

March 19, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Common Council  
City of Canton  
106 N Main St  
Canton, Minnesota 55922

We have audited the financial statements of the City of Canton as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated March 19, 2024. 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 December 29, 2023, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion(s) about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. 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 the financial statements includes consideration of the system 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 system of internal control of City of Canton 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.

We have provided our findings regarding significant control deficiencies over financial reporting and other matters noted during our audit in a separate letter to you dated March 19, 2024.

### **Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit**

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you in the engagement letter dated December 29, 2023.

### **Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

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

## **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity'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 City is included in Note 1 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 December 31, 2023. 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 and Related Disclosures*

Accounting estimates and related disclosures 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.

### *Financial Statement Disclosures*

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 also 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. 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 City of Canton'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 our separate letter dated March 19, 2024.

**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 City of Canton, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, 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 City of Canton's auditors.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the honorable mayor and city council, and management of City of Canton and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

*Smith, Schafu and Associates, Ltd.*

March 19, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
**City of Canton, Minnesota**

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of City of Canton as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America we considered City of Canton's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of City of Canton's internal control over financial reporting.

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 significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

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 over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A reasonable possibility exists when the likelihood of an event occurring is either reasonably possible or probable as defined as follows:

- *Reasonably possible.* The chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than likely.
- *Probable.* The future event or events are likely to occur.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the following deficiency in the entity's internal control to be significant deficiency:

### **Annual Financial Reporting and Segregation of Duties**

A City of this size have an inherent limitation in its ability to effectively segregate its accounting duties and to prepare annual full disclosure financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. It would not be practical for the City to devote the resources required to overcome this limitation. The potential exists that a material disclosure could be omitted from the financial statements and not be prevented or detected by the City's internal controls.

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None of the identified deficiencies in internal control listed above are considered to be material weaknesses.

The purpose of this communication, which is an integral part of our audit, is to describe for management and those charged with governance the scope of our testing of internal control and the results of that testing. Accordingly, this communication is not intended to be and should not be used for any other purpose.

*Smith, Schepf and Associates, Ltd.*

Rochester, Minnesota