

Reporting and insights from 2024 audit:

Village of Hales Corners

December 31, 2024

Executive summary

May 9, 2025

To the Village Board
Village of Hales Corners

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of the Village of Hales Corners (the Village) for the year ended December 31, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated May 9, 2025. This letter presents communications required by our professional standards.

Your audit should provide you with confidence in your financial statements. The audit was performed based on information obtained from meetings with management, data from your systems, knowledge of your Village's operating environment and our risk assessment procedures. We strive to provide you clear, concise communication throughout the audit process and of the final results of our audit.

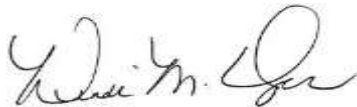
Additionally, we have included information on key risk areas the Village of Hales Corners should be aware of in your strategic planning. We are available to discuss these risks as they relate to your organization's financial stability and future planning.

If you have questions at any point, please connect with us:

- Wendi Unger, Principal: wendi.unger@bakertilly.com or +1 (414) 777 5423

Sincerely,

Baker Tilly US, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendi M. Unger", is positioned above the printed name.

Wendi M. Unger, CPA, Principal

THIS COMMUNICATION IS INTENDED SOLELY FOR THE INFORMATION AND USE OF THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE, AND, IF APPROPRIATE, MANAGEMENT, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE AND SHOULD NOT BE USED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THESE SPECIFIED PARTIES.

BAKER TILLY ADVISORY GROUP, LP AND BAKER TILLY US, LLP, TRADING AS BAKER TILLY, ARE MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF BAKER TILLY INTERNATIONAL LTD., THE MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT LEGAL ENTITIES. BAKER TILLY US, LLP IS A LICENSED CPA FIRM THAT PROVIDES ASSURANCE SERVICES TO ITS CLIENTS. BAKER TILLY ADVISORY GROUP, LP AND ITS SUBSIDIARY ENTITIES PROVIDE TAX AND CONSULTING SERVICES TO THEIR CLIENTS AND ARE NOT LICENSED CPA FIRMS.

Responsibilities

Our responsibilities

As your independent auditor, our responsibilities include:

- Planning and performing the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance.
- Assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Included in that assessment is a consideration of the Village's internal control over financial reporting.
- Performing appropriate procedures based upon our risk assessment.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management.
- Forming and expressing an opinion based on our audit about whether the financial statements prepared by management, with the oversight of the Village board:
 - Are free from material misstatement
 - Present fairly, in all material respects and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Our audit does not relieve management or the Village board of their responsibilities.

We are also required to communicate significant matters related to our audit that are relevant to the responsibilities of the Village board, including:

- Internal control matters
- Qualitative aspects of the Village's accounting practice including policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures
- Significant unusual transactions
- Significant difficulties encountered
- Disagreements with management
- Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditors' report
- Audit consultations outside the engagement team
- Corrected and uncorrected misstatements
- Other audit findings or issues

Audit status

Significant changes to the audit plan

There were no significant changes made to either our planned audit strategy or to the significant risks and other areas of emphasis identified during the performance of our risk assessment procedures.

Audit approach and results

Planned scope and timing

Audit focus

Based on our understanding of the Village and environment in which you operate, we focused our audit on the following key areas:

- Key transaction cycles
- Areas with significant estimates

Our areas of audit focus were informed by, among other things, our assessment of materiality. Materiality in the context of our audit was determined based on specific qualitative and quantitative factors combined with our expectations about the Village's current year results.

Key areas of focus and significant findings

Significant risks of material misstatement

A significant risk is an identified and assessed risk of material misstatement that, in the auditor's professional judgment, requires special audit consideration. Within our audit, we focused on the following areas below.

Significant risk areas	Testing approach	Conclusion
Management override of controls	Incorporate unpredictability into audit procedures, emphasize professional skepticism and utilize audit team with industry expertise	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion
Improper revenue recognition due to fraud	Confirmation or validation of certain revenues supplemented with detailed predictive analytics based on non-financial data and substantive testing of related receivables	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion

Other areas of emphasis

We also focused on other areas that did not meet the definition of a significant risk, but were determined to require specific awareness and a unique audit response.

Other areas of emphasis		
Cash and investments	Revenues and receivables	General disbursements
Payroll	Pension and OPEB liabilities	Long-term debt
Capital assets including infrastructure	Net position and fund balance calculations	Financial reporting and required disclosures

Internal control matters

We considered the Village's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements. We are not expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis.

A material weakness is a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We identified the following deficiencies as material weaknesses:

- **Financial statement close process**

Properly designed systems of internal control provide your organization with the ability to process and record accurate monthly and year-end transactions and annual financial reports.

Our audit includes a review and evaluation of the internal controls relating to financial reporting. Common attributes of a properly designed system of internal control for financial reporting are as follows:

- There is adequate staffing to prepare financial reports throughout the year and at year-end.
- Material misstatements are identified and corrected during the normal course of duties.
- Complete and accurate financial statements, including footnotes, are prepared.
- Financial reports are independently reviewed for completeness and accuracy.

Our evaluation of the internal controls over financial reporting has identified control deficiencies that are considered material weakness surrounding the preparation of financial statements and footnotes and an independent review of financial reports.

Management has not prepared financial statements that are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, material misstatements in the general ledger were identified during the financial audit.

Other comments and recommendations

- **Information Technology Controls (Per 2009 Letter)**

As part of our 2024 audit, we continue to evaluate the information technology (IT) controls as they relate to financially significant applications. Our procedures primarily focused on documenting and evaluating general computer controls, including:

- Logical access to data and applications
- Change and incident management
- Systems development and deployment
- Data backup and recovery

The following point contains a suggestion for strengthening internal controls in these areas:

- ***Computer Upgrades***

We suggest that the Village create and adopt a document outlining the implementation of patches and upgrades and, when a patch or upgrade is processed, written communication regarding the purpose of the update and confirmation from the user that the upgrade is working properly should be documented.

- ***Restricted Access***

We recommend the creation of a new, modified, and terminated process document which defines the procedure for adding a new user to the system, changing an existing user's system access, and removing a terminated user. A form which facilitates this process, documenting who is gaining, changing, or losing access, who approved the change, and who is performing the access change is suggested.

This comment was addressed by the Village in 2025 with Resolution No. 25-08, by adopting an employee computer on boarding and off boarding policy.

- **Library Cash Accounts (New in 2024)**

We recommend the implementation of bank reconciliations for the library cash accounts. This should either be performed by a member of the library staff, or the library should allow the Village's administrative staff to reconcile cash accounts.

Required communications

Qualitative aspect of accounting practices

- Accounting policies: Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we have advised management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by Village are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing accounting policies was not changed during 2024. We noted no transactions entered into by the Village during the year for which accounting policies are controversial or for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus or diversity in practice.
- Accounting estimates: Accounting estimates, including fair value 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, the degree of subjectivity involved in their development and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The following estimates are of most significance to the financial statements:

Estimate	Management's process to determine	Baker Tilly's conclusions regarding reasonableness
Accrued compensated absences	Evaluation of hours earned and accumulated in accordance with employment policies and average wage per hour rates	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Net pension liability and related deferrals	Evaluation of information provided by the Wisconsin Retirement System	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Allowance for doubtful accounts	Evaluation of historical revenues and loss levels with the analysis on collectability of individual amounts	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Net/Total OPEB liability and related deferrals	Key assumptions set by management with the assistance of a third-party actuary	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Depreciation	Evaluate estimated useful life of the asset and original acquisition value	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole

There have been no significant changes made by management to either the processes used to develop the particularly sensitive accounting estimates, or to the significant assumptions used to develop the estimates noted above.

- Financial statement disclosures: The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear.

Significant unusual transactions

There have been no significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the Village or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size or nature.

Significant difficulties encountered during the audit

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

Disagreements with management

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

Audit report

There have been no departures from the auditors' standard report.

Audit consultations outside the engagement team

We encountered no difficult or contentious matters for which we consulted outside of the engagement team.

Uncorrected misstatements and corrected misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial and to communicate accumulated misstatements to management. Management is in agreement with the misstatements we have identified, and they have been corrected in the financial statements. The schedule within the attachments summarizes a material corrected misstatement, that, in our judgment, may not have been detected except through our auditing procedures. The internal control matters section of this report describes the effects on the financial reporting process indicated by the corrected misstatement, other than those that we consider to be of a lesser magnitude than significant deficiencies and material weaknesses.

Other audit findings or issues

We encountered no other audit findings or issues that require communication at this time.

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 Village's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Management's consultations with other accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing or accounting matters.

Written communications between management and Baker Tilly

The attachments include copies of other material written communications, including a copy of the management representation letter.

Compliance with laws and regulations

We did not identify any non-compliance with laws and regulations during our audit.

Fraud

We did not identify any known or suspected fraud during our audit.

Going concern

Pursuant to professional standards, we are required to communicate to you, when applicable, certain matters relating to our evaluation of the Village's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time but no less than 12 months from the date of the financial statements, including the effects on the financial statements and the adequacy of the related disclosures, and the effects on the auditor's report. No such matters or conditions have come to our attention during our engagement.

Independence

We are not aware of any relationships between Baker Tilly and the Village that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

Related parties

We did not have any significant findings or issues arise during the audit in connection with the Village's related parties.

Other matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries 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 supplementary information which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to the 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.

We were not engaged to report on the other information, which accompanies the financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information, and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Nonattest services

The following nonattest services were provided by Baker Tilly:

- Financial statement preparation
- Adjusting journal entries
- Compiled regulatory reports
- Compiled TIF financial statements

In addition, we prepared GASB No. 34 conversion entries which are summarized in the "Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position" and the "Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities" in the financial statements.

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

Village board resources

Our business is to know every aspect of yours and to maintain a constant lookout for what's next. We invite you to learn about some of the trending challenges and opportunities for public sector organizations like yours and how Baker Tilly can help.

To explore more trending topics and regulatory updates, visit our resource page at <https://www.bakertilly.com/insights/audit-committee-resource-page>.



Funding evaluation and pursuit

Public sector organizations may be eligible for grants, tax credits and other financial incentives through funding opportunities such as the Inflation Reduction Act, the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Baker Tilly can help you navigate, understand and pursue various federal and state funding sources through grant research and tracking, advising and writing, and management and compliance services.



Digital transformation

Digitizing public services can be a game changer for governments. Streamlining inefficient processes, providing digital access and delivery of services to meet public expectations, implementing technology to protect constituent data, leveraging information to make data-driven decisions and migrating outdated on-premises systems to the cloud are crucial to an entity's success.

Through these types of digital services, Baker Tilly can help you scale with future demand and be better positioned to rapidly respond to changing demands.



Cybersecurity

Public sector organizations face significant challenges from cyber threats and IT regulations. It can feel like you are on the defense keeping up with the latest risks, regulations and emerging trends. To mitigate risk, you must understand your organization's unique vulnerabilities, cybersecurity processes and controls.

Baker Tilly can help enhance your cybersecurity posture and ensure compliance with solutions in IT compliance and security and cybersecurity and data protection to safeguard your data and navigate complex risk environments.

Management representation letter

Village of Hales Corners

5635 S. New Berlin Road
Hales Corners, WI 53130
Phone: (414) 529-6161
Fax: (414) 529-6179
www.halescorners.org



James R. Ryan Municipal Building

May 9, 2025

Baker Tilly US, LLP
790 N. Water St, 20th Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Baker Tilly US, LLP:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Village of Hales Corners as of December 31, 2024 and for the year then ended for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Village of Hales Corners and the respective changes in financial position, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the previously mentioned financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting, and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your audit.

Financial Statements

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated September 14, 2023, including our responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 2) The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have engaged you to advise us in fulfilling that responsibility. The financial statements include all properly classified funds of the primary government and all component units required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- 3) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

- 4) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- 5) Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, if any, are reasonable in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 6) All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. No other events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the aforementioned financial statements.
- 7) All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- 8) All known audit and bookkeeping adjustments have been included in our financial statements, and we are in agreement with those adjustments.
- 9) There are no known or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. There are no unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- 10) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the Village is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

Information Provided

- 11) We have provided you with:
 - a) Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as financial records and related data, documentation, and other matters and all audit or relevant monitoring reports, if any, received from funding sources.
 - b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d) Minutes of the meetings of the Village Board or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- 12) We have not completed an assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- 13) We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - a) Management,
 - b) Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
 - c) Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

- 14) We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others.
- 15) We have no knowledge of known instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- 16) There are no known related parties or related party relationships and transactions, including side agreements, of which we are aware.

Other

- 17) There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
- 18) We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
- 19) We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- 20) We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for our report.
- 21) The Village has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources or fund balance or net position.
- 22) We are responsible for compliance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits, debt contracts, and IRS arbitrage regulations; and we have identified and disclosed to you all federal, state, and local laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- 23) There are no:
 - a) Violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, federal, state, and local laws or regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance, except those already disclosed in the financial statement, if any.
 - b) Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
 - c) Nonspendable, restricted, committed, or assigned fund balances that were not properly authorized and approved.
 - d) Rates being charged to customers other than the rates as authorized by the applicable authoritative body.

24) In regards to the nonattest services performed by you listed below, we acknowledge our responsibility related to these nonattest services and have 1) accepted all management responsibility; 2) designated an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee the services; 3) evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed, and 4) accepted responsibility for the results of the services.

a) Financial statement preparation, including GASB No. 34 conversion entries

b) Adjusting journal entries

c) Compiled TIF financial statements

d) Compiled regulatory reports

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

25) The Village of Hales Corners has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.

26) The Village of Hales Corners has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statement in the event of noncompliance.

27) The financial statements include all fiduciary activities required by GASB No. 84.

28) The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.

29) All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement No. 34 and No. 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.

30) Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and components of fund balance (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.

31) Provisions for uncollectible receivables, if any, have been properly identified and recorded.

32) Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.

33) Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues and general revenues.

34) Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.

35) Deposits and investments are properly classified, valued, and disclosed (including risk disclosures, collateralization agreements, valuation methods, and key inputs, as applicable).

36) Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated/amortized. Any known impairments have been recorded and disclosed.

37) Tax-exempt bonds issued have retained their tax-exempt status.

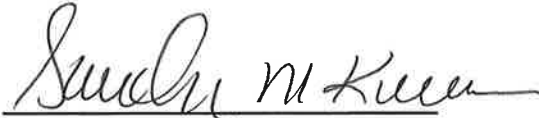
- 38) We have appropriately disclosed the Village of Hales Corners's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available and have determined that net position were properly recognized under the policy. We have also disclosed our policy regarding which resources (that is, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned) are considered to be spent first for expenditures for which more than one resource classification is available.
- 39) We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
- 40) With respect to the supplementary information, (SI):
- a) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SI in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the SI, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the SI have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.
 - b) If the SI is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
- 41) We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the findings of specialists in evaluating the Other Post Employment benefits and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had impact on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.
- 42) We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the information provided by the Wisconsin Retirement System as audited by the Legislative Audit Bureau relating to the net pension asset/liability and related deferred outflows and deferred inflows and have adequately considered the reasonableness of the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We also assume responsibility for the census data that has been reported to the plan.
- 43) We have evaluated and considered all potential tax abatements and believe all material tax abatements have been properly reported and disclosed.
- 44) We have considered the implementation of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated absences*, and believe that it is not material to the Village's financial statements.
- 45) The auditing standards define an annual report as "a document, or combination of documents, typically prepared on an annual basis by management or those charged with governance in accordance with law, regulation, or custom, the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on the entity's operations and the financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements." Among other items, an annual report contains, accompanies, or incorporates by reference the financial statements and the auditors' report thereon. Our annual report is comprised of the annual audited financial statements, which include other information. We have provided you with the final version of the annual report. There are no material inconsistencies between the financial statements and any other information contained within the annual report.

- 46) We assume responsibility for, and agree with the information provided by the Department of Employee Trust Funds for the Local Retiree Life Insurance program as audited by the Legislative Audit Bureau relating to the net OPEB liability and related deferred outflows and deferred inflows and have adequately considered the reasonableness of the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We also assume responsibility for the census data that has been reported to the plan.

Sincerely,

Village of Hales Corners

Signed:



Ms. Sandra Kulik, Administrator/Clerk

Signed:



Mr. Daniel J. Besson, Village President

Client service team



Wendi Unger, CPA
Principal

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Accounting changes relevant to the Village of Hales Corners

Future accounting standards update

GASB Statement Number	Description	Potentially impacts you	Effective date
102	Certain Risk Disclosures	✓	12/31/25
103	Financial Reporting Model Improvements	✓	12/31/26
104	Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets	✓	12/31/25

Further information on upcoming [GASB pronouncements](#).

New guidance on disclosure of certain risks

The requirements in GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures* is meant to provide financial statement users with information about certain risks when circumstances make a government vulnerable to a heightened possibility of loss or harm. It requires governments to disclose essential information about risks related to vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints.

- (a) The Statement defines a concentration as a lack of diversity related to an aspect of a significant inflow or outflow of resources—for example, a small number of companies that represent a majority of employment in a government's jurisdiction, or a government that relies on one revenue source for most of its revenue.
- (b) The Statement defines a constraint as a limitation imposed on a government by an external party or by formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority—such as a voter-approved property tax cap or a state-imposed debt limit.

Concentrations and constraints may limit a government's ability to acquire resources or control spending.

The Statement generally requires a government to disclose information about a concentration or constraint if all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) The concentration or constraint is *known* to the government prior to issuing the financial statements.
- (b) The concentration or constraint makes the government vulnerable to the risk of a substantial impact.
- (c) An event or events associated with the concentration or constraint that could cause a substantial impact have occurred, have begun to occur, or are more likely than not to begin to occur within 12 months of the date the financial statements are issued.

The disclosures should include a description of the following:

- The concentration or constraint,
- Each event associated with the concentration or constraint that could cause a substantial impact if the event has occurred or has begun to occur prior to the issuance of the financial statements, and
- Actions taken by the government to mitigate the risk prior to the issuance of the financial statements.

Changes to the financial reporting model

GASB Statement 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*, builds on Statement 34 by providing key targeted improvements to the financial reporting model. Its requirements are designed to:

- Enhance the effectiveness of governmental financial reports in providing information essential for decision making and assessing a government's accountability, and
- Address certain application issues.

The targeted improvements contained in Statement 103 establish or modify existing accounting and financial reporting requirements related to:

- Management's discussion and analysis - While the overall requirements do not substantially change management's discussion and analysis, the modifications are meant to improve the analysis included in this section and provide details about the items that should be discussed as currently known facts, decisions, or conditions expected to have a significant financial effect in the subsequent period.
- Unusual or infrequent items (previously known as extraordinary and special items) - The new Statement simplifies GASB literature by eliminating the separate presentation of extraordinary and special items. Under the requirement of Statement 103, applicable items will either be identified as unusual or infrequent, or both.
- Presentation of the proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net position - The changes are designed to improve consistency around the classification of items in these statements by better defining what should be included in operating revenues and expenses and nonoperating revenues and expenses including, for example, the addition of subsidies received or provided as a new category of nonoperating revenues and expenses.
- Major component unit information, and Budgetary comparison information - Statement 103 is designed to improve the consistency of the reporting of major component unit information and budgetary comparison information by specifying required placement of that information.

Revisions to disclosures for certain capital assets

Governments are required to provide information on capital assets in the footnotes to the financial statements as outlined in GASB Statement No. 34. Recent standards have impacted the accounting and reporting for capital assets and as a result GASB issued Statement No. 104, *Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets* to provide enhanced disclosures for certain capital assets, including

- (a) Lease assets reported under Statement No. 87, intangible right-to-use assets reported under Statement No. 94 and subscription assets reported under Statement No. 96 should all be disclosed separately, and by major class of underlying asset. In addition, if there are any other intangible assets reported they should also be disclosed separately.
- (b) Capital assets that are held for sale should have the ending balance with separate disclosure for historical cost and related accumulated depreciation as well as any outstanding debt for which the asset is pledged as collateral disclosed by major class of asset. Assets held for sale are defined as those for which the government has decided to pursue the sale, and it is probable that the sale will be finalized within one year of the financial statement date.

While these changes are focused on footnote disclosures it is important to plan ahead to ensure the required information is available for implementation.

Two-way audit communications

As part of our audit of your financial statements, we are providing communications to you throughout the audit process. Auditing requirements provide for two-way communication and are important in assisting the auditor and you with more information relevant to the audit.

As this past audit is concluded, we use what we have learned to begin the planning process for next year's audit. It is important that you understand the following points about the scope and timing of our next audit:

- a. We address the significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, through our detailed audit procedures.
- b. We will obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control sufficient to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. We will obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to evaluate the design of controls relevant to an audit of financial statements and to determine whether they have been implemented. We will use such knowledge to:
 - Identify types of potential misstatements.
 - Consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement.
 - Design tests of controls, when applicable, and substantive procedures.
- c. We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations and provisions of contracts or grant programs.
- d. The concept of materiality recognizes that some matters, either individually or in the aggregate, are important for fair presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles while other matters are not important. In performing the audit, we are concerned with matters that, either individually or in the aggregate, could be material to the financial statements. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material misstatements, whether caused by errors or fraud, are detected.

Our audit will be performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are very interested in your views regarding certain matters. Those matters are listed here:

- a. We typically will communicate with your top level of management unless you tell us otherwise.
- b. We understand that the governing board has the responsibility to oversee the strategic direction of your organization, as well as the overall accountability of the entity. Management has the responsibility for achieving the objectives of the entity.
- c. We need to know your views about your organization's objectives and strategies, and the related business risks that may result in material misstatements.
- d. We anticipate that the Village will receive opinion on its financial statements.
- e. Which matters do you consider warrant particular attention during the audit, and are there any areas where you request additional procedures to be undertaken?

- f. Have you had any significant communications with regulators or grantor agencies?
- g. Are there other matters that you believe are relevant to the audit of the financial statements?

Also, is there anything that we need to know about the attitudes, awareness and actions of the governing body concerning:

- a. The entity's internal control and its importance in the entity, including how those charged with governance oversee the effectiveness of internal control?
- b. The detection or the possibility of fraud?

We also need to know if you have taken actions in response to developments in financial reporting, laws, accounting standards, governance practices, or other related matters, or in response to previous communications with us.

With regard to the timing of our audit, here is some general information. If necessary, we may do preliminary financial audit work during the months of October-December, and sometimes early in January. Our final financial fieldwork is scheduled during the spring to best coincide with your readiness and report deadlines. After fieldwork, we wrap up our financial audit procedures at our office and may issue drafts of our report for your review. Final copies of our report and other communications are issued after approval by your staff. This is typically 6-12 weeks after final fieldwork, but may vary depending on a number of factors.

Keep in mind that while this communication may assist us with planning the scope and timing of the audit, it does not change the auditor's sole responsibility to determine the overall audit strategy and the audit plan, including the nature, timing and extent of procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

We realize that you may have questions on what this all means, or wish to provide other feedback. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

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