

## CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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# REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL BASED ON AN AUDIT OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Board of Selectmen Town of Warner, New Hampshire

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Warner, New Hampshire (the Town) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Town's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions 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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Town's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the following deficiency in the Town's internal control to be a material weakness:

## SEGREGATION OF DUTIES

### Observation

The Town has a general ledger accounting system, which has the capabilities to account for the activity of more than one fund. However, as previously reported, only the activity of the General Fund is currently being recorded in the accounting system.

The Town's Treasurer is the authorized signature on various bank accounts in addition to those reported in the Town's General Fund. These additional accounts have been earmarked to account for the activity of the following: Chandler Reservation Fund and Conservation Commission Fund. There is no formal accounting system in place to keep track of the annual activity of these additional accounts. The only reporting of these funds is being maintained by the Treasurer.

## **Implication**

The internal controls over cash receipts and cash disbursements are weakened. There is no proper segregation of duties pertaining to these other bank accounts. The current procedures place sole reliance on the Treasurer to deposit monies, write checks, reconcile the bank accounts, and maintain a record of the activity.

#### Recommendation

We urge Town officials to fully utilize the accounting system to record the on-going activity in funds previously mentioned. Although the Treasurer maintains records for these funds, the Town's finance personnel should also be tracking the activity with the accounting software. This will ensure an accurate financial position of the Town will be available upon which the Selectmen may make sound business decisions. Sound internal controls provide for the distribution of duties to various personnel to reduce the risk of loss and to provide a system of checks and balances.

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We also identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies, and communicated them in writing to management and those charged with governance on January 30, 2013. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a 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.

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

January 30, 2013

Vachon Clukay & Company PC