

TOWN OF BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT LETTER

JUNE 30, 2015



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To the Honorable Mayor and the Town Council
Town of Braintree, Massachusetts

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Town of Braintree, Massachusetts as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Town of Braintree, Massachusetts' internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town'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 a 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 did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

However, during our audit we became aware of several matters that represent opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. The memorandum that accompanies this letter summarizes our comments and suggestions concerning those matters.

The Town's written responses to the comments identified in our audit have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed these comments and suggestions with various Town personnel, and will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management of the Town of Braintree, Massachusetts, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties

Powers & Sullivan, LLC

December 18, 2015

TOWN OF BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

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Comments

IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF FEDERAL AWARDS

Continuing Comment

The Town is required to prepare the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) each year as part of the Single Audit requirements. The SEFA reports the total federal awards expended for the fiscal year being audited, by program name and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (CFDA). The SEFA must also indicate if the funds were received directly from a federal agency, or if applicable, the pass-through entity's name. The Town expends several million dollars in federal funds each year from a variety of programs. The Town does not have a strong system in place to readily provide the necessary information to complete the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

This schedule is currently populated based on information gathered from several websites and from review of the expenditures reported in the general ledger. As a result, there is a risk that the Town could unintentionally misclassify a state award, or omit a federal award from being reported on the SEFA.

Continuing Recommendation

The Town has made some progress in this by adding the CFDA numbers to existing grants already recorded in the general ledger.

We recommend that the Town develops policies and procedures that will ensure that all federal awards are identified as awarded, and that all of the pertinent information is provided to the Town Accountant prior to accounts being setup on the general ledger to account for the programs. A specific sequence of fund numbers should be designated on the Town's general ledger to separately account for federal and state awards. This would provide greater efficiency in the preparation of the report and reduce the risk of error in the reporting of federal awards expended.

Management's Response

We agree with the auditor's suggestions and we have made significant progress in setting up the School grants. We are now in the process of implementing this on a Town-wide basis.

Informational Comment

FUTURE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD (GASB) STATEMENTS FOR OPEB AND TAX ABATEMENTS

- GASB Statements #74 and #75 - The GASB has issued new pronouncements that will significantly affect the accounting and reporting requirements for Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) similar to the changes that were required for Pensions this current year. This information has been communicated in previous Management Letters and management is preparing for this to occur in fiscal years 2017 and 2018.
- GASB Statement #77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures*, will require disclosure of the descriptions of tax abatement agreements, the taxes being abated, and the gross dollar amount of the taxes abated during the reporting period. This GASB statement is required to be implemented in 2017.