

# NOWLEN, HOLT & MINER, P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

WEST PALM BEACH OFFICE NORTHBRIDGE CENTRE 515 N. FLAGLER DRIVE, SUITE 1700 POST OFFICE BOX 347 WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33402-0347 TELEPHONE (561) 659-3060 FAX (561) 835-0628 WWW.NHMCPA.COM

EVERETT B. NOWLEN (1930-1984), CPA EDWARD T. HOLT, CPA WILLIAM B. MINER, RETIRED, CPA ROBERT W. HENDRIX, JR., CPA JANET R. BARICEVICH, CPA TERRY L. MORTON, JR., CPA N. RONALD BENNETT, CVA, ABV, CFF, CPA ALEXIA G. VARGA, CFE, CPA EDWARD T. HOLT, JR., PFS, CPA BRIAN J. BRESCIA, CFP®, CPA

> KATHLEEN A. MINER, CPA MARK J. BYMASTER, CFE, CPA RYAN M. SHORE, CFP®, CPA TIMOTHY H. SCHMEDES, CFP®, CPA WEI PAN, CPA

> WILLIAM C. KISKER, CPA

May 4, 2020

To the Board of Trustees Okeechobee Utility Authority Employees' Retirement System Okeechobee, Florida

BELLE GLADE OFFICE 333 S.E. 2nd STREET POST OFFICE BOX 338 BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA 33430-0338 TELEPHONE (561) 996-5612 FAX (561) 996-6248

We have the audited financial statements for the Okeechobee Utility Authority Employees' Retirement System, the System, for the year ended September 30, 2019. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated August 7, 2019. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

# Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the System are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No significant new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing polices was not changed during the year. We noted no transactions entered into by the System 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.

The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were the actuarial valuation assumptions.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements were:

The plan information in Note 2 and the investment information in Note 4.

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.

#### 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. We did not have any corrected or uncorrected adjustments as a result of our audit.

## 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 April 14, 2020, which is presented in the attached Schedule I.

# 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 governmental unit'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 governmental unit'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 Management's Discussion and Analysis and the pension trend information, which are 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 response 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.

We were engaged to report on Schedule of Investment and Administrative Expenses, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, 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, 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.

### Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board and management of Okeechobee Utility Authority Employees' Retirement System and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Nowlen, Holt & Miner, P.A. Nowlen, Holt, & Miner, P.A.



(863) 763-9460

FAX: (863) 467-4335

April 14, 2020

Nowlen, Holt & Miner, P.A. Certified Public Accountants 515 N. Flagler Dr., Suite 1700 West Palm Beach, FL 33401

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Okeechobee Utility Authority Employees' Retirement System (the "Plan"), which comprise the statement of fiduciary net position as of September 30, 2019, and the respective change in fiduciary net position of the Plan for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of April 14, 2020, the following representations made to you during your audit.

#### **Financial Statements**

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated August 7, 2019, including our responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP and for preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria.
- 2) The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with U.S. GAAP and include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.

- 3) We acknowledge our responsibility 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 fraud or error.
- 4) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- 5) Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- 6) Related party relationships and transactions, including revenues, expenses, loans, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.
- 7) Adjustments or disclosures have been made for all events, including instances of noncompliance, subsequent to the date of the financial statements that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements.
- 8) The effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 9) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the Plan is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

#### **Information Provided**

- 10) We have provided you with:
  - a) Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters.
  - b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
  - c) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
  - d) Minutes of the meetings of the Plan's Board or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- 11) All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- 12) We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

- 13) We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
  - a) Management,
  - b) Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
  - c) Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 14) We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators, or others.
- 15) We have no knowledge of instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- 16) We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- 17) We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

# Government—specific

- 18) There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
- 19) We have identified to you any previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- 20) The Plan has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
- 21) We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- 22) As part of your audit, you assisted with preparation of the financial statements and related notes. We acknowledge our responsibility as it relates to those nonaudit services, including that we assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services performed; and accept responsibility for the results of the services. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements and related.
- 23) In order to provide oversight of the financial statement preparation services provided by you at an appropriate level, we have established effective review policies and procedures including the performance of the following functions:

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- a) Reconcile general ledger amounts to the draft statements utilizing grouping schedules provided by you.
- b) Review all supporting documentation and explanations for journal entries you proposed and approve the entries.
- c) Review and approve schedules and calculations supporting amounts included in the notes to the financial statements.
- 24) The Plan has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
- 25) The Plan has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
- 26) The financial statements include all component units as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures and other related organizations.
- 27) The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities, in accordance with GASB Statement No. 34.
- 28) Investments are properly valued.
- 29) Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
- 30) Deposits and investment securities are properly classified as to risk and are properly disclosed.
- 31) We agree with the findings of actuaries in evaluating the Plan's pension liability and have adequately considered the qualifications of the actuaries in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the actuaries with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an impact on the independence or objectivity of the actuaries. We believe that the actuarial assumptions and methods used to measure pension liability and costs for financial accounting purposes are appropriate in the circumstances.
- 32) We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
- 33) With respect to the Schedule of Investment and Administrative Expenses.
  - a) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the Schedule of Investment and Administrative Expenses in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the Schedule of Investment and

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Administrative Expenses, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the Schedule of Investment and Administrative Expenses, have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.

- b) If the Schedule of Investment and Administrative Expenses, is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
- 34) During the course of your audit, you may have accumulated records containing data that should be reflected in our books and records. All such data have been so reflected. Accordingly, copies of such records in your possession are no longer needed by us.

Signed: Jan Anlla	Signed: Med Pau
Title: Chairman	Title: Plan Administator