



MUNICIPAL ADVISORS

Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC  
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June 30, 2021

City of Parchment  
650 S. Riverview Drive  
Parchment, MI 49004

RE: Engagement Letter Agreement Related to Services

This letter agreement (the "Engagement Letter") is to confirm our understanding of the basis upon which Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC ("Baker Tilly") and its affiliates are being engaged by the City of Parchment (the "Client") to assist the Client with advisory services.

### **Scope, Objectives and Approach**

It is anticipated that projects undertaken in accordance with this Engagement Letter will be at the request of the Client. The scope of services, additional terms and associated fee for individual engagements will be contained in the Scope Appendix to this Engagement Letter. Authorization to provide services will commence upon execution and return of this Engagement Letter.

### **Management's Responsibilities**

It is understood that Baker Tilly will serve in an advisory capacity with the Client. The Client is responsible for management decisions and functions, and for designating an individual with suitable skill, knowledge or experience to oversee the services we provide. The Client is responsible for evaluating the adequacy and results of the services performed and accepting responsibility for decisions regarding implementation of the advice or recommendations included in such services. The Client is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

The procedures we perform in our engagement will be heavily influenced by the representations that we receive from Client personnel. Accordingly, false representations could cause material errors to go undetected. The Client, therefore, agrees that Baker Tilly will have no liability in connection with claims based upon our failure to detect material errors resulting from false representations made to us by any Client personnel and our failure to provide an acceptable level of service due to those false representations unless the failure to detect such material errors is within the scope of the applicable engagement and/or Baker Tilly knew or should have known of such material error, subject to Baker Tilly's applicable professional standard of care.

The ability to provide service according to timelines established and at fees indicated will rely in part on receiving timely responses from the Client.

The responsibility for auditing the records of the Client rests with the Client's separately retained auditor and the work performed by Baker Tilly shall not include an audit or review of the records or the expression of an opinion on financial data.

## **Ownership of IP**

Unless otherwise stated the Scope Appendix, subject to Baker Tilly's rights in Baker Tilly's Knowledge (as defined below), Client shall own all intellectual property rights in the deliverables developed under the applicable Scope Appendix or Appendices ("Deliverables"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, Baker Tilly will maintain all ownership right, title and interest to all Baker Tilly's Knowledge. For purposes of this Agreement "Baker Tilly's Knowledge" means Baker Tilly's proprietary programs, modules, products, inventions, designs, data, or other information, including all copyright, patent, trademark and other intellectual property rights related thereto, that are (1) owned or developed by Bakery Tilly prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement or the applicable Scope Appendix or Appendices ("Baker Tilly's Preexisting Knowledge") (2) developed or obtained by Baker Tilly after the Effective Date, that are reusable from client to client and project to project, where Client has not paid for such development; and (3) extensions, enhancements, or modifications of Baker Tilly's Preexisting Knowledge which do not include or incorporate Client's confidential information. To the extent that any Baker Tilly Knowledge is incorporated into the Deliverables, Baker Tilly grants to Client a non-exclusive, paid up, perpetual royalty-free worldwide license to use such Baker Tilly Knowledge in connection with the Deliverables, and for no other purpose without the prior written consent of Baker Tilly. Additionally, Baker Tilly may maintain copies of its work papers for a period of time and for use in a manner sufficient to satisfy any applicable legal or regulatory requirements for records retention.

The supporting documentation for this engagement, including, but not limited to work papers, is the property of Baker Tilly and constitutes confidential information. We may have a responsibility to retain the documentation for a period of time sufficient to satisfy any applicable legal or regulatory requirements for records retention. If we are required by law, regulation or professional standards to make certain documentation available to required third parties, the Client hereby authorizes us to do so.

## **Timing and Fees**

Specific services will commence upon execution and return of this Engagement Letter and our professional fees will be based on the rates outlined in the Scope Appendix.

## **Dispute Resolution**

Except for disputes related to confidentiality or intellectual property rights, all disputes and controversies between the parties hereto of every kind and nature arising out of or in connection with this Engagement Letter or the applicable Scope Appendix or Appendices as to the existence, construction, validity, interpretation or meaning, performance, nonperformance, enforcement, operation, breach, continuation, or termination of this Agreement or the applicable Scope Appendix or Appendices as shall be resolved as set forth in this section using the following procedure: In the unlikely event that differences concerning the services or fees provided by Baker Tilly should arise that are not resolved by mutual agreement, both parties agree to attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by engaging in mediation administered by the American Arbitration Association under its mediation rules for professional accounting and related services disputes before resorting to litigation or any other dispute resolution procedure. Each party shall bear their own expenses from mediation and the fees and expenses of the mediator shall be shared equally by the parties. If the dispute is not resolved by mediation, then the parties may pursue any legal or equitable remedies available to them.

Because a breach of any the provisions of this Engagement Letter or the applicable Scope Appendix or Appendices as concerning confidentiality or intellectual property rights will irreparably harm the non-breaching party, Client and Baker Tilly agree that if a party breaches any of its obligations thereunder, the non-breaching party shall, without limiting its other rights or remedies, be entitled to seek equitable relief (including, but not limited to, injunctive relief) to enforce its rights thereunder, including without limitation protection of its proprietary rights. The parties agree that the parties need not invoke the mediation procedures set forth in this section in order to seek injunctive or declaratory relief.

## **Limitation on Damages**

To the extent allowed under applicable law, the aggregate liability (including attorney's fees and all other costs) of either party and its present or former partners, principals, agents or employees to the other party related to the services performed under an applicable Scope Appendix or Appendices shall not exceed (i) if Client is the at-fault-party, then the fees paid to Baker Tilly under the applicable Scope Appendix or Appendices to which the claim relates, or (ii) if Baker Tilly is the at-fault party, then a multiple of three times (3x) fees paid to Baker Tilly under the applicable Scope Appendix except to the extent finally determined to have resulted from the legally determined negligence, willful misconduct or fraudulent behavior of the at-fault party. Additionally, to the extent permitted by law, in no event shall either party be liable to the other for any lost profits, lost business opportunity, lost data, consequential, special, exemplary or punitive damages arising out of or related to this Engagement Letter or the applicable Scope Appendix or Appendices even if the other party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

Each party recognizes and agrees that the warranty disclaimers and liability and remedy limitations in this Engagement Letter are material bargained for bases of this Engagement Letter and that they have been taken into account and reflected in determining the consideration to be given by each party under this Engagement Letter and in the decision by each party to enter into this Engagement Letter.

The terms of this section shall apply regardless of the nature of any claim asserted (including, but not limited to, contract, tort or any form of negligence, whether of you, Baker Tilly or others), but these terms shall not apply to the extent finally determined to be contrary to the applicable law or regulation. These terms shall also continue to apply after any termination of this Engagement Letter.

You accept and acknowledge that any legal proceedings arising from or in conjunction with the services provided under this Engagement Letter must be commenced within the applicable statute of limitations.

## **Other Matters**

In the event Baker Tilly is requested by the Client to produce its personnel as witnesses with respect to its Services rendered for the Client, so long as Baker Tilly is neither a party to the proceeding in which the information is sought nor Baker Tilly's Services are at issue, Client will reimburse Baker Tilly for its professional time and expenses, as well as the fees and legal expenses incurred in responding to such a request.

Neither this Engagement Letter, any claim, nor any rights or licenses granted hereunder may be assigned, delegated, or subcontracted by either party without the written consent of the other part. Either party may assign and transfer this Engagement Letter to any successor that acquires all or substantially all of the business or assets of such party by way of merger, consolidation, other business reorganization, or the sale of interest or assets, provided that the party notifies the other party in writing of such assignment and the successor agrees in writing to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Engagement Letter.

In the event that any provision of this Engagement Letter or statement of work contained in a Scope Appendix hereto is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable because it is invalid or in conflict with any law of any relevant jurisdiction, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if the Engagement Letter or statement of work did not contain the particular provisions held to be unenforceable. The unenforceable provisions shall be replaced by mutually acceptable provisions which, being valid, legal and enforceable, come closest to the intention of the parties underlying the invalid or unenforceable provision. If the Services should become subject to the independence rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to Client, such that any provision of this Engagement Letter would impair Baker Tilly's independence under its rules, such provision(s) shall be of no effect.

**Termination**

Both the Client and the Baker Tilly have the right to terminate this Engagement Letter or any work being done under the Scope Appendix at any time after reasonable advance written notice. On termination, all fees and charges incurred prior to termination shall be paid promptly. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Client and Baker Tilly, the scope of services provided in a Scope Appendix will terminate 60 days after completion of the services in such Appendix.

**Important Disclosures**

Incorporated as Attachment A and part of this Engagement Letter are important disclosures. These include disclosures that apply generally and those that are applicable in the event Baker Tilly is engaged to provide municipal advisory services.

This Engagement Letter, including the attached Disclosures as updated from time to time, comprises the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement between the parties, superseding all proposals, oral or written, and all other communications between the parties. Both parties acknowledge that work performed pursuant to the Engagement Letter will be done through Scope Appendices executed and made a part of this document.

Any rights and duties of the parties that by their nature extend beyond the expiration or termination of this Engagement Letter shall survive the expiration or termination of this Engagement Letter or any statement of work contained in a Scope Appendix hereto.

If this Engagement Letter is in agreement with your understanding, please sign below and return one copy to us for our files. We look forward to working with you on this important project.

Sincerely,



Andy Campbell, CPA, Director

**Signature Section:**

The services and terms as set forth in this Engagement Letter are agreed to on behalf of the Client by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Attachment A Important Disclosures**

### Non-Exclusive Services

Client acknowledges and agrees that Baker Tilly, including but not limited to Baker Tilly US, LLP, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC, Baker Tilly Capital, LLC, and Baker Tilly Investment Services, LLC, are free to render municipal advisory and other services to others and that Baker Tilly does not make its services available exclusively to the Client.

### Affiliated Entities

Baker Tilly US, LLP is an independent member of Baker Tilly International. Baker Tilly International Limited is an English company. Baker Tilly International provides no professional services to clients. Each member firm is a separate and independent legal entity and each describes itself as such. Baker Tilly US, LLP is not Baker Tilly International's agent and does not have the authority to bind Baker Tilly International or act on Baker Tilly International's behalf. None of Baker Tilly International, Baker Tilly US, LLP, nor any of the other member firms of Baker Tilly International has any liability for each other's acts or omissions. The name Baker Tilly and its associated logo is used under license from Baker Tilly International Limited.

Baker Tilly Investment Services, LLC ("BTIS"), a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") registered investment adviser, may provide services to the Client in connection with the investment of proceeds from an issuance of securities. In such instances, services will be provided under a separate engagement, for an additional fee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Baker Tilly may act as solicitor for and recommend the use of BTIS, but the Client shall be under no obligation to retain BTIS or to otherwise utilize BTIS relative to Client's investments. The fees paid with respect to investment services are typically based in part on the size of the issuance proceeds and Baker Tilly may have incentive to recommend larger financings than would be in the Client's best interest. Baker Tilly will manage and mitigate this potential conflict of interest by this disclosure of the affiliated entity's relationship, a Solicitation Disclosure Statement when Client retains BTIS's services and adherence to Baker Tilly's fiduciary duty and/or fair dealing obligations to the Client.

Baker Tilly Capital, LLC ("BTC") Baker Tilly Capital, LLC ("BTC") is a limited service broker-dealer specializing in merger and acquisition, capital sourcing, project finance and corporate finance advisory services. BTC does not participate in any municipal offerings advised on by its affiliate Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors. Any services provided to Client by BTC would be done so under a separate engagement for an additional fee.

Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors ("BTMA") is registered as a "municipal advisor" pursuant to Section 15B of the Securities Exchange Act and rules and regulations adopted by the SEC) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB"). As such, BTMA may provide certain specific municipal advisory services to the Client. BTMA is neither a placement agent to the Client nor a broker/dealer. The offer and sale of any Bonds is made by the Client, in the sole discretion of the Client, and under its control and supervision. The Client acknowledges that BTMA does not undertake to sell or attempt to sell bonds or other debt obligations, and will not take part in the sale thereof.

Baker Tilly, may provide services to the Client in connection with human resources consulting, including, but not limited to, executive recruitment, talent management and community survey services. In such instances, services will be provided under a separate scope of work for an additional fee. Certain executives of the Client may have been hired after the services of Baker Tilly were utilized and may make decisions about whether to engage other services of Baker Tilly or its subsidiaries. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Baker Tilly may recommend the use of Baker Tilly or a subsidiary, but the Client shall be under no obligation to retain Baker Tilly or a subsidiary or to otherwise utilize either relative to the Client's activities.

## Conflict Disclosure Applicable to Municipal Advisory Services Provided by BTMA.

*Legal or Disciplinary Disclosure.* BTMA is required to disclose to the SEC information regarding criminal actions, regulatory actions, investigations, terminations, judgments, liens, civil judicial actions, customer complaints, arbitrations and civil litigation involving BTMA. Pursuant to MSRB Rule G-42, BTMA is required to disclose any legal or disciplinary event that is material to the Client's evaluation of BTMA or the integrity of its management or advisory personnel.

There are no criminal actions, regulatory actions, investigations, terminations, judgments, liens, civil judicial actions, customer complaints, arbitrations or civil litigation involving BTMA. Copies of BTMA filings with the SEC can currently be found by accessing the SEC's EDGAR system Company Search Page which is currently available at <https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html> and searching for either Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC or for our CIK number which is 0001616995. The MSRB has made available on its website ([www.msrb.org](http://www.msrb.org)) a municipal advisory client brochure that describes the protections that may be provided by MSRB rules and how to file a complaint with the appropriate regulatory authority.

*Contingent Fee.* The fees to be paid by the Client to BTMA are or may be based on the size of the transaction and partially contingent on the successful closing of the transaction. Although this form of compensation may be customary in the municipal securities market, it presents a conflict because BTMA may have an incentive to recommend unnecessary financings, larger financings or financings that are disadvantageous to the Client. For example, when facts or circumstances arise that could cause a financing or other transaction to be delayed or fail to close, BTMA may have an incentive to discourage a full consideration of such facts and circumstances, or to discourage consideration of alternatives that may result in the cancellation of the financing or other transaction.

*Hourly Fee Arrangements.* Under an hourly fee form of compensation, BTMA will be paid an amount equal to the number of hours worked multiplied by an agreed upon billing rate. This form of compensation presents a potential conflict of interest if BTMA and the Client do not agree on a maximum fee under the applicable Appendix to this Engagement Letter because BTMA will not have a financial incentive to recommend alternatives that would result in fewer hours worked. In addition, hourly fees are typically payable by the Client whether or not the financing transaction closes.

*Fixed Fee Arrangements.* The fees to be paid by the Client to BTMA may be in a fixed amount established at the outset of the service. The amount is usually based upon an analysis by Client and BTMA of, among other things, the expected duration and complexity of the transaction and the work documented in the Scope Appendix to be performed by Baker Tilly. This form of compensation presents a potential conflict of interest because, if the transaction requires more work than originally contemplated, Baker Tilly may suffer a loss. Thus, Baker Tilly may recommend less time-consuming alternatives, or fail to do a thorough analysis of alternatives.

BTMA manages and mitigates conflicts related to fees and/or other services provided primarily through clarity in the fee to be charged and scope of work to be undertaken and by adherence to MSRB Rules including, but not limited to, the fiduciary duty which it owes to the Client requiring BMTA to put the interests of the Client ahead of its own and BTMA's duty to deal fairly with all persons in its municipal advisory activities.

To the extent any additional material conflicts of interest have been identified specific to a scope of work the conflict will be identified in the respective Scope Appendix. Material conflicts of interest that arise after the date of a Scope Appendix will be provide to the Client in writing at that time.

## Scope Appendix

The services offered by the Firm for the proposed USDA project financing include revenue and rate support consulting, debt structuring, outline of bonding options, and managing the financing timetable. The revenue and rate support consulting will include structuring to support operation, maintenance, replacement reserve, bond/loan payments, and bond reserve. Specific assistance with the financing process will be provided in the form of bond structuring and specifications for the Bond Authorizing Resolution, Qualified Status with the Michigan Department of Treasury, USDA application components (442-7 Budget), and closing arrangements. The scope of the system rate review and fund management analysis is as follows ...

Historical operating expenses are reviewed using audit and budget information.

- Three years audits and year to date budgets.
- Current and proposed (if available) budgets.

A “Test Year” is developed that reflects a baseline operating cost.

- Based on current budget with leveling for base operating cost.
- Determination of anticipated changes to operating cost.

The customer base is reviewed.

- The accuracy of this data is verified by applying it to the current rate structure and compared to “Test Year” revenue.
- Other operating and non-operating revenues evaluated.

Assumptions are made regarding the customer base through the estimated period.

- Prediction of customer counts (may include more than one scenario).
- Trending in system utilization.

Estimation of operating cost.

- Anticipated inflation by expense category.
- Determination of any additions or reductions based on changing operations.

Compilation of existing debt.

- Existing annual debt service by debt issue including client debt.
- Debt is separated by revenue support, in particular, debt that is paid from rates.
- Refinancing and/or restructuring possibilities are explored.

Capital improvement funding.

- A debt schedule is provided for the structure of the bond/loan.
- A cash balance policy is developed that identifies a targeted upper limit as well as a minimum balance. These balances encompass legal commitments and good business practices.

The fee for the bond/loan and rate study services will be \$15,000 and is payable upon completion of the financing from bond/loan proceeds.



**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion AD-1048  
Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a, as amended). This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.300, 180.335, Participants' responsibilities. The regulations were amended and published on August 31, 2005, in 70 Fed. Reg. 51865-51880. Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Department of Agriculture agency offering the proposed covered transaction.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0505-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.

**(Read instructions on page two before completing certification.)**

- A. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency;
- B. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ORGANIZATION NAME   | PR/AWARD NUMBER OR PROJECT NAME |
| NAME(S) AND TITLE(S) OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S)  |                                 |
| SIGNATURE(S)<br> | DATE                            |

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint (<https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442.

### *Instructions for Certification*

- (1) By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out on page 1 in accordance with these instructions.
- (2) The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension or debarment.
- (3) The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person(s) to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- (4) The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549, at 2 C.F.R. Parts 180 and 417. You may contact the department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
- (5) The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
- (6) The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
- (7) A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the System for Award Management (SAM) database.
- (8) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- (9) Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (5) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.