



Management Letter

July 19, 2022

To the Honorable County Judge and
Members of Commissioners' Court of
Hardin County, Texas:

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Statement on Auditing Standards No. 115, *Communicating Internal Control Related Matters Identified in an Audit* (SAS 115), provides guidance to auditors on communicating internal control matters to management and the governing body, board of directors, or equivalent body.

It is important to note when reviewing findings reported within this letter that classification of findings are based on the definitions required by SAS 115, as further discussed below. Please note that these classifications are based on the potential impact to the financial statements, not necessarily the likelihood of actual loss to the Hardin County, Texas (the "County"). Accordingly, the County's assessment of the "significance" or ranking of severity will likely be substantially different based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, its assessment of risk and the cost benefit of making the change.

Our report is as follows:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County'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. There is a new pronouncement we wanted to call to your attention.

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 County's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our findings and additional comments are as follows:

Future Matter That May Subsequently Warrant Attention:

2021.001 IMPLEMENTATION OF GASB STANDARD NO. 87 – LEASES

Background

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 87, *Leases* (GASB 87), is effective for the year ending September 30, 2022 and, accordingly, the County has less than one year to implement GASB 87. GASB 87 essentially requires that all leases that finance the right to use an underlying asset should be reported on the balance sheet for both the lessor and lessee. Unlike many new accounting standards, GASB 87 may require preplanning and changes in the way the County does business. Implementation of GASB 87 will generally require centralized lease document management; in-depth review of lease documents; recording and tracking of multiple data points per lease, which may necessitate new software based on the volume of leases; and development of new controls, reconciliations, and policies and procedures.

Recommendation

The County needs to begin making initial assessments immediately to determine the lead time and resources needed. The County needs to identify all leases as both the lessor (leasing to someone-landlord-receivable) and lessee (leasing from someone-tenant-payable) in which the term initially exceeded 12 months. Based on the aggregate value of leases and materiality, the County should determine a cutoff for exclusion of insignificant leases. Based on the implementation items noted above, new software may be required. The County should establish the goal of being fully implemented 60 days prior to year end to provide for a sufficient buffer to safeguard against delay in issuing the County's September 30, 2022 financial statements.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, Commissioners' Court, the County Judge, and others within the County, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to thank the Commissioners' Court, the County Judge, and the County's management for their cooperation during the course of our audit. Please feel free to contact us at your convenience to discuss this report or any other concerns that you may have.

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