

September 12, 2024

Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois  
Village President & Board of Trustees  
200 N. Hill Street  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

This Master Professional Services Agreement (this "Agreement"), effective as of September 12, 2024, between Sikich LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, ("Sikich", "we", "us", or "our") and the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois ("Client", "you", or "your") sets forth the mutual agreements of the parties regarding Sikich's provision of one or more professional CPA services to Client, from time to time, as more fully described in Sikich Statements of Work (each, an "SOW") issued hereunder (collectively, the "Services").

This Agreement is intended to serve as the framework for entering into separate SOWs. The SOWs entered into pursuant to this Agreement shall be: (a) executed by authorized individuals on behalf of each of the parties, and (b) incorporated into this Agreement. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, all SOWs that are entered into pursuant to this Agreement shall be governed by the terms of this Agreement and are hereby made part of, and incorporated into, this Agreement. In the event of a conflict between this Agreement and a SOW, the terms of this Agreement shall prevail, unless the SOW expressly references the specific provision in this Agreement to be modified by the SOW. This Agreement shall not govern engagements related to Sikich's affiliated entities or Sikich services or offerings other than CPA Services, and a separate agreement for such services will be required. To the extent the term of an SOW extends beyond the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement shall apply to such SOW until expiration of such SOW.

The general terms governing this Agreement are as follows:

#### **ENGAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION**

In connection with this Agreement, we may communicate with you or others via e-mail transmission. As e-mails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third-party or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that e-mails from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure of e-mails transmitted by us or in connection with the performance of this Agreement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of e-mail transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as loss of revenues or anticipated profits or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information. Communications by email are authorized unless written objection is provided to us prior to any such communication.

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 designed to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will enter into confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that such service providers 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 engaged by us.

Client acknowledges and agrees that in connection with the performance of the Services, Sikich may utilize the services of Sikich subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions and/or third parties located outside the United States (“Offshore Resources”) to provide the Services. Offshore Resources may have access to confidential information from offshore locations. Sikich represents to Client that with respect to each Offshore Resource utilized in providing Services to Client, Sikich has technical, legal, and/or other safeguards, measures and controls in place designed to protect confidential information of Client from unauthorized disclosure or use. Accordingly, Client agreement above extends to disclosure, ability to access, and use of Client’s confidential information by the Offshore Resources for the purposes set forth in this section. Any services performed by an Offshore Resource shall be performed in accordance with the terms set forth herein, and Sikich shall remain responsible to Client for the performance of the Services.

Client hereby explicitly acknowledges and consents to Sikich’s use of third-party cloud computing services to store confidential and proprietary information and other data of the Client and agrees that Sikich’s use of such cloud services coupled with the use of encrypted devices, password protections and firewall protection shall constitute the best efforts of Sikich to safeguard such information and data from unauthorized disclosure. Client further agrees that, subject to applicable law, Sikich shall only be liable for such unauthorized disclosure or use if it has been finally judicially determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that Sikich did not take commercially reasonable measures to protect the confidential and proprietary information and other data of the Client from unauthorized disclosure or use.

## **FEES; INVOICES**

Our fees for the Services are detailed in the applicable SOW Addendum 2.

Services will be invoiced to you from time-to-time as work progresses and are payable within thirty (30) days or in accordance with applicable State statutes. Invoices not paid timely will have interest charged on outstanding balances at a rate of 1½% per month (or any fraction thereof) or in accordance with applicable State statutes. In accordance with our firm policies, work will be suspended if your account becomes ninety (90) 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, or other reasonable causes such as failure to provide the information or cooperation necessary for successful performance of our Services, our provision of Services will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

In the event that you desire to hire a member of the Sikich staff within one year of the completion of this Agreement, a recruiting fee will be assessed at 30% of the first-year salary per hire and paid to Sikich upon our notification of such hiring.

If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter, and our fees will be adjusted accordingly. Our invoices for these fees are payable upon presentation and will be rendered each month as work progresses or as detailed in the applicable SOW.

## **RECORD RETENTION; CONFIDENTIALITY**

It is our policy to keep records related to this Agreement for seven years. However, Sikich does not keep any original client records, and we will return those to you at the completion of the Services rendered under this Agreement. When records are returned to you, it is your responsibility to retain and protect your records for possible future use, including potential examination by any government or regulatory agencies. The documentation for this Agreement is the property of Sikich.

All information obtained in the course of performing our agreed professional Services, including but not limited to, statements, records, schedules, working papers, memorandums, reports, and all other documents and work product prepared by Sikich, will be considered confidential matters not to be disclosed to any other person or persons without your prior written permission, unless otherwise required pursuant to professional standards, statutory or regulatory authority, or court order. The foregoing obligation of confidentiality shall not apply to any information that was in the public domain at the time of the communication thereof to Sikich.

As a result of our prior or future services to you, we might be requested or required to provide information or documents to you or a third party in a legal, administrative, regulatory inquiry or arbitration or similar proceeding in which we are not a party. If this occurs, our efforts in complying with such requests will be deemed billable to you as a separate engagement. We shall be entitled to compensation for our time and reasonable reimbursement for our expenses (including legal fees) in complying with the request.

#### **INDEMNIFICATION; LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

You hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless Sikich and its principals, directors, employees, agents or subcontractors against all costs, expenses, losses, judgments, damages and liabilities (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) associated with any third-party claim, threat or proceeding relating to the performance of the Services by Sikich under this Agreement, other than as determined through mediation to have been caused by our own gross negligence or willful misconduct.

You agree that our maximum liability to you for any negligent errors or omissions committed by us in the performance of the Services will be limited to the total amount of fees we receive from you under the applicable SOW for the Services provided under such SOW giving rise to the liability, except to the extent determined to result from our gross negligence or willful misconduct. You agree that this limitation applies to any and all liability or causes of action against us, however alleged or arising, unless otherwise prohibited by law or professional standards. Additionally, our liability as accountants shall be limited to the period covered by our Services and shall not extend to later periods for which we are not engaged as accountants or prior periods before we were engaged as accountants. In no event will Sikich be liable to you or any third party, whether a claim be in tort, contract or otherwise, for any amount in excess of the total professional fees paid pursuant to this Agreement for the Services provided under this Agreement giving rise to the liability, or for any special, consequential, exemplary, incidental indirect, lost profit, punitive or similar damages of any kind.

No (i) direct or indirect holder of any equity interests or securities of Sikich, (ii) affiliate of Sikich, or (iii) director, officer, employee, representative, or agent of Sikich, or of an affiliate of Sikich or of any such direct or indirect holder of any equity interests or securities of Sikich (collectively, the "***Sikich Affiliates***") shall have any liability or obligation of any nature whatsoever in connection with or under this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby, and Client waives and releases all claims against such Sikich Affiliates related to any such liability or obligation.

#### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION; GOVERNING LAW**

If any dispute, controversy, or claim arises in connection with the performance or breach of this Agreement, either party may, on written notice to the other party, request that the matter be mediated. Such mediation will be conducted by a mediator appointed by and pursuant to the Rules of the American Arbitration Association or such other neutral facilitator acceptable to both parties. Both parties will exert their commercially reasonable best efforts to discuss with each other in good faith their respective positions in an attempt to finally resolve such dispute or controversy. Each party may disclose any facts to the other party or the mediator which it, in good faith, considers necessary to resolve the matter. All such discussions, however, will be for the purpose of assisting in settlement efforts and will not be admissible in any subsequent litigation or proceeding against the disclosing party. Except as agreed by both parties in writing, the mediator will keep confidential all information disclosed during negotiations. The mediation proceedings will conclude within sixty (60) days from receipt of the written notice unless extended or terminated sooner by mutual consent. Each party will be responsible for its own expenses. The fees and expenses of the mediator, if any, will be borne equally by the parties.

THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. SIKICH AND CLIENT KNOWINGLY, VOLUNTARILY AND IRREVOCABLY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY ACTION, PROCEEDING OR COUNTERCLAIM (WHETHER BASED UPON CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE) RELATED TO OR ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENGAGEMENT OF SIKICH PURSUANT TO, OR THE PERFORMANCE BY SIKICH OF THE SERVICES CONTEMPLATED BY, THIS AGREEMENT.

### **TERM; TERMINATION**

If either party hereto desires to terminate this Agreement, or an SOW, it may do so at any time for any reason by giving written notice to the other party. In such event, Sikich will be paid for fees and expenses incurred through the termination date, as well as for reasonable engagement closing costs.

### **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

It is understood and agreed that Sikich will for all purposes be an independent contractor, will not hold itself out as representing or acting in any manner for Client, and neither Sikich nor Client will have any authority to bind the other party to any contract or in any other manner. Sikich and Client do not intend to create a joint employer relationship, and Sikich and Client each represents that it is the sole employer of its employees. Sikich shall not and does not have the right to control Client's employees' essential terms and conditions of employment, including hiring its employees, determining their wages and benefits, or assigning, scheduling, training, disciplining, or terminating Client's employees.

### **OFAC REPRESENTATION**

Client represents and warrants the following with respect to the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC"): (a) Client does not have any nexus with persons or entities on any of OFAC's sanctions list (e.g. SSI, SDN, FSE etc.) either through large shareholders, employees, beneficial owners, vendors, affiliated entities (i.e. affiliates or subsidiaries), third parties, customer base or otherwise; (b) Client does not have any operations in any comprehensive OFAC sanctioned country (Cuba, Iran, Syria, Sudan, North Korea, the Crimea); (c) Client does not have any operations in any limited OFAC sanctioned country program; or (d) Client does not remit payment for Sikich's fees and expenses from an OFAC sanctioned country.

### **NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

This Agreement does not and is not intended to confer any rights or remedies upon any person or entity other than the parties.

### **FORCE MAJEURE**

Sikich shall not be deemed in default of any provision of this Agreement or be liable for any delay, failure in performance, or interruption of the Services resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, electronic virus attack or infiltration, civil or military authority action, civil disturbance, war, strike and other labor disputes, fires, floods, other catastrophes, and other forces beyond its reasonable control.

### **NOTICES**

All notices given under or pursuant to this Agreement will be sent by national courier, Certified or Registered Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and will be deemed to have been delivered when physically delivered to Client or Sikich at the following address:

If to Sikich:

Sikich LLC  
1415 W. Diehl Road, Suite 400  
Naperville, IL 60653  
Attention: Brian D. LeFevre, CPA, MBA

With a copy to:

Sikich LLC  
1415 W. Diehl Road, Suite 400  
Naperville, IL 60653  
Attention: Office of General Counsel

If to Client:

Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois  
200 N. Hill Street  
Poplar Grove, IL  
Attention: Village President

## **SURVIVAL**

Those provisions that by their nature are intended to survive termination or expiration of this Agreement and any right or obligation of the parties in this Agreement which, by its express terms of nature and context is intended to survive termination or expiration of this Agreement, shall so survive any such termination or expiration.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Entire Agreement: This Agreement, the Exhibits attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and the SOWs, constitute the entire agreement between Sikich, on one side, and Client on the other side, regarding the terms of this Agreement. In the event Client requires Sikich to execute a purchase order or other Client documentation in order to receive payment for Services, the terms and conditions contained in such purchase order or documentation shall be null and void and shall not govern the terms of this Agreement. This Agreement is entered into without reliance on any promise or representation, written or oral, other than those expressly contained herein and supersedes any other such promises or representations. This Agreement can only be modified by a written agreement signed by duly authorized representatives of each party.

Counterparts: This Agreement may be executed in counterparts (and by facsimile or other electronic means), each of which shall constitute an original and all of which together will be deemed to be one and the same document.

Severability: The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision.

Authority; Due Authorization; Enforceability: Each party hereto represents and warrants that it has all requisite power and authority to enter into this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder. Each party hereto further represents and warrants that this Agreement has been duly and validly authorized by all necessary corporate action and has been duly executed and delivered by each such party and constitutes the legal, valid and binding agreement of each such party, enforceable in accordance with its terms.

Counsel Representation: The terms of this Agreement have been negotiated by the parties hereto, who have each been represented by counsel, there shall be no presumption that any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be construed adverse to any party as “drafter” in the event of a contention of ambiguity in this Agreement, and the parties waive any statute or rule of law to such effect.

Assignment: This Agreement may not be assigned by any party hereto without the prior written consent of the other party. Any attempted assignment of this Agreement made without such consent shall be void and of no effect, at the option of the non-assigning party.

Headings: Headings used herein are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

## ACCEPTANCE

You acknowledge having read this Agreement in its entirety, have had full opportunity to consider its terms in consultation with your attorney, have had full and satisfactory explanation of the same, and fully understand and agree to be bound by the terms of this Agreement.

Please indicate your understanding and acceptance of this Agreement and your intention to be legally bound hereby by executing this Agreement in the space provided below where indicated and return it to our offices, indicating your authorization for us to proceed on the above terms and conditions.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Brian D. LeFevre, CPA, MBA  
Principal  
On behalf of Sikich LLC

Acknowledged:  
Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_