

VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS

MANAGEMENT LETTER

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
APRIL 30, 2014**



October 7, 2014

The Honorable Village Mayor
Members of the Board of Trustees
Village of North Riverside, Illinois

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Village of North Riverside, Illinois, for the year ended April 30, 2014, we considered its internal control structure in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure.

We do not intend to imply that our audit failed to disclose commendable aspects of your system and structure. For your consideration we herein submit our comments and suggestions which are designed to assist in effecting improvements in internal controls and procedures. Those less significant matters, if any, which arose during the course of the audit, were reviewed with management as the audit field work progressed.

The accompanying comments and recommendations are intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees, management, and others within the Village of North Riverside, Illinois.

We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed many of these comments and suggestions with various Village personnel. We would be pleased to discuss our comments and suggestions in further detail with you at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to review the procedures necessary to bring about desirable changes.

We commend the finance department for the well prepared audit package and we appreciate the courtesy and assistance given to us by the entire Village staff.

Lauterbach + Amen LLP

LAUTERBACH & AMEN, LLP

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. GASB STATEMENT NO. 67 FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR PENSION PLANS AND GASB STATEMENT NO. 68 ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR PENSIONS

Comment

In June 2012, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*, which applies to individual pension plans issuing their own audited financial statements, and Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, which applies to the state and local government employers that sponsor pension plans. The Statements apply to the reporting of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), Police Pension Fund and Firefighters' Pension Fund for the Village. The Statements establish standards for measuring and recognizing liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures related to the pension plans. The Statements specifically identify the methods and assumptions that are to be used in calculating and disclosing these pension-related accounts in the financial statements and also provide for additional note disclosures and required supplementary information. The Statements are intended to improve information provided by state and local government employers regarding financial support to their pension plans, and ultimately requires that the total net pension liabilities of the pension plans be recorded on the face of the financial statements of the sponsoring government. GASB Statement No. 67 is applicable to the separately issued financial statements of the pension plans for the year ended April 30, 2015. GASB Statement No. 68 is applicable to the Village's financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2016.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Village reach out to the private pension actuary engaged to provide the pension fund actuarial calculations (IMRF will automatically be providing the necessary information to all member agencies) in order to confirm the timeline for implementation and to review requested materials that will be required in order to implement the provisions and requirements of the new Statements. Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will also work directly with the Village to assist in the implementation process, including assistance in determining the implementation timeline with the Village and private actuary, providing all framework for the financial statements in order to complete the implementation, and assisting in answering any questions or concerns the Village or pension funds might have related to the implementation process or requirements.

PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Comment

Previously, we noted instances where the Village's current financial policies were outdated and certain procedures within the Finance Department that could be strengthened through the implementation of a formal policy/procedure manual. Written procedures, instructions and assignments of duties will prevent or reduce misunderstanding, error, inefficient or wasted effort duplicated or omitted procedures and other situations that can result in inaccurate or untimely accounting records. A policy and procedure manual should aid in the training of new employees and possibly allow for delegation to other employees of some accounting functions that management currently performs.

A policy and procedure manual will require a substantial investment of time and effort for management to develop. However, we believe this time will be more than offset by time saved later in training and supervising accounting personnel. Also, in the process of the comprehensive review of existing accounting procedures for the purpose of developing the manual, management may discover procedures that can be eliminated or improved to make the system more efficient and effective.

Recommendation

We recommended the Village review and update all current financial related policies, including but not limited to the outstanding check policy, fund balance policy, refundable deposits/bonds policy, etc, and review the procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Village's financial policies. Furthermore, we recommended the Village review current Finance Department procedures to ensure that all significant procedures are outlined in a formal policy adopted by the Board.

A sample of areas that should be covered in the policy/procedure manual is as follows:

- Job descriptions
- Flow charts and descriptions of the accounting cycles, such as:
 - Cash receipts process – collections, deposits, bank reconciliations, etc.
 - Accounts receivable process – billing, recording, write-offs, etc
 - Cash disbursements and accounts payable process – approvals, coding, purchasing, check preparation, invoice cancellation, general ledger posting, etc.
 - Payroll process – hiring, employee files, time cards, distribution, etc.
- Chart of accounts
- Description of standard entries and allocations
- Description of other specific accounting areas of unusual nature

Status

This comment has been implemented and will not be repeated.

PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS – Continued

2. **GASB STATEMENT NO. 61 – THE FINANCIAL REPORTING ENTITY:
OMNIBUS – AN AMENDMENT OF GASB STATEMENTS NO. 14 AND NO. 34**

Comment

In November 2010, the GASB issued Statements No. 61: The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus – an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34. The objective of Statement No. 61 is to improve financial reporting for a governmental financial reporting entity. Specifically, it modifies existing requirements for the assessment of potential component units in determining what should be included in the financial reporting entity, and financial reporting entity display and disclosure requirements. Furthermore, Statement No. 61 identifies and clarifies the criterion for discrete presentation of component units as well as the criterion for blending (reporting as a fund of the primary government). The effective date for the Village is for the April 30, 2014 fiscal year.

Recommendation

We recommended that the Village review with us through the next audit process any potential related entities, joint ventures, component units, etc. to ensure proper reporting under GASB Statement No. 61.

Status

This comment has been implemented and will not be repeated.