



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
www.LCFPD.org

Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: May 1, 2017

TO: S. Michael Rummel, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Steve Neaman
Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Audit Services for the District

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a five-year Contract for auditing services for the Lake County Forest Preserve District for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2021 to Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, Oak Brook, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$278,190.00.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: The 2017 audit fees totaling \$52,400.00 will be budgeted and charged to the Audit Fund (22104000-701000). Audit fees for 2016 totaled \$60,500.00.

BACKGROUND: RSM US LLP has provided auditing services to the District for fiscal years 2011 through 2016. The District continued to earn the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting under a good working relationship with RSM US LLP during this six-year period. Under a separate agreement, which also expired with the FY 2016 audit, RSM US LLP provided auditing services and tax preparation for the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves ("Foundation").

The Government Finance Officers Association ("GFOA") recommends multiyear agreements of at least five years in duration to allow for greater continuity and to help minimize the potential for disruption in connection with the independent audit. Multiyear agreements can also help to reduce audit costs by allowing auditors to recover certain "startup" costs over several years, rather than over a single year. In addition, GFOA indicates auditor independence would be enhanced by requiring that the independent auditor be replaced at the end of the audit contract, as is often the case in the private sector.

A Request For Proposals was issued on January 20, 2017, for a five-year auditing arrangement for the District. Five firms submitted proposals, and three firms were interviewed by a selection committee consisting of the Director of Finance, Chief Development Officer and Accounting Manager. The three firms interviewed were Baker Tilly; RSM US LLP; and BKD LLP.

It is the consensus of the selection committee that Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP's proposal is the most advantageous to the District based on their interview and proposal. A summary of the proposed fees from all of the firms is as follows:

AUDITING SERVICES

	Proposals					5-yr Total
	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	
BKD, LLP	\$51,800	\$53,180	\$54,600	\$56,055	\$57,530	\$273,165
Lauterbach & Amen, LLP	\$52,100	\$53,705	\$55,310	\$56,915	\$58,520	\$276,550
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP	\$52,400	\$53,970	\$55,580	\$57,260	\$58,980	\$278,190
Sikich LLP	\$54,000	\$55,080	\$56,175	\$57,295	\$58,430	\$280,980
RSM US LLP	\$57,600	\$59,500	\$61,400	\$63,300	\$65,200	\$307,000

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Purchasing Manager, Corporate Counsel.

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR AUDITING SERVICES TO
BAKER TILLEY VIRCHOW KRAUSE, LLP**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) desires to purchase the services of an independent accountant or accountants to audit all funds and accounts of the District and of the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserve District to be made annually for five fiscal years (the "Services"); and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance, and the Purchasing Manager have determined that the Services require personal confidence; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Manager has solicited proposals for the Services; and

WHEREAS, a selection committee comprised of staff reviewed the proposals and interviewed three firms and recommends that the Board of Commissioners (i) find that the proposal submitted by Baker Tilley Virchow Krause, LLP is the proposal that is most advantageous to the District; and (ii) award a five-year contract for the Services to Baker Tilley Virchow Krause, LLP in the amount of \$278,190.00 (the “Contract Price”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that the proposal for the Services submitted by Baker Tilley Virchow Krause, LLP is the proposal that is most advantageous to the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois THAT:

Section 1: Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2: Award of Contract. A Contract for the Services (the “Contract”) in the amount of the Contract Price, in substantially the form of the attached Engagement Letter, is hereby awarded to Baker Tilley Virchow Krause, LLP.

Section 3: Execution of Contract. The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contract for the Services in the amount of the Contract Price.

Section 4: Payments. The District Treasurer shall make payments under the Contract only pursuant to and in accordance with the Contract terms.

Section 5: Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2017.

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Ann B. Maine, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____



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Oak Brook, IL 60523-3389
tel 630 990 3131
fax 630 990 0039
bakertilly.com

March 20, 2017

Lake County Forest Preserve District
1899 W Winchester Rd.
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Thank you for using Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP ("Baker Tilly" or "we" or "our") as your auditors.

The purpose of this letter (the "Engagement Letter") is to confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature of the services we will provide as independent accountants of the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves ("you" or "your").

Services and Related Report

We will audit the basic financial statements of the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements. Upon completion of our audit, we will provide the Lake County Forest Preserve District with our audit report on the financial statements and supplemental information referred to below. If, for any reasons caused by or relating to the affairs or management of the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to or have not formed an opinion, or if we determine in our professional judgment the circumstances necessitate, we may withdraw and decline to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

The following supplementary information accompanying the financial statements will also be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and our auditor's report will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Combining and Individual Fund Financial Statements

The following supplementary information will also be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and our auditor's report will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information ("RSI"), such as management's discussion and analysis, to supplement the Lake County Forest Preserve District's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the Lake County Forest Preserve District's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist 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 will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

Management's Discussion and Analysis
Budget Comparison Schedules
Historical Pension and OPEB Information

We will read the following other information accompanying the financial statements to identify any material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements; however, the other information will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and our auditor's report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that other information:

Introductory Section
Statistical Section

Our Responsibilities and Limitations

The objective of a financial statement audit is the expression of an opinion on the financial statements. The objective also includes reporting on:

- > Internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

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- > Internal control related to major federal programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance").

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We will be responsible for performing the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAS"); the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions and to render the required reports.

These standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse. Our audit will include examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit does not relieve management and the audit committee or equivalent group charged with governance of their responsibilities.

The audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves and its environment, including internal controls, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to determine the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and the audit committee or equivalent group charged with governance internal control matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards. We will also inform you of any other matters involving internal control, if any, as required by *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control over compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We will design our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance of detecting errors or fraud that would have a material effect on the financial statements as well as other illegal acts having a direct and material effect on financial statement amounts. An audit is not designed to detect error or fraud that is immaterial to the financial statements. Our audit will not include a detailed audit of transactions, such as would be necessary to disclose errors or fraud that did not cause a material misstatement of the financial statements. It is important to recognize that there are inherent limitations in the auditing process. Audits are based on the concept of selective testing of the data underlying the financial statements, which involves judgment regarding the areas to be tested and the nature, timing, extent and results of the tests to be performed. Our audit is not a guarantee of the accuracy of the financial statements and, therefore, is subject to the limitation that material errors or fraud or other illegal acts having a direct and material financial statement impact or a direct and material effect on major federal programs, if they exist, may not be detected. Because of the characteristics of fraud, particularly those involving concealment through collusion, falsified documentation and management's ability to override controls, an audit designed and executed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, may not detect a material fraud. Further, while effective internal control reduces the likelihood that errors, fraud or other illegal acts will occur and remain undetected, it does not eliminate that possibility. For these reasons, we cannot ensure that errors, fraud or other illegal acts or noncompliance, if present, will be detected. However, we will communicate to you, as appropriate, any such matters that we identify during our audit. Also, if required by *Government Auditing Standards*, we will report known or likely fraud, illegal acts, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse directly to parties outside of the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Lake County Forest Preserve District's and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves' compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance require that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether you have complied with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of test of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the OMB Compliance Supplement for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Lake County Forest Preserve District's major programs. The purpose of those procedures will be to express an opinion on your compliance with requirements applicable to each of your major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We are also responsible for determining that the audit committee or equivalent group charged with governance is informed about certain other matters related to the conduct of the audit, including (i) our responsibility under GAAS, (ii) an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, and (iii) significant findings from the audit, which include (a) our views about the qualitative aspects of your significant accounting practices, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures; (b) difficulties encountered in performing the audit; (c) uncorrected misstatements and material corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of auditing procedures; and (d) other significant and relevant findings or issues (e.g., any disagreements with management about matters that could be significant to your financial statements or our report thereon, consultations with other independent accountants, issues discussed prior to our retention as independent auditors, fraud and illegal acts, and all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses identified during the audit). Lastly, we are responsible for ensuring that the audit committee or equivalent group charged with governance receives copies of certain written communications between us and management including written communications on accounting, auditing, internal controls or operational matters and representations that we are requesting from management.

The audit will not be planned or conducted in contemplation of reliance of any specific third party or with respect to any specific transaction. Therefore, items of possible interest to a third party will not be specifically addressed and matters may exist that would be addressed differently by a third party, possibly in connection with a specific transaction.

Management's Responsibilities

The Lake County Forest Preserve District's and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves' management is responsible for the financial statements referred to above. Management is also responsible for identifying government award programs and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements, and for preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. In this regard, management is responsible for establishing policies and procedures that pertain to the maintenance of adequate accounting records and effective internal controls, including internal controls over compliance, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities; to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with applicable requirements; and ensuring that management is reliable and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. Your responsibilities also include identifying significant vendor relationships in which the vendor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, the authorization of receipts and disbursements, the safeguarding of assets, the proper recording of transactions in the accounting records, for reporting financial information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

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Management is also responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us in the management representation letter (i) about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves involving: (a) management, (b) employees who have significant roles in internal control over financial reporting, and (c) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements; and (ii) of its knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves received in communications from employees, former employees, analysts, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review before we begin fieldwork.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed above. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in conformity with GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (b) that you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (c) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

You are responsible for preparation of the schedule of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in a written representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (b) that you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (c) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior year (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of federal awards.

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Management is responsible for (i) adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and for affirming to us in a management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, and (ii) notifying us of all material weaknesses, including other significant deficiencies, in the design or operation of your internal control over financial reporting that are reasonably likely to adversely affect your ability to record, process, summarize and report external financial data reliably in accordance with GAAP. Management is also responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities.

As part of management's responsibility for the financial statements and the effectiveness of its system of internal control over financial reporting, management is responsible for making available to us, on a timely basis, all of your original accounting records and related information and for the completeness and accuracy of that information and your personnel to whom we may direct inquiries. As required by GAAS, we will make specific inquiries of management and others about the representations embodied in the financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. GAAS also requires that we obtain written representations covering audited schedule of expenditures of federal awards, federal award programs, and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements from certain members of management. The results of our audit tests, the responses to our inquiries, and the written representations, comprise the evidential matter we intend to rely upon in forming our opinion on the financial statements.

Baker Tilly is not a municipal advisor as defined in Section 975 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act or under Section 15B of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"). Baker Tilly is not recommending an action to the Lake County Forest Preserve District; is not acting as an advisor to you and does not owe a fiduciary duty pursuant to Section 15B of the Act to you with respect to the information and material contained in the deliverables issued under this engagement. You should discuss any information and material contained in the deliverables with any and all internal and external advisors and experts that you deem appropriate before acting on this information or material.

Nonattest Services

Prior to or as part of our audit engagement, it may be necessary for us to perform certain nonattest services. For purposes of this letter, nonattest services include services that *Government Auditing Standards* refers to as non-audit services.

Nonattest services that we will be providing are as follows:

- > Preparation of adjusting journal entries, as necessary

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards including *Government Auditing Standards*.

We will not perform any management functions or make management decisions on your behalf with respect to any nonattest services we provide.

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In connection with our performance of any nonattest services, you agree that you will:

- > Continue to make all management decisions and perform all management functions, including approving all journal entries and general ledger classifications when they are submitted to you.
- > Designate an employee with suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience, preferably within senior management, to oversee the services we perform.
- > Evaluate the adequacy and results of the nonattest services we perform.
- > Accept responsibility for the results of our nonattest services.
- > Establish and maintain internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities related to the nonattest function.

On a periodic basis, as needed, we will meet with you to discuss your accounting records and the management implications of your financial statements. We will notify you, in writing, of any matters that we believe you should be aware of and will meet with you upon request.

Other Documents

If you intend to reproduce or publish the financial statements in an annual report or other information (excluding official statements), and make reference to our firm name in connection therewith, you agree to publish the financial statements in their entirety. In addition, you agree to provide us, for our approval and consent, proofs before printing and final materials before distribution.

If you intend to reproduce or publish the financial statements in an official statement, unless we establish a separate agreement to be involved in the issuance, any official statements issued by the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves must contain a statement that Baker Tilly is not associated with the official statement, which shall read "Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, has also not performed any procedures relating to this official statement."

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your Internet website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

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At the conclusion of our engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior year audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report for you to include within the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of thirty (30) days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine (9) months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves, however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection unless restricted by law or regulation or if they contain privileged and confidential information.

The documentation for this engagement, including the workpapers, is the property of Baker Tilly and constitutes confidential information. However, pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to federal or state agencies for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Baker Tilly personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

We may have a responsibility to retain the documentation for a period of time sufficient to satisfy any applicable legal or regulatory requirements for records retention. If we are required by law, regulation or professional standards to make certain documentation available to regulators, the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves hereby authorizes us to do so.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent peer review reports received during the period of the contract. Our most recent peer review report accompanies this letter.

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Timing and Fees

While we have completed certain client acceptance procedures, we have not yet completed our pre-acceptance inquiries of RSM US, LLP. These inquiries are required by GAAS. Accordingly, our final acceptance of this engagement remains subject to your authorizing RSM US, LLP to respond fully to our inquiries regarding matters that will assist us in determining whether to accept this engagement, and our evaluation of the results of those inquiries. We will inform you promptly in the event we determine we cannot accept this engagement.

You agree to authorize RSM US, LLP to allow a review of their audit documentation and respond to additional inquiries we consider relevant to our planning and performing of this engagement.

Any fees charged by RSM US, LLP in connection with the preceding paragraphs are your responsibility.

Completion of our work is subject to, among other things, (i) appropriate cooperation from the Lake County Forest Preserve District's and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves' personnel, including timely preparation of necessary schedules, (ii) timely responses to our inquiries, and (iii) timely communication of all significant accounting and financial reporting matters. When and if for any reason the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves is unable to provide such schedules, information, and assistance, Baker Tilly and you may mutually revise the fee to reflect additional services, if any, required of us to complete the audit. Delays in the issuance of our audit report beyond the date that was originally contemplated may require us to perform additional auditing procedures which will likely result in additional fees.

Revisions to the scope of our work will be communicated to you and may be set forth in the form of an "Amendment to Existing Engagement Letter." In addition, if we discover compliance issues that require us to perform additional procedures and/or provide assistance with these matters, fees at our standard hourly rates apply.

Our fee will be \$35,400 for the District audit, \$3,000 for the Single Audit (assumes one major program), and \$11,000 for the Foundation audit. Invoices for our fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. A charge of 1.5% per month shall be imposed on accounts not paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of our statement for services provided. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes thirty (30) days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notice of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

We may use temporary contract staff to perform certain tasks on your engagement and will bill for that time at the rate that corresponds to Baker Tilly staff providing a similar level of service. Upon request, we will be happy to provide details on training, supervision, and billing arrangements we use in connection with these professionals.

Additionally, we may from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use service providers (e.g., to act as a specialist or audit an element of the financial statements) in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but are committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information.

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Any additional services that may be requested, and we agree to provide, may be the subject of a separate engagement letter.

We may be required to disclose confidential information to federal, state and international regulatory bodies or a court in criminal or other civil litigation. In the event that we receive a request from a third party (including a subpoena, summons or discovery demand in litigation) calling for the production of information, we will promptly notify the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves, unless otherwise prohibited. In the event we are requested by the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves or required by government regulation, subpoena or other legal process to produce our engagement working papers or our personnel as witnesses with respect to services rendered to the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves, so long as we are not a party to the proceeding in which the information is sought, we may seek reimbursement for our professional time and expenses, as well as the fees and legal expenses, incurred in responding to such a request.

Our fees are based on known circumstances at the time of this Engagement Letter. Should circumstances change significantly during the course of this engagement, we will discuss with you the need for any revised audit fees. This can result from changes at the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves, such as the turnover of key accounting staff, the addition of new funds or significant federal or state programs or changes that affect the amount of audit effort from external sources, such as new accounting and auditing standards that become effective that increase the scope of our audit procedures. This Engagement Letter currently includes all auditing standards through Statement on Auditing Standards ("SAS") No. 131 – *Amendment to Statement on Auditing Standards No. 122 Section 700, Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements*, all accounting standards through Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") No. 78, – *Pensions Provided Through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans*, excluding GASB No. 74 and 75, and the current federal single audit guidance.

We would expect to continue to perform our services under the arrangements discussed above from year to year, unless for some reason you or we find that some change is necessary. We will, of course be happy to provide the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves with any other services you may find necessary or desirable.

Resolution of Disagreements

In the unlikely event that differences concerning services or fees should arise that are not resolved by mutual agreement, both parties agree to attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation administered by the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") under its mediation rules for professional accounting and related services disputes before resorting to litigation or any other dispute-resolution procedure. Each party shall bear their own expenses from mediation.

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If mediation does not settle the dispute or claim, then the parties agree that the dispute or claim shall be settled by binding arbitration. The arbitration proceeding shall take place in the city in which the Baker Tilly office providing the relevant services is located, unless the parties mutually agree to a different location. The proceeding shall be governed by the provisions of the Federal Arbitration Act (FAA) and will proceed in accordance with the then current Arbitration Rules for Professional Accounting and Related Disputes of the AAA, except that no pre-hearing discovery shall be permitted unless specifically authorized by the arbitrator. The arbitrator will be selected from AAA, Judicial Arbitration & Mediation Services (JAMS), the Center for Public Resources or any other internationally or nationally-recognized organization mutually agreed upon by the parties. Potential arbitrator names will be exchanged within fifteen (15) days of the parties' agreement to settle the dispute or claim by binding arbitration, and arbitration will thereafter proceed expeditiously. The arbitration will be conducted before a single arbitrator, experienced in accounting and auditing matters. The arbitrator shall have no authority to award non-monetary or equitable relief and will not have the right to award punitive damages. The award of the arbitration shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a well-reasoned opinion. The award issued by the arbitrator may be confirmed in a judgment by any federal or state court of competent jurisdiction. Each party shall be responsible for their own costs associated with the arbitration, except that the costs of the arbitrator shall be equally divided by the parties. The arbitration proceeding and all information disclosed during the arbitration shall be maintained as confidential, except as may be required for disclosure to professional or regulatory bodies or in a related confidential arbitration. In no event shall a demand for arbitration be made after the date when institution of legal or equitable proceedings based on such claim would be barred under the applicable statute of limitations.

Our services shall be evaluated solely on our substantial conformance with the terms expressly set forth herein, including all applicable professional standards. Any claim of nonconformance must be clearly and convincingly shown.

Limitation on Damages and Indemnification

The liability (including attorney's fees and all other costs) of Baker Tilly and its present or former partners, principals, agents or employees related to any claim for damages relating to the services performed under this Engagement Letter shall not exceed the fees paid to Baker Tilly for the portion of the work to which the claim relates, except to the extent finally determined to have resulted from the willful misconduct or fraudulent behavior of Baker Tilly relating to such services. This limitation of liability is intended to apply to the full extent allowed by law, regardless of the grounds or nature of any claim asserted, including the negligence of either party. Additionally, in no event shall either party be liable for any lost profits, lost business opportunity, lost data, consequential, special, incidental, exemplary or punitive damages, delays or interruptions arising out of or related to this Engagement Letter even if the other party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

As Baker Tilly is performing the services solely for your benefit, you will indemnify Baker Tilly, its subsidiaries and their present or former partners, principals, employees, officers and agents against all costs, fees, expenses, damages and liabilities (including attorneys' fees and all defense costs) associated with any third-party claim, relating to or arising as a result of the services, or this Engagement Letter.

Because of the importance of the information that you provide to Baker Tilly with respect to Baker Tilly's ability to perform the services, you hereby release Baker Tilly and its present and former partners, principals, agents and employees from any liability, damages, fees, expenses and costs, including attorney's fees, relating to the services, that arise from or relate to any information, including representations by management, provided by you, the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves personnel or agents, that is not complete, accurate or current.

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Each party recognizes and agrees that the warranty disclaimers and liability and remedy limitations in this Engagement Letter are material bargained for bases of this Engagement Letter and that they have been taken into account and reflected in determining the consideration to be given by each party under this Engagement Letter and in the decision by each party to enter into this Engagement Letter.

The terms of this section shall apply regardless of the nature of any claim asserted (including, but not limited to, contract, tort or any form of negligence, whether of you, Baker Tilly or others), but these terms shall not apply to the extent finally determined to be contrary to the applicable law or regulation. These terms shall also continue to apply after any termination of this Engagement Letter.

You accept and acknowledge that any legal proceedings arising from or in conjunction with the services provided under this Engagement Letter must be commenced within twelve (12) months after the performance of the services for which the action is brought, without consideration as to the time of discovery of any claim.

Other Matters

Neither this Engagement Letter, any claim, nor any rights or licenses granted hereunder may be assigned, delegated, or subcontracted by either party without the written consent of the other party. Either party may assign and transfer this Engagement Letter to any successor that acquires all or substantially all of the business or assets of such party by way of merger, consolidation, other business reorganization, or the sale of interest or assets, provided that the party notifies the other party in writing of such assignment and the successor agrees in writing to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Engagement Letter.

Our dedication to client service is carried out through our employees who are integral in meeting this objective. In recognition of the importance of our employees, it is hereby agreed that the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves will not solicit our employees for employment or enter into an independent contractor arrangement with any individual who is or was an employee of Baker Tilly for a period of twelve months following the date of the conclusion of this engagement. If the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves violates this non-solicitation clause, the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves agrees to pay to Baker Tilly a fee equal to the hired person's annual salary at the time of the violation so as to reimburse Baker Tilly for the costs of hiring and training a replacement.

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP is an independent member of Baker Tilly International. Baker Tilly International Limited is an English company. Baker Tilly International provides no professional services to clients. Each member firm is a separate and independent legal entity and each describes itself as such. Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP is not Baker Tilly International's agent and does not have the authority to bind Baker Tilly International or act on Baker Tilly International's behalf. None of Baker Tilly International, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, nor any of the other member firms of Baker Tilly International has any liability for each other's acts or omissions. The name Baker Tilly and its associated logo is used under license from Baker Tilly International Limited.

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This Engagement Letter constitutes the entire agreement between the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves and Baker Tilly regarding the services described in this Engagement Letter and supersedes and incorporates all prior or contemporaneous representations, understandings or agreements, and may not be modified or amended except by an agreement in writing signed between the parties hereto.

The provisions of this Engagement Letter, which expressly or by implication are intended to survive its termination or expiration, will survive and continue to bind both parties. If any provision of this Engagement Letter is declared or found to be illegal, unenforceable or void, then both parties shall be relieved of all obligations arising under such provision, but if the remainder of this Engagement Letter shall not be affected by such declaration or finding and is capable of substantial performance, then each provision not so affected shall be enforced to the extent permitted by law or applicable professional standards.

If because of a change in the Lake County Forest Preserve District's and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves' status or due to any other reason, any provision in this Engagement Letter would be prohibited by, or would impair our independence under laws, regulations or published interpretations by governmental bodies, commissions or other regulatory agencies, such provision shall, to that extent, be of no further force and effect and this agreement shall consist of the remaining portions.

This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Illinois, without giving effect to the provisions relating to conflict of laws.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you.

If there are any questions regarding the Engagement Letter, please contact Jason Coyle, the engagement partner on this engagement who is responsible for the overall supervision and review of the engagement and for determining that the engagement has been completed in accordance with professional standards. Jason Coyle is available at (630) 645-6205, or at Jason.Coyle@bakertilly.com.

Sincerely,

BAKER TILLY VIRCHOW KRAUSE, LLP



The services and terms as set forth in the Engagement Letter are agreed to by:

Official's Name

Official's Signature

Title

Date