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Town of Aurora

Audit Committee Report

No. FIN22-024

Subject: 2021 Audited Financial Statements and Audit Report

Prepared by: Elizabeth Adams-Quattrociocchi, CPA, CGA, Manager of Financial Reporting & Revenue / Deputy Treasurer

Department: Finance

Date: June 28, 2022

Recommendation

1. That Report No. FIN22-024 be received; and
2. That the 2021 Audit Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 be approved and published on the Town's website.

Executive Summary

The Town of Aurora's audited financial statements and auditor's report for the year ended December 31, 2021 are presented for approval.

- The audited statements combine all of the town's financial results into one set of statements
- The full accrual version of the financial statement presents a much larger surplus than budget variance reporting
- The summary of unadjusted misstatements is below the materiality threshold
- Procurement for external audit services for 2022, 2023 and 2024 is in progress

Background

The entire audit package as presented by our auditors BDO Canada LLP is attached, this package includes the 2021 Yearend Audit Report, Letter to the Audit Committee and the audited financial statements which can all be found under Attachment 1. The financial statements were prepared by staff and audited by BDO Canada LLP. These statements

have been marked DRAFT by the auditors as the audit cannot technically be completed until after the approval of the statements by Council. Council is required to approve these statements as part of the finalization of the audit. After the approval the auditors will sign their final report in the coming days. Then financial statements will be made publicly available by being placed on the Town website, a requirement under Section 295 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 as amended (the Act).

Analysis

The audited statements combine all of the town's financial results into one set of statements

The audited financial statements present a consolidation of the Aurora's finances including the combined results of tax and rate funded operating and capital activities and financial results for the Aurora Public Library. The results shown in these consolidated statements differ from the yearend financial performance report to budget because of the inclusion of tangible capital assets and other Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) reporting differences.

As part of the annual audit, BDO performed a review of all Council minutes, including closed session minutes, prior year's internal control letters and consider any concerns raised therein during their current audit. Their audit looks for continuing circumstances, weaknesses or concerns as raised in the prior year and how they may affect the outcome of their current audit.

The full accrual version of the financial statement presents a much larger surplus than budget variance reporting

The audited Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) basis financial statements for 2021, as currently drafted, reflect an operating surplus of \$46,247,000. This amount reconciles to the internal report combined tax and user rate funded operating budget surplus of \$3,296,600 as shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Public Sector Accounting Board 2020 Surplus Reconciliation

Description	Amount
Tax levy supported budget surplus	2,962,200
User rate supported budget surplus	334,400
Traditional Balanced Consolidated Budget Surplus	3,296,600
Add Back: Debt principal repaid included	1,105,139
Add: Transfers to/from reserves	10,080,000
Add: Capital assets assumed through development	17,590,930
Add: Net deferred revenue adjustment – DC, CIL, FGT	27,378,000
Add: Investment income allocated directly to reserves	2,457,700
Add: Net capitalization of assets adjustment	2,159,700
Deduct: Amortization of capital assets	(17,323,000)
Deduct: Loss on disposal of capital assets	(498,000)
PSAB 2021 “Annual Surplus”: Audited (Draft)	\$46,247,000

Of note, the operating budgeted transfers to/from reserves amount of \$10,080,000 represent budgeted contributions that are considered expenses or revenues under the town’s traditional balanced budget. However, under the Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) in consideration that these transfers simply represent the movement of town surpluses, they are not considered to be true expenses or revenues and therefore any net contributions to reserves should be removed as expenses from the calculated operating surplus resulting in a larger surplus.

In addition, in some instances PSAB requires that the town recognize expenses and revenues that do not result in a cash inflow or outflow such as in the cases of the town’s assumption of assets from developers and the annual amortization of its assets. In these instances, the PSAS require that the Town record a revenue equivalent to the value of the assets that it has assumed from a developer and an expense equivalent to how much value of its existing asset book value that is estimated to have been consumed for the year. Because these two items do not result in a cash impact to the Town, they are not included under the traditional balanced budget surplus calculation and therefore the surplus needs to be increased or decreased by any PSAS generated revenues or expenses, respectively to arrive at the Town’s PSAB 2021 annual surplus.

The summary of unadjusted misstatements is below the materiality threshold

During the annual audit, the auditor generates a list of misstatements for which the presented financial statements have not been adjusted for. They are considered to be material if individually, or in aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of financial statement users. For 2021, the auditor has defined the Aurora's materiality thresholds as \$10,685,000 for areas surrounding tangible capital assets and \$3,000,000 for all other financial statement areas.

There were no misstatements identified in 2021.

Procurement for external audit services for 2022, 2023 and 2024 is in progress

The 2022 yearend audit plan is outside of the current contract with BDO. The procurement for upcoming audit services for 2022, 2023 and 2024 is currently underway and is expected to be completed in the beginning of quarter three of 2022. The requirement of the RFP is an audit plan that includes the scope and approach to the planned audit. Staff are not in a position to comment or challenge the approach that the auditors develop in order to fulfil their professional obligations required when rendering an audit opinion report. From the perspective of the Finance, we continue to be committed to provide the auditors with the documentation requested in an effort to facilitate the audit in a timely manner.

Audit fees are always quoted on the presumption that staff will have completed all requested schedules and support materials in advance of the audit, and that the financial statements and associated notes have been properly and fully prepared by staff. The fee also anticipates not finding any item of substance requiring extensive additional audit effort to resolve or report.

Advisory Committee Review

Not applicable

Legal Considerations

The annual audit of the Aurora's financial statements fulfils the statutory requirements set out in Section 296 of the Municipal Act.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications relating to the 2021 yearend audit report. The statements included are presented for receipt by the Audit Committee, as well as to obtain approval of the Consolidated 2021 Financial Statements so that the statements may be published as required by legislation.

The cost for the 2022 audit has been provided for within the 2022 budget. An amount of \$40,900 has been budgeted for the 2022 audit with anticipated fees of \$31,500 for the audit of the consolidated financial statements, excluding administration charges and taxes. Additional audit expenses from this budget include independent actuarial valuations separately commissioned by staff.

Communications Considerations

In accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O.2001, c25, Section 295, the 2021 audited financial statements will be published on the Town's website. The Town of Aurora will use 'Inform' as the level of engagement for the Town's 2021 audited financial statements. There are five different levels of community engagement to consider, with each level providing the community more involvement in the decision making process. These levels are: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. Examples of each can be found in the Community Engagement Policy. These options are based on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum and assist in establishing guidelines for clearly communicating with our public and managing community engagement. In order to inform the public, this report will be posted to the Town's website.

Climate Change Considerations

The information contained within this report does not impact greenhouse gas emissions or impact climate change adaption.

Link to Strategic Plan

The annual audit is a statutory requirement that is guided by professional standards applicable to all Canadian licensed audit practitioners. Preparation and publication of the annual audited financial statements support the Strategic Plan principles of integrity, progressive corporate excellence and continuous improvement.

Alternative(s) to the Recommendation

Not applicable

Conclusions

The auditors are ready to issue an unqualified opinion on the fairness and completeness of the corporation's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021. Staff recommend the approval of the statements. Once approved and final versions are prepared, the Mayor and CAO will sign the statements.

Attachments

Attachment #1 – 2021 Year-End Auditor's reporting package

Attachment #2 – 2021 Draft Financial Statements

Previous Reports

FIN21-032 – 2012 Audited Financial Statements with Audit Report, June 22, 2021

Pre-submission Review

Agenda Management Team review on June 16, 2022

Approvals

Approved by Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, CPA, CMA, Director, Finance

Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer