

REPORT TO THE BOARD

May 13, 2020

The Board of Directors
Niagara Falls Water Board

Dear Board Members:

We have audited the financial statements of the Niagara Falls Water Board (the Board) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated May 13, 2020. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and Government Auditing Standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Accounting Policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Board are described in note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended December 31, 2019. We noted no transactions entered into by the Board during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- Collection of accounts receivable
- Useful lives used to depreciate capital assets
- Estimated unbilled receivables

- Compensated absences
- Postemployment benefits
- Pension plans

For the year ended December 31, 2019, we evaluated the key factors and assumptions used by management in determining accounting estimates and were reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Sensitive Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements were:

- Bond indebtedness (note 5)
- Postemployment benefits (note 7)
- Pension plans (note 8)
- Risk management and contingent liabilities (note 11)
- Subsequent events (note 1(g))

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely adjustments identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this report, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Board’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors’ opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Board’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquires of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the other supplementary information, which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

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This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of the Niagara Falls Water Board and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve as your auditors. Please contact us at your convenience if you would like to meet with us to discuss our findings in further detail or to review any other questions that you might have.

Very truly yours,

EFPR Group, CPAs, PLLC

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