

VILLAGE OF CHERRY VALLEY,  
ILLINOIS

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MANAGEMENT LETTER

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
APRIL 30, 2016



July 13, 2016

The Honorable Village President  
Members of the Board of Trustees  
Village of Cherry Valley, Illinois

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Village of Cherry Valley (Village), Illinois, for the year ended April 30, 2016, 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 Cherry Valley, 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

## PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. GASB STATEMENT NO. 68 ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR PENSIONS

#### Comment

In June 2012, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued 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) and Police 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. 68 is applicable to the Village's financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2016.

#### Recommendation

We recommended 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 assist in answering any questions or concerns the Village or pension fund(s) might have related to the implementation process or requirements.

#### Status

This comment has been implemented and will not be repeated in the future.

## **PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS – Continued**

### **2. FUND BALANCE POLICY**

#### Comment

Previously, we noted the Village did not have a fund balance policy. A fund balance policy establishes a minimum level at which the projected end-of-year fund balance/net position should be maintained, taking into account the constraints imposed upon the resources reported by the governmental and proprietary funds. A fund balance policy assists in providing financial stability, cash flow for operations, and the assurance that the Village will be able to respond to emergencies with fiscal strength.

It is essential to maintain adequate levels of funds balance/net position to mitigate current and future risks and to ensure tax rates. Fund balance/net position levels are also crucial consideration in long-term financial planning. Credit rating agencies carefully monitor levels of fund balance/net position and unassigned fund balance in the General Fund to evaluate the Village's continued creditworthiness.

#### Recommendation

We recommended the Village establish a fund balance policy and make sure that the policy is in compliance with GASB Statement No. 54. The Village should address fund balance reporting categories (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned) as well as review minimum fund balance policies.

#### Status

This comment has been implemented and will not be repeated in the future.