by VIA shall be considered "Confidential Client Information." VIA agrees to use reasonable efforts to protect all Confidential Client Information and has reasonable safeguards to protect against the disclosure or misuse of Confidential Client Information that is in VIA's care or custody. VIA will protect the Confidential Client Information with the same degree of care that it uses to protect and safeguard VIA's own like information, but not less than the degree of care that would be exercised by a prudent person given the sensitivity of the Confidential Client Information. In preserving the confidentiality of Client communications and information, it is important that we have your agreement on the methods we will use in communicating with you. Unless you tell us otherwise, you agree that it is appropriate to use mail and emails in the course of our providing the Services to you without encryption or other special measures. The exception is transmission of participant census data which must be transmitted using our secure data transfer site or similar method. Please let us know if you have special requests or requirements for the methods of communication or persons to be included in such communications.

RETENTION OF RECORDS. We will retain final copies of actuarial work products for seven years after completion of each project. Although we keep copies of the work we perform for you for seven years, these copies are solely for our files. The plan sponsor is responsible for keeping copies of all documents needed for the Plan's permanent records, including copies of the work we perform for you and the information we send to you.

INDEMNIFICATION. You agree as part of this engagement to indemnify and hold harmless VIA from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, and other expenses of any kind whatsoever (including, without limitation, all reasonable attorneys' fees and collection or court costs) arising from or in connection with the operation of the Plan or the rendering of plan-related services by the Client, the Plan Administrator, or any third party. This indemnification does not include claims, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses attributable solely to any gross negligence or willful misconduct by VIA in the performance of our responsibilities under this engagement.

We agree as part of this Agreement to indemnify and hold harmless the Client and the Plan from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, and other expenses of any kind whatsoever (including, without limitation, all reasonable attorneys' fees and collection or court costs) (collectively "Claims") arising from or in connection with the operation of the Plan or the rendering of plan-related services by VIA, to the extent that such Claims are attributable solely to gross negligence or willful misconduct by VIA in the performance of our responsibilities under this engagement.

Terms and Conditions *(continued)*

REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES. We represent and warranty that we (a) have the right, power and authority to enter into this Agreement and to fully perform all of our obligations hereunder; and (b) will use commercially reasonable efforts to provide all services required of us under the Agreement in accordance with prevailing industry standards. You represent and warranty that you have the right, power, and authority to enter into this Agreement and to fully perform all of your obligations hereunder.

NO ASSIGNMENT OR DELEGATION. Neither VIA nor you may assign this Agreement in whole or in part, nor delegate any part or all of its duties, without the other's prior written consent.

SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be or is invalid or unenforceable, the validity and/or enforceability of the remaining portions shall not be impaired or affected in any way. A waiver of any provision of this Agreement does not likewise waive any other provision of this Agreement.

MODIFYING THIS ENGAGEMENT. The terms of this engagement between you and us represented by this Agreement shall not be subject to modification (except with regard to fees, as outlined above), except as agreed upon in writing by both you and us.

TERM AND TERMINATION. This engagement letter is effective beginning July 31, 2023 and expires on July 31, 2024.

You have the right to terminate our services with 60 days prior written notice. Termination of our services will not relieve you of the obligation to pay for all accrued charges and expenses for work through the end of our engagement. We will have the same right of termination, subject to our obligation to give you 60 days prior written notice. If our billing statements are not timely paid, however, we will have the right to terminate our Services upon 5 days prior written notice following a default in the payment of our fees and expenses, upon the expiration of which notice period we will have the right to not provide any Services or advance any expenses until all amounts due are paid in full. Furthermore, if we are required to take action to collect our fees and expenses, you agree to pay all professional fees (including reasonable attorneys' fees) and expenses incurred by us in such collection action.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT. Our performance of the Services is subject to the terms of this letter, including our Terms and Conditions ("Terms and Conditions"). This letter, together with the Scope of Services and these Terms and Conditions, constitute the entire Agreement between VIA Actuarial Solutions and you and supersede all previous agreements between us whether written or oral. Should the scope of our Services change, you agree that we will either amend the Scope of Services or we will execute a new engagement letter incorporating such changes. We will not be required to provide Services not included in the Scope of Services agreed to in this letter.

Minnesota Actuarial Disclosure

VIA Actuarial Solutions is the actuarial advisor to the Minnesota Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR). In this role, we assist the LCPR in reviewing actuarial valuations, assumptions, and cost estimates for the three statewide retirement systems: TRA, PERA, and MSRS.

Our professional standards require that we disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest to our clients, and that our clients expressly agree to these services. Although the work we prepare for the LCPR does not directly relate to your GASB 75 OPEB reporting, we believe it's prudent to disclose our assignment to all of our Minnesota public sector clients since you probably have members in at least one of the statewide pension plans that we'll be reviewing. Your approval of this engagement letter is an affirmative response that you agree to our OPEB work with the Commission along with our LCPR assignment.

Acknowledgement and Consent

The undersigned authorized representative of Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) has read this letter from VIA Actuarial Solutions, understands its contents, and agrees on behalf of the Commission to the Scope of Services; fees and expenses; and Terms and Conditions set forth in the Agreement. I also expressly agree to VIA Actuarial Solutions' ongoing work for us as well as their LCPR assignment.

Date: August 11, 2023

By Julie Kennedy



Title General Manager