

# ***Denning, Downey & Associates, P.C.***

## ***CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS***

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*Robert K. Denning, CPA, CGFM, CFF, CITP*

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April 10, 2025

City Council  
Jessi Chamberlin, City Clerk

City of Sidney  
115 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE  
Sidney, MT 59270

We are engaged to audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of City of Sidney for the year ended June 30, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit. We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this information further since a two-way dialogue can provide valuable information for the audit process.

Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and *The Uniform Guidance*.

As stated in our engagement letter dated May 26, 2023, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

In planning and performing our audit, we will consider City of Sidney's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. We will also consider internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether City of Sidney's financial statements are free of material misstatements, we will perform tests of City of Sidney's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions is not an objective of our audit. Also, in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, we will examine, on a test basis, evidence about City of Sidney's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement applicable to each of its major federal programs for the purpose of expressing an opinion on City of Sidney's compliance with those requirements. While our audit will provide a reasonable basis for our opinion, it will not provide a legal determination on City of Sidney's compliance with those requirements.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

We are also responsible for communicating particular matters required by law, regulation, agreement, or other requirements applicable to the engagement.

We gave significant consideration to particular circumstances or relationships such as financial interests, business, or family relationships, or non-attest/non-audit services provided or expected to be provided, and have implemented safeguards to ensure independence.

Generally accepted accounting principles provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI) to supplement the basic financial statements. Our responsibility with respect to Budgetary Comparison Schedule and Budget-to-GAAP Reconciliation, Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), Schedule of Changes in the Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios, Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, and Schedule of Contributions, which supplement the basic financial statements, is to apply certain limited procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. However, the RSI will not be audited and, because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance, we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We have been engaged to report on the *Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards*, which accompany the financial statements but is not RSI. Our responsibility for this supplementary information, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

#### Planned Scope, Timing of the Audit, and Other

An Audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding to the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to the acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity. We will generally communicate our significant findings at the conclusion of the audit. However, some matters could be communicated sooner, particularly if significant difficulties are encountered during the audit where assistance is needed to overcome the difficulties or if the difficulties may lead to modified opinion. We will also communicate any internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards.

We expect to begin our audit on approximately April 10, 2025 and issue our report on approximately May 31, 2025. Robert Denning is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it.

This information is intended solely for the use of City Council and management of City of Sidney and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

**Jonathan Mahrt, CPA**

Denning, Downey & Associates, P.C.