

June 15, 2021

To the Supervisor and the
Town Board of the Town of North Salem
266 Titicus Road
North Salem, NY 10560

As part of our planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Town of North Salem, New York, for the year ended December 31, 2020, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

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 combination of deficiencies, in internal control 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 *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. This letter does not affect our report dated June 15, 2021 on the financial statements of the Town of North Salem, New York. The accompanying recommendations are those that came to our attention during our examination, but assurances cannot be drawn that there are no other weaknesses.

Certain matters involving the internal control structure and its operation, of a more routine nature, have been discussed verbally with the appropriate administrative personnel.

PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

During our review of the General Fund escrow balances, we noted variances between the schedules compiled by the various departments and the amount reported in the general ledger. We tested the activity during the current year and determined that activity posted in the general ledger was reasonable when compared to the activity in the individual escrow details. It appears that most of the variances, which are not material to the financial statements, were the result of transactions prior

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to 2020. We recommend that the Town review the individual project balances in the Planning, Engineer and Wetlands escrow accounts to determine the actual amount being held by the Town for existing ongoing projects.

Management's Response - The Director of Finance along with the appropriate departments will review the balances and make corrections as needed to the books and records.

During our review of the Town's account balances we noted funds being held in escrow with no identifiable project. All escrow balances should have a corresponding schedule that details the individual amounts being held. We recommend that the Town identify the source of these funds and disperse as required.

Management's Response – The Director of Finance and the appropriate departments will review the balances to determine the status of any outstanding projects for resolution of monies owed.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the Staff who assisted us during our examination, and provided us with all the necessary records.

Very truly yours,



Cooper Arias, LLP