GABRIDGE & CO

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June 18, 2015

To the Board of Commissioners
Calhoun County, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Calhoun County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014. Our report includes a reference to other auditors. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Circular A-133, 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 April 23, 2015. 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 Calhoun County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit 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 Calhoun County's financial statements were:

- Management's estimate of the useful lives of depreciable capital assets is based on the length of time it is believed that those assets will provide some economic benefit in the future.

- Management's estimate of the accrued compensated absences and the related pay rates as of December 31, 2014.

- Management's estimate of the allowance for uncollectible receivable balances is based on past experience and future expectation for collection of various account balances.

- Management's estimate of insurance claims incurred but not yet reported is based on information provided by the entity's third parties administrators and subsequent claims activity.

- Management's assumptions used to calculate the actuarial report and the net present value of post employment benefits, including pension and other post-employment benefits.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates and determined that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

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 trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as 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 June 18, 2015.

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 the budgetary comparison schedules, the schedule of funding progress, and management's discussion and analysis, 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 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.

We were engaged to report on the combining and individual fund statements and schedules and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, 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.

The introductory section and statistical tables have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Upcoming Changes in Accounting Standards

Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) are continually changing in order to promote the usability and enhance the applicability of information included in external financial reporting. While it would not be practical to include an in-depth discussion of every upcoming change in professional standards, Attachment A to this letter contains a brief overview of recent pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and their related effective dates. Management is responsible for reviewing these standards, determining their applicability, and implementing them in future accounting periods.

Restriction on Use

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

Gabridge & Company

Gabridge & Company, PLC
Grand Rapids, MI

CALHOUN COUNTY
Attachment A – Upcoming Changes in Accounting Standards / Regulations
For the December 31, 2014 Audit

The following pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) have been released recently and may be applicable to the County in the near future. We encourage management to review the following information and determine which standard(s) may be applicable to the County. For the complete text of these and other GASB standards, visit www.gasb.org and click on the "Standards & Guidance" tab. If you have questions regarding the applicability, timing, or implementation approach for any of these standards, please contact your audit team.

GASB 68 – Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions

Effective 6/15/15 (your FY 2015)

This standard establishes new requirements for governments to report a "net pension liability" for the unfunded portion of its pension plan. Governments that maintain their own pension plans (either single employer or agent multiple-employer) will report a liability for the difference between the total pension liability calculated by the plan actuaries and the amount held in the pension trust fund. Governments that participate in a cost sharing plan will report a liability for their "proportionate share" of the net pension liability of the entire system.

Historically, governments have only been required to report a net pension obligation to the extent that they have not met the annual required contribution (ARC) in any given year. Upon implementation of this standard, governments will be required to report a net pension liability based on the current funded status of their pension plans. This liability would be limited to the government-wide financial statements and proprietary funds. Changes in this liability from year to year will largely be reflected on the income statement, though certain amounts will be deferred and amortized over varying periods.

GASB 68 also requires more extensive note disclosures and required supplementary information, including 10 years of historical information. The methods used to determine the discount rate (the assumed rate of return on plan assets held in trust) are mandated and must be disclosed, along with what the impact would be on the net pension liability if that rate changed by 1% in either direction. Other new disclosure requirements include details of the changes in the components of the net pension liability, comparisons of actual employer contributions to actuarially determined contributions, and ratios to put the net pension liability in context. For single-employer and agent multiple-employer plans, the information for these statements will come from the annual actuarial valuation. For cost sharing plans, this information will be derived from the financial reports of the plan itself, multiplied by the government's proportionate share of plan.

While GASB 68 is only applicable to pension plans, the GASB has released exposure drafts that would implement similar requirements for other postemployment benefits (e.g., retiree healthcare) within the next few years.

GASB 69 – Government Combinations and Disposals of Government Operations

Effective 12/15/14 (your FY 2015)

This standard provides detailed requirements for the accounting and disclosure of various types of government combinations, such as mergers, acquisitions, and transfers of operations. The guidance available previously was limited to nongovernmental entities, and therefore did not provide practical examples for situations common in government-specific combinations and disposals. The accounting and disclosure requirements for these events vary based on whether a significant payment is made, the continuation or termination of services, and the legal structure of the new or continuing entity.

Given the infrequent nature of these types of events, we do not expect this standard to have any impact on the County at this time.

GASB 71 – Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date

Effective with the implementation of GASB 68

This standard is an amendment to GASB 68, and seeks to clarify certain implementation issues related to amounts that are deferred and amortized at the time GASB 68 is first adopted. It applies to situations in which the measurement date of an actuarial valuation differs from the government's fiscal year.

2 CFR 200 – Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards

Cost Principles Effective 12/26/14 (your FY 2015); Single Audit Requirements Effective 12/26/14 (your FY 2016)

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has consolidated seven separate circulars (including administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements) into a single federal regulation. The new Uniform Guidance covers all aspects of federal grants from pre-award through the single audit. While much of the guidance was simply reorganized and recodified, there were also several substantive changes to the single audit thresholds. A single audit will now only be required if total expenditures of federal awards exceed $750,000 (up from $500,000). The OMB has indicated that further changes to the single audit will be announced in 2015.

In addition, the Uniform Guidance now explicitly requires grant recipients to have sound internal controls that are consistent with the COSO framework and documented procedures for grant administration. Gabridge & Company, PLC is available to assist grant recipients in developing/documenting these policies and procedures in compliance with the new requirements.