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## Ciaschi • Dietershagen • Little • Mickelson & Company, LLP

*Certified Public Accountants and Consultants*

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Frederick J. Ciaschi, C.P.A.

### COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

The Chairman and Members  
of the County Legislature  
County of Tioga  
Owego, New York

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Tioga (the County) for the year ended December 31, 2010. The Industrial Development Agency, Soil and Water Conservation District and the Tioga Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation, component units of the County, were audited by other auditors. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, and *Government Auditing Standards* and OMB Circular A-133, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated September 15, 2010. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

##### **Accounting Policies**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the County are described in Note 1 to the basic financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2010. We noted no transactions entered into by the County during the year that were both significant and unusual, and of which, under professional standards we are required to inform you, or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. There are no significant transactions that have been recognized in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

##### **Accounting Estimates**

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the basic financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the basic financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were self-insurance liabilities and accumulated depreciation.

Management's estimates of self-insurance liabilities and accumulated depreciation are based on various assumptions. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the self-insurance liabilities and accumulated depreciation estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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**Disclosures**

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures concern capital assets, debt, and the other postretirement benefits expense and liabilities, the details of which are presented in Notes 2.A.7, 2.B.2 and 2.B.3 of the financial statements.

**Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

**Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. The audit adjustments referred to are described below:

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Asset</u>	<u>Liability</u>	<u>Fund Balance</u>
Record Sect. 5307 Federal Aid passed through Broome County	\$ 140,000	\$	
<u>Capital Fund</u>			
Adjust beginning fund balance to prior year ending fund balance			435,788
<u>Self Insurance</u>			
Adjust beginning fund balance to prior year ending fund balance			1,370,081
Adjust benefits and awards payable		896,137	

**Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor’s report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

**Management Representations**

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated August 16, 2011.

**Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the County’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

**Other Audit Matters or Issues**

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the County of Tioga's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

We would like to thank you and your staff for the cooperation and support given to us during the course of the audit. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and look forward to our continued involvement.

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the County Legislature, management, federal awarding agencies, and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Cinchi, Dietrich, Little, Mickelson & Co., LLP*

August 16, 2011, except for Note 6, as to which the date is September 14, 2011  
Ithaca, New York