



Honorable County Judge and
Members of the Commissioners' Court
Burnet County, Texas

We have audited the financial statements of Burnet County, Texas (County) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019 and have issued our report thereon dated March 27, 2020. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated September 17, 2019, 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 entity'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.

As a part of the engagement we assisted in preparing the financial statements and related notes to the financial statements of the County in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles 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 financial statements and related notes to the financial statements and any other nonaudit services we provided. Management acknowledged in the management representation letter our assistance with the preparation of the financial statements and related notes to the financial statements and that these items were reviewed and approved prior to their issuance and accepted responsibility for them. Further, the nonaudit services were overseen 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.

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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 Note I 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 fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. 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 estimates of the useful lives of capital assets are based on the expected lifespan of the assets in accordance with standard guidelines. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates of useful lives in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

Management's estimates of the allowance for uncollectible receivables are based on historical collections. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the allowances in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

Management's estimates of the net pension liability and pension expense are 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. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net pension liability and pension expense and determined that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

Management's estimates of the total OPEB liability and related expense are based on economic and demographic assumptions related to future claims/premiums paid on behalf of retirees. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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 total OPEB liability. 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 our audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually 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 27, 2020.

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.

Significant Forthcoming Accounting Pronouncements

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued the following statements that become effective for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities* – This Statement improves guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported. The focus is generally on whether a government is controlling the assets of the fiduciary activity and on the beneficiaries with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. This Statement will become effective for the County in fiscal year 2020.

Statement No. 87, *Leases* – This Statement will improve the accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities previously classified as operating leases. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the principle that leases are financing the right to use an underlying asset. Under the Statement a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resource, enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about leasing activities. This Statement will become effective for the County in fiscal year 2021.

Restrictions on Use

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Commissioners and management of Burnet 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 27, 2020