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Board of County Commissioners  
Swift County  
Benson, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Swift County (the County) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, and have issued our report thereon dated August 9, 2016. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

## Significant audit findings

### ***Qualitative aspects of accounting practices***

#### *Accounting policies*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Swift County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

As described in Note 11, the County changed accounting policies related to pensions by adopting Statement of Governmental Accounting Standards (GASB Statement) No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* and GASB statements No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*, in 2015. Accordingly, the cumulative effect of the accounting change as of the beginning of the year is reported in the statement of activities.

We noted no transactions entered into by the County during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

#### *Accounting estimates*

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's 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 significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- Management's estimate of the useful lives for depreciation is based on Minnesota Office of the State Auditor's published guideline and historical practice. The useful life of a depreciable asset determines the amount of depreciation that is reported at the end of each reporting period. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the useful lives for depreciation in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

***Qualitative aspects of accounting practices (continued)***

***Accounting estimates (continued)***

- Management's estimate of accrued compensated absences is based on assumptions involving the probability of employees becoming eligible to receive the benefits (vesting). The current portion of this liability is based on an estimate of what portion will be used within one year. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accrued compensated absences in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of the net pension liability is based on the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA)'s analysis on current year contributions to the plan. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the allowance in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

***Financial statement disclosures***

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

***Difficulties encountered in performing the audit***

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

***Uncorrected misstatements***

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has determined that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. The following summarizes the uncorrected misstatement of the financial statements:

As a result of testing payables during the 2015 audit, the Welfare Fund has a projected error in accounts payable of \$12,196 due to disbursements not being properly recorded as payables at year-end. This projected error estimates that expenditures and accounts payable are understated by \$12,196.

***Corrected misstatements***

There were material and immaterial misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures that were corrected by management. These corrected misstatements include entries to record additional payables and receivables, reclassify receipts and disbursements, record deferred inflows of resources, and conversion entries relating to debt and capital assets for the government-wide statements.

***Disagreements with management***

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during our audit.

***Management representations***

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated August 9, 2016.

***Management consultations with other independent accountants***

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the County’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors’ opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

***Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement***

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to engagement as the entity’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our engagement.

***Other audit findings or issues***

We have provided a separate letter to you dated August 9, 2016, communicating internal control related matters identified during the audit.

***Audits of group financial statements***

We noted no matters related to the group audit that we consider being significant to the responsibilities of those charged with governance of the group.

***Quality of component auditor’s work***

There were no instances in which our evaluation of the work of the component auditors gave rise to a concern about the quality.

***Limitations on the group audit***

There were no restrictions on our access to information of components or other limitations on the group audit.

***Other information in documents containing audited financial statements***

With respect to the required supplementary information (RSI) accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI, including whether the RSI has been measured and presented in accordance with prescribed guidelines, whether the methods of measurement and preparation have been changed from the prior period and the reasons for any such changes, and whether there were any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the RSI. We compared the RSI for consistency with management’s responses to the foregoing inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. Because these limited procedures do not provide sufficient evidence, we did not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

**Other information in documents containing audited financial statements (continued)**

With respect to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the SEFA to determine that the SEFA complies with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period or the reasons for such changes, and the SEFA is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the SEFA to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves. We have issued our report thereon dated August 9, 2016.

With respect to the combining statement of changes in assets and liabilities – all agency funds, schedule of intergovernmental revenue, schedule of deposits and investments, and schedule of loans receivable (collectively, the supplementary information) accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, 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 or the reasons for such changes, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves. We have issued our report thereon dated August 9, 2016.

Our auditors' opinion, the audited financial statements, and the notes to financial statements should only be used in their entirety. Inclusion of the audited financial statements in a document you prepare, such as an annual report, should be done only with our prior approval and review of the document.

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



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Brainerd, Minnesota  
August 9, 2016