

# **City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

**Monday, November 2, 2015**

**Regular Meeting**

## **Item Reports2**

**Council to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Contryman Associates, PC for audit arrangements.**

**Staff Contact: Rick Kuckkahn, City Manager**



# CONTRYMAN ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

|   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
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|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|

October 22, 2015

City of Scottsbluff  
2525 Circle Drive  
Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

You have requested that we audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, as of September 30, 2015, and for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter. Our audit will be conducted with the objective of our expressing an opinion on each opinion unit.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

1. Management's Discussion and Analysis
2. Budgetary comparison schedules

Supplementary information other than RSI will accompany City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska's basic financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling the supplementary information to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. We intend to provide an opinion on the following supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Members: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants - CPAAmerica International

1. Combining Balance sheet – Nonmajor Governmental Funds
2. Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Nonmajor Governmental Funds.
3. Combining Statement of Net Position – Internal Service Funds
4. Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Internal Service Funds.

## **The Objective of an Audit**

The objective of an audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and will include tests of the accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

## **General Audit Procedures**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS) and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

## **Internal Control Audit Procedures**

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.

## **Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of City of Scottsbluff's, Nebraska compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts and agreements. However the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

## **Management Responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. 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 error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements;
- c. To provide us with:
  - i. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - ii. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - iii. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- d. For including the auditors' report in any document containing financial statements that indicates that such financial statements have been audited by the entity's auditor;
- e. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities; and
- f. For adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements (if any) and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the engagement and pertaining to current year period(s) under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.

With regard to the supplementary information referred to above, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility: (a) for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding supplementary information; (c) to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such supplementary information; and (d) to present the supplementary information with the audited financial statements, or if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited financial statements, to make the

audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the supplementary information and our report thereon.

As part of our audit process, we will request from the City Council and management, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

### Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the governing body of City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue a written report describing the scope of our testing over internal control over financial reporting and over compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of grants and contracts, including the results of that testing. However, providing an opinion on internal control and compliance over financial reporting will not be an objective of the audit and, therefore, no such opinion will be expressed.

### Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

### Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees

The timing of our audit will be scheduled for performance and completion as follows:

|   | <i>Begin</i> | <i>Complete</i> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Document internal control and preliminary tests | October      | October         |
| Mail confirmations                              | October      | October         |
| Perform year-end audit procedures               | December     | December        |
| Issue audit report                              | January 2016 | January 2016    |

Jada Thompson is the engagement shareholder for the audit services specified in this letter. Her responsibilities include supervising Contryman Associates P.C.'s services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our fees are based on the amount of time required at various levels of responsibility, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses. Invoices will be rendered every two weeks and are payable upon presentation. Our fee will be as we previously agreed to in the Proposal for Services dated June 5, 2015 and will be \$25,000. We will notify you immediately of any circumstances we encounter that could significantly affect this initial fee estimate. Whenever possible, we will attempt to use City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska's personnel to assist in the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts. This effort could substantially reduce our time requirements and facilitate the timely conclusion of the audit. Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

With respect to any nonattest services we perform, City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska's management is responsible for (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning a competent individual to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities. In addition, *Government Auditing Standards* require that we document an assessment of the skills, knowledge, and experience of management for any nonattest services performed by us.

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

Also during the course of the audit, we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the City Council and management the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Contryman Associates P.C. and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to state or federal agencies and the U.S. Government Accountability Office pursuant to authority



given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Contryman Associates P.C.'s personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to these agencies and regulators. The regulators and agencies may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we have attached a copy of our latest external peer review report of our firm for your consideration and files.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

Contryman Associates PC  
Certified Public Accounts  
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

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RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding of City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_