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April 7, 2025

Board of Directors
Haywood County Tourism Development Authority
1110 Soco Road
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

Agreement to Provide Services

This agreement to provide services (the “Agreement”) is intended to describe the nature and scope of our services.

Objective and Scope of the Audit

As agreed, Gould Killian CPA Group, P.A. (“GK” or “we”) will audit the financial statements Haywood County Tourism Development Authority as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management’s discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement Haywood County Authority’s basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Haywood County Authority’s RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

1. Management’s Discussion and Analysis
2. Required schedules for the Local Government Employees’ Retirement System

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; if for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or unable to form an opinion, we may perform other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, we are not expected to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will bring these misstatements to your attention as proposed adjustments. At the conclusion of our audit we will communicate to those charged with governance (as defined below) all uncorrected misstatements. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

The term “those charged with governance” is defined as the person(s) with responsibility for overseeing the strategic direction of the Authority and obligations related to the accountability of the Authority, including overseeing the financial reporting process. For the Authority, we agree that the Board of Trustees meets that definition.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

We have identified the following significant risk of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

1. Management's override of internal controls

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Authority and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards.

Management Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you (management) acknowledge and understand that you are responsible for (1) establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Authority involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Authority complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. Management is also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy

fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or abuse that we report.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Reproduction of Audit Report

If the Authority plans any reproduction or publication of a document that includes our report, or any portion of it, and that is assembled differently from any paper or electronic version that we have previously reviewed (e.g., by the addition of financial statements and/or accompanying information that you have produced), a copy of the entire document in its final form should be submitted to us in sufficient time for our review and written approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our written approval before it is distributed. If, in our professional judgment, the circumstances require, we may withhold our written approval.

Posting of Audit Report and Financial Statements on Your Website

You agree that, if you plan to post an electronic version of the financial statements and audit report on your website, you will ensure that there are no differences in content between the electronic version of the financial statements and audit report on your website and the signed version of the financial statements and audit report provided to management by GK. You also agree to indemnify the GK from any and all claims that may arise from any differences between the electronic and signed versions.

Availability of Records and Personnel

You agree that all records, documentation, and information we request in connection with our audit will be made available to us (including those pertaining to related parties), that all material information will be disclosed to us, and that we will have the full cooperation of, and unrestricted access to, your personnel during the course of the engagement.

You also agree to ensure that any third-party valuation reports that you provide to us to support amounts or disclosures in the financial statements (a) indicate the purpose for which they were intended, which is consistent with your actual use of such reports; and (b) do not contain any restrictive language that would preclude us from using such reports as audit evidence.

Assistance by Your Personnel

We also ask that your personnel prepare various schedules and analyses for our staff. However, except as otherwise noted by us, no personal information other than names related to Authority employees and/or customers should be provided to us. In addition, we ask that you provide high-speed internet access to our engagement team, if practicable, while working on the Authority's premises. This assistance will serve to facilitate the progress of our work and minimize costs to you.

Peer Review Reports

Although the audit will not be subject to *Government Auditing Standards*, we have provided a copy of our most recent quality control review report. Our latest peer review report accompanies this letter.

Other Services

We are always available to meet with you and the Board of Directors at various times throughout the year to discuss current business, operational, accounting, and auditing matters affecting the Authority. Whenever you feel such meetings are desirable, please let us know. We are also prepared to provide services to assist you in any of these areas. We will also be pleased, at your request, to attend governing board meetings.

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. These non-audit services do not constitute an audit and such services will not be conducted in accordance with applicable auditing standards. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

Independence

Professional and certain regulatory standards require us to be independent, in both fact and appearance, with respect to the Government in the performance of our services. Any discussions that you have with personnel of GK regarding employment could pose a threat to our independence. Therefore, we request that you inform us prior to any such discussions so that we can implement appropriate safeguards to maintain our independence.

In order for us to remain independent, professional standards require us to maintain certain respective roles and relationships with you with respect to the non-attest services described above. Prior to performing such services in conjunction with our audit, management must acknowledge its acceptance of certain responsibilities.

We will not perform management functions or make management decisions on behalf of the Authority. However, we will provide advice and recommendations to assist management of the Authority in performing its functions and fulfilling its responsibilities.

The Authority agrees to perform the following functions in connection with our performance of the (non-attest services):

- a. Make all management decisions and perform all management functions with respect to the financial statement services provided by us.
- b. Assign Authority representative Kristian Owen to oversee the financial statement services and evaluate the adequacy and results of the services.
- c. Accept responsibility for the results of financial statement services.

The services are limited to those outlined above. We, in our professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as making management decisions or performing management functions. The Authority must make all decisions with regard to our recommendations. By signing this Agreement, you acknowledge your acceptance of these responsibilities.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We will provide copies of our reports to the Board of Directors of Haywood County Tourism Development Authority; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

Many banks have engaged a third party to electronically process cash or debt audit confirmation requests, and certain of those banks have mandated the use of this service. Further, such third party confirmation processors also provide for the electronic (and manual) processing of other confirmation types (e.g., legal, accounts receivable, and accounts payable). To the extent applicable, the Authority hereby authorizes GK to participate in such confirmation processes, including through the third party's website (e.g., by entering the Authority's bank account information to initiate the process and then accessing the bank's confirmation response), and agrees that GK shall have no liability in connection therewith.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Gould Killian CPA Group, P.A. and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to a federal or state agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight

responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Gould Killian CPA Group, P.A. personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the federal or state oversight agency. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

We expect to begin our audit in July 2025 and to issue our reports no later than December 31, 2025. Travis S. Keever is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

Our charges to the Authority for the services described above are expected to be \$8,800 for the financial statement audit and financial statement preparation services. This is based on a maximum of 60 hours at our standard hourly rates, which vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. The fees are based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary (over 60 hours), we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation after appropriate approval by the local government commission.

This fee structure does not take into consideration effects that any future auditing standards will have on our audit procedures. As we become aware of additional audit procedures resulting from these circumstances, we will notify you of the situation and the estimated additional cost.

We believe the foregoing correctly sets forth our understanding; however, if you have any questions, please let us know. If you find the foregoing arrangements acceptable, please acknowledge this by signing and returning to us a copy of this Agreement and retaining a copy for your files. We will forward the signed engagement letter and LGC contract to the Local Government Commission for their approval.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis S. Keever", written in a cursive style.

Travis S. Keever

Certified Public Accountant

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Haywood County Tourism Development Authority.

Management signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Governance signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____