



October 29, 2024

The Village Board
Village of Ridgeway
208 Jarvis Street, Suite A
Ridgeway, Wisconsin 53582

The following represents our understanding of the services we will provide the Village of Ridgeway.

You have requested that we audit the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Village of Ridgeway, as of December 31, 2024, and for the year then ended and the related notes, which collectively comprise the Village of Ridgeway's basic financial statements. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

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 to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), 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 made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAP) as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require that certain required supplementary information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, 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 the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAS). These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by U.S. GAAP. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- 1) Budgetary Comparison Schedules
- 2) Management's Discussion and Analysis (if prepared)

Supplementary information other than RSI will accompany the Village of Ridgeway's basic financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and perform certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling the supplementary information to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and additional procedures in accordance with U.S. GAAS. We intend to provide an opinion on the following supplementary information in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

1) Combining Nonmajor Fund Schedules

The supplementary information referred to above will be presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information, which is the responsibility of management, will be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our auditor's report will provide an opinion on the supplementary information in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Auditor Responsibilities

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit 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, misrepresentations, or the override of controls.
- Obtain an understanding of the system of internal control in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Village of Ridgeway's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Village of Ridgeway's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

Management Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of the system of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements; and
- c. To provide us with:
 - i. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
 - ii. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit;
 - iii. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity and others from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- d. For including the auditor's report in any document containing basic financial statements that indicates that such basic financial statements have been audited by us;
- e. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;

- f. For adjusting the basic 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 basic financial statements as a whole; and
- g. For acceptance of nonattest services, including identifying the proper party to oversee nonattest work;
- h. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets;
- i. For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in the system of internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on the financials; and
- j. For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided.

With regard to the supplementary information referred to above, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility: (a) for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding supplementary information; (c) to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such supplementary information; and (d) to present the supplementary information with the audited basic financial statements, or if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited basic financial statements, to make the audited basic financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the supplementary information and our report thereon.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

Nonattest Services

With respect to any nonattest services we perform, at the end of the year, we agree to perform the following:

- Preparation of financial statements
- Maintenance of capital asset summary
- Maintaining lease information, if requested or applicable

We will not assume management responsibilities on behalf of the Village of Ridgeway. However, we will provide advice and recommendations to assist management of the Village of Ridgeway in performing its responsibilities.

The Village of Ridgeway's management is responsible for (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning a competent individual to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) designing, implementing, and maintaining the system of internal control, including the process used to monitoring the system of internal control.

Our responsibilities and limitations of the nonattest services are as follows:

- We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards.
- The nonattest services are limited to the services previously outlined. Our firm, in its sole professional judgment, reserves the right to refuse to do any procedure or take any action that could be construed as making management decisions or assuming management responsibilities, including determining account coding and approving journal entries.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Village of Ridgeway's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Village Board of the Village of Ridgeway. 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 an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s) to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the basic financial statements 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 to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

Regarding the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your Internet website, you understand 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.

Professional standards prohibit us from being the sole host and/or the sole storage for your financial and non-financial data. As such, it is your responsibility to maintain your original data and records and we cannot be responsible to maintain such original information. By signing this engagement letter, you affirm that you have all the data and records required to make your books and records complete.

Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees

We will maintain various physical, electronic, policy, and procedural safeguards to guard your information and personal data. We may communicate with you and /or store data through email, facsimile, third-party vendor secured portals or cloud environments, or other electronic means. If a more secure medium of communication is desired, we will provide you with various electronic alternatives. Electronic data that is confidential may be transmitted and/or stored using these methods and you authorize us to do so. Notwithstanding the security measures and safeguards employed by us and/or our third-party vendors, you accept that we have no control over the unauthorized interception or breach of communications and/or data. All confidential, proprietary, and personally identifiable information should be transmitted through secure means which we have available. We may communicate with you or your other representatives through unencrypted email and you authorize us to do so. Emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or shared with an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties or persons to whom they were originally directed. As such we cannot guarantee emails will be read only by the intended recipient(s). In the event of a data breach, each of us agrees to notify each other in the most expedient time possible and without unreasonable delay. We specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for the unauthorized interception and/or disclosure of confidential or proprietary information transmitted in connection with the performance of this engagement, except to the extent determined as a result from our gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Many banks have engaged a third party to electronically process cash or debt audit confirmation requests, and certain of those banks have mandated the use of this service. Further, such third-party confirmation requests processors also provide for the electronic (and manual) processing of other confirmation types (e.g. legal, accounts receivable, and accounts payable). To the extent applicable, the Village of Ridgeway hereby authorizes Johnson Block & Company, Inc. to participate in such confirmation processes, including through the third party's website (e.g. by entering the Village of Ridgeway bank account information to initiate the process and then accessing the bank's confirmation response), and agrees that Johnson Block & Company, Inc. shall have no liability in connection therewith.

Shawn Roelli, CPA is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. The engagement partner's responsibilities include supervising Johnson Block & Company, Inc.'s services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our fees are based on the amount of time required at various levels of responsibility, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses. Based on our preliminary estimates, the total fees and expenses should approximate the following plus out-of-pocket costs such as staff travel, mileage, confirmation service provider fees, etc.:

Audit Services	
General Fund and other governmental funds	\$ 9,450
TIF District (annual activity)	1,050
Water Utility	5,250
Sewer Utility	5,250
State Financial Report (Form C)	2,625
Public Service Commission Annual Report	2,625
Total	<u>\$ 26,250</u>

Time related to the following services will be billed at our standard hourly rates:

- Compile TID annual report
- Governmental depreciation schedules and journal entries to record activity to comply with GASB 34
- Assistance adjusting net pension assets/liabilities, other postemployment benefit liabilities, and compensated absences liabilities to comply with GASB 68, GASB 75, and new GASB 101, respectively (if applicable)
- Lease schedules and journal entries to record activity to comply with GASB 87 (if applicable)

This letter was prepared under the assumption that a single audit performed in accordance with the Uniform Guidance will not be required. If we are requested or required by governmental agencies to audit additional funds or programs not included in our proposal, our time performing these services would be billed at our standard hourly rates. The amount of time spent on a single audit is dependent on the type of major programs to be tested.

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered as work progresses and are payable upon presentation. In accordance with 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, 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. Third-party confirmation providers for certain financial institutions may invoice us for responding to confirmation requests and we will pass those costs through to you.

The attached Addendums A and B, which are an integral part of this engagement letter, relate to our preparation of the Department of Revenue annual report and the PSC annual report.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

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You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the basic financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least seven years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the Village Board the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Johnson Block and Company, Inc. and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to regulators pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Johnson Block and Company Inc.'s personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to regulators. The regulators may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

Changes in Accounting and Audit Standards

Standard setters and regulators continue to evaluate and modify standards. Such changes may result in new or revised financial reporting and disclosure requirements or expand the nature, timing, and scope of the activities we are required to perform. To the extent that the amount of time required to provide the services described in this letter increases due to such changes, our fee may need to be adjusted.

Unanticipated Services

We do not anticipate encountering the need to perform additional services beyond those described in this letter. However, below are listings of services considered to be outside the scope of our engagement. If any such service needs to be completed before the audit can proceed in an efficient manner, we will determine whether we can provide the service and maintain our independence. If appropriate, we will notify you and provide a fair and reasonable price for providing the service. We will bill you for the service at periodic dates after the additional service has been performed.

Bookkeeping services

Bookkeeping services are not audit services. Bookkeeping services include but are not limited to the following activities:

- Preparation of a trial balance
- Account or bank statement reconciliations
- Capital asset accounting (e.g., calculating depreciation, identify capital assets for additions and deletions), unless previously agreed to as part of services to be provided
- Significant additional time spent calculating accruals
- Processing immaterial adjustments through the financial statements requested by management
- Adjusting the financial statements for new activities and new disclosures
- Requests and support related to budget preparation

Additional work resulting from unanticipated changes in your organization or accounting records

If your organization undergoes significant changes in key personnel, accounting systems, and/or internal control, we are required to update our audit documentation and audit plan. The following are examples of situations that will require additional audit work:

- Deterioration in the quality of the entity's accounting records during the current-year engagement in comparison to the prior-year engagement
- Significant new accounting issues, significant changes in your volume of business or new or unusual transactions
- Changes in audit scope or requirements resulting from changes in your activities
- Erroneous or incomplete accounting records
- Implementation or adoption of new or existing accounting, reporting, regulatory, or tax requirements and any applicable financial statement disclosures such as the implementation of GASB 101, compensated absences



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Please sign and return this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the basic financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

Johnson Block & Company, Inc.

Johnson Block & Company, Inc.

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of the Village of Ridgeway by:

Management Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Governance Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

ADDENDUM A

We will perform the following services:

We will compile, from information you provide, the annual Financial Report Form to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2024. Upon completion of the compilation of the annual Financial Report Form, we will provide the Village of Ridgeway with our accountant's compilation report. If, for any reason caused by or relating to affairs or management of the Village of Ridgeway, we are unable to complete the compilation or if we determine in our professional judgement the circumstances necessitate, we may withdraw and decline to submit the annual Financial Report Forms to you as a result of this engagement.

Our Responsibilities and Limitations

We will be responsible for performing the compilation in accordance with *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist management in presenting financial information in the form of financial statements. We will utilize information that is the representation of management without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for the statements to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our engagement cannot be relied upon to disclose errors, fraud, or other illegal acts that may exist and, because of the limited nature of our work, detection is highly unlikely. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, and of any evidence that fraud may have occurred. In addition, we will report to you any evidence or information that comes to our attention during the performance of our compilation procedures regarding illegal acts that may have occurred, unless they are clearly inconsequential. We have no responsibility to identify and communicate deficiencies in your internal control as part of this engagement.

Management's Responsibilities

The Village of Ridgeway's management is responsible for the financial statements referred to above. In this regard, management is responsible for (i) the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, (ii) designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (iii) preventing and detecting fraud, (iv) identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities, and (v) making all financial records and related information available to us. Management also is responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Village of Ridgeway complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities.

Management is responsible for providing us with the information necessary for the compilation of the financial statements and the completeness and the accuracy of that information and for making the Village of Ridgeway personnel available to whom we may direct inquiries regarding the compilation. We may make specific inquiries of management and others about the representations embodied in the financial statements.

ADDENDUM B

We will perform the following services:

We will compile, from information you provide, the Public Service Commission Annual Report, including the balance sheet of the water utility, an enterprise fund of the Village of Ridgeway, as of December 31, 2024, and the related income statements for the year then ended and the supplemental schedules as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024. Upon completion of the Public Service Commission Annual Report, we will provide the Village of Ridgeway with our accountant's compilation report. If, for any reason caused by or relating to affairs or management of the Village of Ridgeway we are unable to complete the compilation or if we determine in our professional judgment the circumstances necessitate, we may withdraw and decline to submit the Public Service Commission Annual Report to you as a result of this engagement.

Our Responsibilities and Limitations

We will be responsible for performing the compilation in accordance with *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist management in presenting financial information in the form of financial statements. We will utilize information that is the representation of management without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for the statements to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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