

MUNICIPALITY OF PIERPONT
INTERNAL CONTROL REVIEW

October 23, 2017

MUNICIPALITY OF PIERPONT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Report on the Limited Study of Internal Control Performed in Accordance with South Dakota Codified Law 4-11-4.1.....	1



427 SOUTH CHAPELLE
C/O 500 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE SD 57501-5070
(605) 773-3595

MARTIN L. GUINDON, CPA
AUDITOR GENERAL

REPORT ON THE LIMITED STUDY OF INTERNAL CONTROL
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOUTH DAKOTA CODIFIED LAW 4-11-4.1

Governing Board
Municipality of Pierpont
Pierpont, South Dakota

We have made a study of selected elements of internal control of the Municipality of Pierpont (Municipality) in effect at October 23, 2017. Our study was performed pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 4-11-4.1 and was limited to selected accounting controls contained in the codified laws and other selected controls we felt were significant to the Municipality. Our study was not conducted in accordance with the standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for the purpose of giving an opinion on internal control in effect at the Municipality.

The management of the Municipality is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control policies and procedures. The objective of internal controls is to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of general purpose financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Because of inherent limitations in internal controls, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the internal controls to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operations of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

Our study was more limited than would be necessary to express an opinion on internal control of the Municipality. Also, our study would not necessarily disclose all significant weaknesses in internal controls of the Municipality. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on internal control of the Municipality in effect at October 23, 2017.

However, our study did disclose weaknesses in internal controls of the Municipality in effect at October 23, 2017 as discussed below:

- a. Personal property inventories were not filed annually on the thirty-first day of December, or within ten days thereafter as required by SDCL 5-24-1. We recommend the Municipality annually perform personal property inventories as required by SDCL 5-24-1.

- b. We noted that a Pierpont 125th Celebration checking account and certificate of deposit were established for the 125th Celebration of the Municipality through donations which used the Municipality's federal tax ID number. The Pierpont 125th Celebration accounts had a balance of approximately \$18,100 as of December 31, 2016 and were not accounted for in the Municipality's records.

In addition, a Pierpont Park Fund checking account was established through donations for park purposes which used the Municipality's federal tax ID number. The Pierpont Park Fund account had a balance of approximately \$11,900 as of December 31, 2016 and was not accounted for in the Municipality's records.

We recommend the Municipality account for the operations of the Pierpont 125th Celebration accounts and the Pierpont Park Fund account as a part of the Municipality.

- c. The Municipality did not properly maintain the following necessary records:
1. Accounts receivable general ledger for water, sewer and garbage
 2. Water deposits general ledger
 3. Revenue Budget Record
 4. Expenditure Budget Record

We recommend the Municipality properly establish and maintain the necessary accounting records. We have provided assistance to the Finance Officer to establish these records.

This report is intended solely for the use of management and the governing board and should not be used for any other purpose. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.



Martin L Guindon, CPA
Auditor General

October 23, 2017