

THE URBANA FREE LIBRARY, ILLINOIS

MANAGEMENT LETTER



FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2023

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December 15, 2023

Members of the Library Board
The Urbana Free Library
Urbana, Illinois

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of The Urbana Free Library (the Library), Illinois, for the year ended June 30, 2023, we considered its internal control structure in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure.

We do not intend to imply that our audit failed to disclose commendable aspects of your system and structure. For your consideration, we herein submit our comments and suggestions which are designed to assist in effecting improvements in internal controls and procedures. Those less-significant matters, if any, which arose during the course of the audit, were reviewed with management as the audit field work progressed.

The accompanying comments and recommendations are intended solely for the information and use of the Board, Executive Director and senior management of The Urbana Free Library, Illinois.

We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed many of these comments and suggestions with various Library personnel. We would be pleased to discuss our comments and suggestions in further detail with you at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to review the procedures necessary to bring about desirable changes.

We commend the administration department for the well prepared audit package and we appreciate the courtesy and assistance given to us by the entire Library staff.

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

LAUTERBACH & AMEN, LLP

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. GASB STATEMENT NO. 100 ACCOUNTING CHANGES AND ERROR CORRECTIONS

Comment

In June 2022, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, which establishes accounting and financial reporting requirements for (a) accounting changes, and (b) the correction of an error in previously issued financial statements (error correction). Accounting changes are (a) changes in accounting principle, (b) changes in accounting estimates, or (c) changes to or within the financial reporting entity. Error corrections are (a) errors from mathematical mistakes, mistakes in the application of accounting principles, or oversight or misuse of facts that existed at the time the financial statements were issued, or (b) a change from (i) applying an accounting principle that is not generally accepted to transactions or other events that previously were significant to (ii) applying a generally accepted accounting principle to those transactions or other events is an error correction. GASB Statement No. 100 requires that (a) changes in accounting principal and error corrections are reported retroactively, (b) changes in accounting estimates are reported prospectively, and (c) changes to or within the financial reporting entity should be reported by adjusting the current reporting period's beginning net position, fund balance, or fund net position, as applicable, for the effect of the change as if the change occurred as of the beginning of the reporting period. GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections* is applicable to the Library's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the Library to review any accounting changes or error corrections to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 100.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and, if applicable, will work to implement it when required by GASB.

2. GASB STATEMENT NO. 101 COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Comment

In June 2022, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, which establishes standards of accounting and financial reporting for (a) compensated absences, and (b) associated salary-related payments, including certain defined contribution pensions and defined contribution other post-employment benefits (OPEB). The statement requires that a liability should be recognized for any type of leave that has not been used at year-end if (a) The leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. Examples of leave that should be reviewed, and potentially measured under GASB Statement No. 101 are vacation leave, paid time off leave, holiday leave, and sick leave. Examples of leave that are excluded from GASB Statement No. 101 are parental leave, military leave, and jury duty leave. GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences* is applicable to the Library's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS - Continued

2. GASB STATEMENT NO. 101 COMPENSATED ABSENCES - Continued

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the Library to review the new compensated absences and associated salary-related payments, including certain defined contribution pensions and defined contribution other post-employment benefits criteria to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 101.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and, if applicable, will work to implement it when required by GASB.

PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. GASB STATEMENT NO. 96 SUBSCRIPTION-BASED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARRANGEMENTS

Comment

In May 2020, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, which provides guidance regarding the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) by governments. It establishes uniform accounting and financial reporting requirements for SBITAs, improves the comparability of financial statements among governments that have entered into SBITAs, and enhances the understandability, reliability, relevance, and consistency of information about SBITAs. GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* is applicable to the Library's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the Library to review the new SBITA criteria in conjunction with the Library's current arrangements to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 96.

Status

As the Library has no material SBITAs, there was no impact on the financial statements in the current year, therefore this comment is considered implemented. The Library and Lauterbach & Amen will continue to monitor SBITAs in the future to determine if additional reporting is required.

2. CAPITAL ASSET POLICY

Comment

Previously and during our current year-end audit procedures, we noted the Library does not have a formal capital asset policy to provide guidance on the financial aspects and stewardship of capital assets. With respect to the financial aspects, guidance should be provided on the minimum dollar amount and minimum useful life for an item to be capitalized as a capital asset. Stewardship issues include the physical custody of capital assets.

Recommendation

We recommended that the Library adopt a capital asset policy, which addresses both financial, and stewardship issues. As part of developing the capital asset policy, a review of the current capitalization amount and estimated useful life should be performed for both financial reporting and stewardship. The capital asset policy should also establish standard depreciation methods and useful lives to be applied to specific categories of assets.

Status

This comment has not been implemented and will be repeated in the future.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and will work to correct it in the coming year.

PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS - Continued

3. FUND BALANCE POLICY

Comment

Previously and during our current year-end audit procedures, we noted that the Library does not have a formal fund balance policy. A fund balance policy establishes a minimum level at which the projected end-of-year fund balance should be maintained, taking into account the constraints imposed upon the resources reported by the governmental funds. A fund balance policy assists in providing financial stability, cash flow for operations, and the assurance that the Library will be able to respond to emergencies with fiscal strength.

It is essential to maintain adequate levels of funds balance to mitigate current and future risks and to ensure tax rates. Fund balance levels are also crucial consideration in long-term financial planning. Credit rating agencies carefully monitor levels of fund balance and unassigned fund balance in the General Fund to evaluate the Library's continued creditworthiness.

Recommendation

We recommended the Library create and adopt a fund balance policy to be in compliance with GASB Statement No. 54. The Library should address fund balance reporting categories (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned) as well as review minimum fund balance policies.

Status

This comment has not been implemented and will be repeated in the future.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and will work to correct it in the coming year.