
Audit Advisory Committee Recommendation for CLA Engagement

Jonathan Freedman <jfreedman@natickma.org>

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To: Selectmen <selectmen@natickma.org>

Cc: Cathi Collins <cacollins@natickps.org>, Saul Berelowitz <berelowitz@juno.com>, Reggie Leese <rleese1983@gmail.com>, Todd Gillenwater <tgillenwater.fincom@natickma.org>, John Townsend <jtownsend@natickma.org>, Arti Mehta <amehta@natickma.org>, Joan McNamara <jmcnamara@natickma.org>

To members of the Select Board --

This is to advise you that the Audit Advisory Committee (the "Committee") met today to discuss the proposed renewal of Clifton Larson Allen ("CLA") appointment as the town's auditors for a three-year period. After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously (by 4-0-0 roll call vote) to recommend that the Select Board renew the CLA engagement for a three year period. The Committee's discussion included the following points:

- CLA has been the Town's auditors for several years, has performed in that role satisfactorily, and has provided a high-quality product to the Town. Chris Rogers in particular, was noted for his subject-matter expertise and his ability to clearly communicate matters relating to the firm's engagement.
- While the Committee has previously discussed going out to the market for this engagement, the Committee's view is that this is not the right time to do that due to Covid-related circumstances. In this context, the Committee feels that the relationship between the Town and CLA has not become overly or inappropriately "friendly" (in a manner akin to the relationship between Enron and its auditors), or that the continued engagement of CLA would pose any risk to the Town's system of controls.
- The staff recommendation is to renew the engagement, and is based on the quality of the product and the reasonable rate quoted.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Joan - please upload this email to Novus for the relevant agenda item for Wednesday's Select Board meeting.

Thank you.

Jonathan Freedman
Chair, Natick Select Board

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