

# Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

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October 26, 2020

Selectboard  
Town of East Montpelier, Vermont  
P.O. Box 157  
East Montpelier, Vermont 05651

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020 and have issued our report thereon dated October 26, 2020. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in "Government Auditing Standards", issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances 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 of East Montpelier, Vermont's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont'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 material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. However, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

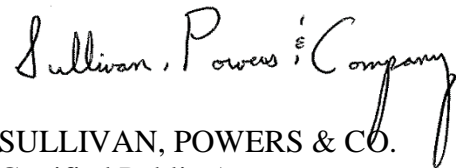
A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Deficiencies in Internal Control and Other Recommendations as Items 2020-1 and 2020-2 to be material weaknesses.

We have also noted other matters during our audit as indicated in the accompanying Schedule of Deficiencies in Internal Control and Other Recommendations that are opportunities for strengthening internal control and operating efficiency. We have discussed the recommendations with the staff during the course of fieldwork and some of the recommendations may have already been implemented.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Selectboard, and others within the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. If you would like to discuss any of the recommendations further, please feel free to contact us.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont for their assistance and cooperativeness throughout our audit. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sullivan, Powers & Company". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the firm.

SULLIVAN, POWERS & CO.  
Certified Public Accountants

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT  
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AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS  
JUNE 30, 2020

Deficiencies in Internal Control:

Material Weaknesses:

2020-1 Grants Receivable/Deferred Inflows of Resources

*Criteria:*

Internal controls should be in place to ensure that the grants receivable and related deferred inflows of resources balances are recorded properly at year end.

*Condition:*

The grants receivable and related deferred inflows of resources accounts were not reconciled to the actual balances at year end which resulted in various adjustments to revenue.

*Cause:*

Unknown.

*Effect:*

The Town's grants receivable and related deferred inflows of resources balances were incorrect.

*Recommendation:*

We recommend that the Town reconcile the grants receivable and related deferred inflows of resources balances to supporting documentation annually in order to detect and correct errors.

2020-2 Accounts Payable

*Criteria:*

Internal controls should be in place to ensure that expenditures are recorded in the proper fiscal year. Expenditures should be recorded based on the timing of services provided or when goods are received.

*Condition:*

The Town did not have controls in place to ensure all accounts payable were recorded in the proper fiscal year. The Town did not record the payable for work completed on a sidewalk project during the fiscal year.

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*Cause:*

This was due to a misunderstanding of when the expenditures should be recognized.

*Effect:*

The Town's accounts payable balance was incorrect.

*Recommendation:*

We recommend that the Town review their end of the year invoices more thoroughly in order to properly classify expenditures to the correct fiscal year.

Other Recommendations:

Fraud Risk Assessment

The Town has not performed a fraud risk assessment. A fraud risk assessment is important because it identifies the Town's vulnerabilities to fraudulent activities and whether those vulnerabilities could result in material misstatement of the financial statements. The fraud risk assessment would also identify processes, controls, and other procedures used to mitigate the identified fraud risks.

We recommend the Town perform a fraud risk assessment to reduce the possibility of fraudulent activities.

Documentation of Internal Control System

A solid understanding of internal control is essential. An organization must continually assess their internal control systems to ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations. As part of this process, management should formally document its control systems.

The Town has an accounting policy and procedures manual which does outline some control activities but does not include documentation of the internal control systems. This should provide management with an understanding of the systems related to financial reporting, and the controls over relevant assertions related to all significant accounts, disclosures in the financial statements, antifraud programs and controls over selection and application of accounting policies.

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We recommend that the Town document its internal control process. This should break out the internal control process into the following five areas.

1. Control Environment – Sets the tone of an organization and is the foundation for all other components.
2. Risk Assessment – The identification and analysis of relevant risks to achieve its objectives forming a basis for how risks should be managed.
3. Control Activities – The policies and procedures that help ensure management directives are carried out.
4. Information and Communication – The identification, capture and exchange of information in a form and timeframe that enables people to carry out their responsibilities.
5. Monitoring – The process that assesses the quality of internal control performance over time.