



PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS

COMMUNICATION OF SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY IN INTERNAL CONTROL

December 31, 2020

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To the Members of the Peoria County Board
and Management
Peoria County, Illinois
Peoria, Illinois

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Peoria County, Illinois (County) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that are not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we considered to be material weaknesses.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in the County's internal control listed on the following pages to be a significant deficiency.

The County's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the County Board, and others within the County, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

Sikich LLP

Sikich LLP
Springfield, Illinois
June 29, 2021

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES

Segregation of Duties

During our testing of user access controls in the Pentamation system, we noted several users did not appear to have properly restricted access rights. For example, we noted several users that had the ability to both enter/modify requisitions and approve requisitions. Additionally, we noted that departments are not reviewing Pentamation access rights on a regular basis to ensure timely action relating to requesting, establishing, issuing, suspending, modifying, and closing user accounts. User access rights should be granted on a need-to-know, need-to-do basis that considers appropriate segregation of duties and be reviewed on a regular basis. We recommend the County develop and follow formal policies and procedures to ensure appropriate user access rights. Such policies should ensure timely action relating to requesting, establishing, issuing, suspending, modifying, closing and reviewing user accounts.

Management Response:

Security access within Pentamation is requested by the employee's manager or supervisor. Historically the access has been based on the employee's role within the department or the role of the person they are replacing. The manager or supervisor determines the security required based upon the size of the department and the internal processes and workflows. In some cases, it may require individuals to have both creation and approval rights within Pentamation.

Pentamation security reports are available for every user in the system but are not easily understandable. Historically Peoria County IT has contacted the vendor for all questions related to security because of the limited details within the system. IT has submitted numerous request to Pentamation regarding improving the security reporting within the system. So far, no changes have been made by Pentamation to improve this.

Peoria County IT and Finance are currently in the initial process of procuring a new software system to replace the Pentamation Finance system within the next two fiscal years. A more robust security system with reporting will be a key requirement for the new system.

Mark Little – Chief Information Officer

APPENDIX A
STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DECEMBER 31, 2019

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES

1. Segregation of Duties

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Status – This comment is still applicable as of December 31, 2020. See current year comments for the results as of December 31, 2020.