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November 6, 2023

Devens Enterprise Commission
Board of Directors
Devens, MA

Dear Honorable Board:

We have audited the financial statements of the Devens Enterprise Commission “the Commission” as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We communicated such information to the Commission’s management prior to our commencement of auditing procedures. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Scope limitation

There were no scope limitations.

GAAP Departure

There were no GAAP departures.

Material Weaknesses

There were no material weaknesses.

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Commission are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the Commission 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 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. There were no sensitive estimates applied to the accounting records for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements are those that describe the Commission's net pension and OPEB related activity at June 30, 2023.

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

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

There were no difficulties encountered.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. The Commission maintains minor variances in its receivable accounts. These are likely misstatements that the Commission should attempt to resolve. We have communicated these variances to Commission Management.

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 auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated November 6, 2023.

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 Plan's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's 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.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

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

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the System's required supplementary information ("RSI") that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management

regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

Informational Items

Current Challenges

With inflation peaking near 40-year highs, and an aggressive Federal Policy Committee increasing rates at a historic pace, the Commission can expect challenges in other areas that it has not faced in many decades:

- Wage inflation – the ability to maintain quality employees at reasonable wages.
- Interest rates – the ability to finance capital projects at reasonable financing costs.
- Construction inflation – the ability to complete capital projects at budgeted costs.
- Energy inflation – the rising costs of oil, gas and electricity.
- Goods and services – the supply chain disruptions impacting efficiency and cost of delivery of services.

We urge the Commission to monitor these situations very closely and plan accordingly as it sets forth in its fiscal 2025 budget process and capital planning.

Network Security (annual reminder)

We annually remind our clients to remain vigilant in the fight against cybercrime. Municipal entities have and continue to be targets for cyber fraud, phishing schemes, ransomware, etc.

This has become very important as the recent pandemic has opened up opportunities to work remotely, and while this is efficient, the equipment used to facilitate these processes could also become targets if not protected adequately.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Commission monitor the changing cybersecurity landscape and maintain its security systems and employee training accordingly.

Investment Income (alert)

Recent actions by the Federal Oversight Market Committee to raise the rate on borrowings significantly have begun to have a similar impact on investment yields. Many short-term (12 months or under) instruments are currently exceeding 5% yields and are liquid and legal borrowings in Massachusetts.

The Commission took advantage of these rate increases by investing in short-term Treasury notes during fiscal 2023. We encourage the Commission to continue such investment strategy and possibly expand such activity after discussions with its financial advisors.

Restriction on Use

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

Very truly yours,

Roselli Clark & Associates

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Woburn, Massachusetts