



Honorable County Judge
and Commissioners Court
Galveston County, Texas

We have audited the financial statements of Galveston County, Texas (the "County"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated March 30, 2021. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)* and the State of Texas' *Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS)*.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated November 2, 2020, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express opinions about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the County solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, and, as appropriate, our firm have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

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NEW MEXICO | Albuquerque



As a part of the engagement, we assisted in preparing the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and the schedule of expenditures of state awards (and related notes to each) of the County in conformity with the *Uniform Guidance* and *UGMS* based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services were not conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

In order to ensure we maintain our independence for performing these nonaudit services, certain safeguards were applied to this engagement. Management assumed responsibility for the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and schedule of expenditures of state awards and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provided. Management acknowledged in the management representation letter our assistance with the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and schedule of expenditures of state awards and related notes and that these items were reviewed and approved prior to their issuance and accepted responsibility for them. Further, the nonaudit services were supervised by an individual within management that has the suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluated the adequacy and results of the services; and accepted responsibility for them.

Qualitative Aspects of the County's Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the County is included in the notes to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during the year ended September 30, 2020. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on 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 and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments.

The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements are:

- Management's estimate of the allowance for uncollectible receivables is based on historical collections.
- Management's estimate of the net pension liability and pension cost is based on actuarial assumptions which are determined by the demographics of the plan and future projections that the actuary makes based on historical information of the plan and the investment market.
- Management's estimates of the OPEB liabilities and OPEB costs are based on actuarial assumptions, which are determined by the demographics of the plans and future projections that the actuary makes based on historical information of the plans and the investment market.
- Management's estimate of the accumulated depreciation on capital assets is based on the related estimated useful lives of capital assets.

For each of these estimates, we evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop them in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the County's financial statements relate to the net pension liability and OPEB liabilities. The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear.

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole and each applicable opinion unit. Management has corrected all identified misstatements.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. None of the misstatements identified by us as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individual or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole or applicable opinion units.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, 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, which could be significant to the County's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the management representation letter dated March 30, 2021.

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 and accounting matters.

Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the County, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the County, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the County's auditors.

We applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis and required supplementary information (RSI), as described in the table of contents of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, that supplement 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 management's discussion and analysis or RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

We were engaged to report on certain supplementary information (SI), which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this SI, 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 SI to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Commissioners Court and management of Galveston County, Texas, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P.

Waco, Texas
March 30, 2021