

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

MANAGEMENT LETTER

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
APRIL 30, 2023

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October 20, 2023

Members of the Board of Commissioners
Waukegan Park District
Waukegan, Illinois

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Waukegan Park District (the District), Illinois, for the year ended April 30, 2023, 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, Executive Director and senior management of the Waukegan Park District, 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 District 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 District staff.

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

LAUTERBACH & AMEN, LLP

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **GASB STATEMENT NO. 94 PRIVATE-PUBLIC AND PUBLIC-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS AND AVAILABILITY PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Comment

In March 2022, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, which provides guidance regarding the information needs of financial statement users by improving the comparability of financial statements among governments that enter into public-private and public-public partnerships (PPPs) and availability payment arrangements (APAs) and by enhancing the understandability, reliability, relevance, and consistency of information about PPPs and APAs. A PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Some PPPs meet the definitions Service Concession Arrangements (SCAs) if (a) the operator collects and is compensated by fees from third parties, (b) the transferor (government) determines or has the ability to modify or approve which services the operator is required to provide, to whom the operator is required to provide the services, and the prices or rates that can be charged for the services, and (c) the transferor (government) is entitled to significant residual interest in the service utility of the underlying PPP asset at the end of the arrangement. An APA is an arrangement in which a government compensates an operator for activities that may include designing, constructing, financing, maintaining, or operating an underlying nonfinancial asset for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements* is applicable to the District's financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2024.

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the District to review the new criteria associated with PPPs and PPAAs to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 94.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and, if applicable, will work to implement it when required by GASB.

2. **GASB STATEMENT NO. 96 SUBSCRIPTION-BASED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARRANGEMENTS**

Comment

In May 2020, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, which provides guidance regarding the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) by governments. It establishes uniform accounting and financial reporting requirements for SBITAs, improves the comparability of financial statements among governments that have entered into SBITAs, and enhances the understandability, reliability, relevance, and consistency of information about SBITAs. GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* is applicable to the District's financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2024.

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS - Continued

2. GASB STATEMENT NO. 96 SUBSCRIPTION-BASED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARRANGEMENTS - Continued

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the District to review the new SBITA criteria in conjunction with the District's current arrangements to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 96.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and, if applicable, will work to implement it when required by GASB.

3. GASB STATEMENT NO. 100 ACCOUNTING CHANGES AND ERROR CORRECTIONS

Comment

In June 2022, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, which establishes accounting and financial reporting requirements for (a) accounting changes, and (b) the correction of an error in previously issued financial statements (error correction). Accounting changes are (a) changes in accounting principle, (b) changes in accounting estimates, or (c) changes to or within the financial reporting entity. Error corrections are (a) errors from mathematical mistakes, mistakes in the application of accounting principles, or oversight or misuse of facts that existed at the time the financial statements were issued, or (b) a change from (i) applying an accounting principle that is not generally accepted to transactions or other events that previously were significant to (ii) applying a generally accepted accounting principle to those transactions or other events is an error correction. GASB Statement No. 100 requires that (a) changes in accounting principal and error corrections are reported retroactively, (b) changes in accounting estimates are reported prospectively, and (c) changes to or within the financial reporting entity should be reported by adjusting the current reporting period's beginning net position, fund balance, or fund net position, as applicable, for the effect of the change as if the change occurred as of the beginning of the reporting period. GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections* is applicable to the District's financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2025.

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the District to review any accounting changes or error corrections to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 100.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and, if applicable, will work to implement it when required by GASB.

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS - Continued

4. GASB STATEMENT NO. 101 COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Comment

In June 2022, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, which establishes standards of accounting and financial reporting for (a) compensated absences, and (b) associated salary-related payments, including certain defined contribution pensions and defined contribution other post-employment benefits (OPEB). The statement requires that a liability should be recognized for any type of leave that has not been used at year-end if (a) The leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. Examples of leave that should be reviewed, and potentially measured under GASB Statement No. 101 are vacation leave, paid time off leave, holiday leave, and sick leave. Examples of leave that are excluded from GASB Statement No. 101 are parental leave, military leave, and jury duty leave. GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences* is applicable to the District's financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2025.

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the District to review the new compensated absences and associated salary-related payments, including certain defined contribution pensions and defined contribution other post-employment benefits criteria to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 101.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and, if applicable, will work to implement it when required by GASB.

PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FUNDS OVER BUDGET

Comment

Previously and during our current year-end audit procedures, we noted that the following funds had an excess of actual expenditures over budget for the fiscal year:

Fund	4/30/2023	4/30/2022
General	\$ —	575,353
Police System	20,165	23,553
FICA	44,410	—
Audit	852	—

Recommendation

We recommended the District investigate the causes of the funds over budget and adopt appropriate future funding measures.

Status

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

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and we didn't go over our legal spending authority (Budget and Appropriation Ordinance). The budgets are tighter these days even after COVID-19 pandemic. In the Police Fund the Board approved extra police coverage at the Field House which resulted in the overage. FICA overage is due to minimum wage compliance and working towards full staffing level prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in all departments. An unplanned board approved \$40,000 transfer from the General Fund to subsidize the fund helped with the \$44,410 overage. Audit Fund was only slightly over by only \$852 which is considered very good spending plan, even for a small fund. The tax levy was adjusted in budget year FY23-24 to assist with this need for revenue to coverage expenditures.

2. ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

Comment

Previously and during our current fiscal year we noted that the District is using an accounting software package that is outdated and lacking in technical support from its vendor. Additionally, the software has limitations related to accounts payable procedures, fixed asset procedures, and year-end tax documents that reduce the District's ability to improve internal controls and prevent misstatements of the financial statements. Outdated software minimizes flexibility and increases administrative costs.

Recommendation

We recommended that the Park District review its current accounting software package and consider alternatives that would address the identified issues.

PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS - Continued

2. ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE - Continued

Status

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

Management Response

The accounting software will be implemented in fiscal year 2024.

3. GASB STATEMENT NO. 87 LEASES

Comment

In June 2017, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 87, *Leases*, which provides guidance regarding the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance*, which was issued as temporary relieve to governments and other stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases* is applicable to the District's financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2023.

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the District to review the new lease criteria in conjunction with the District's current leases to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 87.

Status

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