

<b>APPROVAL</b> <i>slw</i>	<b>REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b> October 18, 2016
<b>REPORTS &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>Automatic Renewal of Dissemination Agent Agreement for Issuer Continuing Disclosure Required Under Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12</b>	<b>ITEM NUMBER</b> <i>G.14.</i>

**Background**

In January 2015, the Common Council authorized the engagement of Ehlers & Associates as Dissemination Agent for Issuer Continuing Disclosure Required under Securities and Exchange Commission rule 15c2-12.

When the City issues debt that is sold in the market place, the debt sale includes a Continuing Disclosure Agreement. That Agreement obligates the City to make certain financial disclosures within certain time frames to the market place.

**Analysis**

The Agreement has automatic annual renewal terms effective January 1 each year, unless 60 day notice is provided by either party. The 2017 renewal option window is upon us.

In exchange for early adoption of the Agent Agreement, Ehlers provide the City of Franklin very attractive pricing related to this work. Effectively, the cost of these services would double if the agreement were terminated.

**Options**

Take no action which causes the agreement to renew for another year.

OR

Direct staff to send timely termination notice to Ehlers.

OR

Take such other action as the Council deems appropriate.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends permitting the Agreement to renew.

**Fiscal Impact**

The \$1,400 cost of the Service Agreement is included in the 2017 budget request.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED**

Such action as the Common Council deems appropriate.



**EHLERS**  
LEADERS IN PUBLIC FINANCE

January 5, 2015

Paul Rotzenberg  
Finance Director/Treasurer  
City of Franklin  
9229 West Loomis Road  
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132

Re: Letter of Engagement to Retain Ehlers as Dissemination Agent for Issuer Continuing Disclosure Required Under Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule")

As an issuer of municipal securities, the City ("Issuer") is required to comply with all continuing disclosure obligations enumerated in the Continuing Disclosure Agreement/Certificate/Undertaking (CDU) associated with each issue of securities subject to the Rule. Many Issuers have CDUs that vary significantly from one CDU to another. Ehlers & Associates, Inc. ("Ehlers") has been helping you comply with all CDU obligations as Issuer's Dissemination Agent. Fulfilling this obligation requires research, preparation and filing of disclosure reports within specific time frames.

This Letter of Engagement ("Letter") is being presented to memorialize and clarify the terms of the Issuer's engagement of Ehlers as the Issuer's Dissemination Agent. In this regard, Ehlers agrees to provide Issuer with those services described in Appendix A ("Services"). Ehlers shall be entitled to compensation by the Issuer also as described in Appendix A.

This Letter shall be effective as of the date of its execution by the Issuer and shall remain in effect for a period of one (1) year (the "Initial Term"). This Letter shall renew automatically on each anniversary of the effective date of this Letter (each an "Additional Term"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Letter may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days prior written notice. The Initial Term and each Additional Term shall collectively be referred to herein as the "Term".

In order to perform the engagement, Issuer agrees to provide Ehlers all documents and information as are deemed necessary to fulfill the Issuer's reporting requirements under each respective CDU, and within the applicable timeframe(s) ("Disclosure Information"). With respect to Issuer's obligation to report the occurrence of any event for which a material event notice ("Event Notice") is to be filed, Issuer shall provide Disclosure Information related to the event to Ehlers within five (5) days of its occurrence. All other Disclosure Information must be provided to Ehlers within fourteen (14) days of Issuer's receipt of any such request from Ehlers. If Issuer fails to provide any Disclosure Information to Ehlers in accordance with the foregoing, Ehlers shall not be held liable for any reason in the event that any necessary disclosure filing is



not disseminated to the appropriate party within the applicable timeframe(s). Further, if for any reason Issuer fails to provide required Disclosure Information to Ehlers in accordance with the foregoing and Issuer's delay results in any disclosure filing being after a stated deadline, Ehlers shall, without further direction or instruction from Issuer, file a notice(s) with the applicable recipient submitting information provided by Issuer, if any, and/or describing the failure and providing any other information as Ehlers deems appropriate.

Ehlers shall deem all Disclosure Information provided to it by the Issuer to be accurate and free of defect, as well as not containing any material misstatements, falsehoods, or omissions of fact. Issuer acknowledges that Ehlers shall be entitled to rely on all Disclosure Information provided by the Issuer without further investigation as to its completeness or accuracy.

Ehlers shall maintain professional liability insurance at a minimum coverage level of \$2,000,000 per claim, and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate. Upon request of the Client, Ehlers shall provide a certificate of insurance to the Client. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the total aggregate liability of Ehlers under this Agreement for any actions or omissions taken by Ehlers in the performance of this Agreement shall not exceed \$2,000,000 per claim, and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate during the Term then in effect notwithstanding anything contained herein. In addition, Issuer acknowledges that Ehlers shall not be responsible and/or liable for any errors, misstatements or omissions associated with any continuing disclosure report or filing, or for the correction thereof, that was prepared or disseminated by anyone other than Ehlers.

This Letter constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and is intended to supersede any and all agreements, whether oral or written, between the parties that were entered into relative to the subject matter hereof prior to the effective date of this Letter. No amendment or modification of this Letter shall be deemed valid unless made in writing and signed by both parties.

Our records show that Issuer is subject to Full CDU's. Ehlers will continue to act as Issuer's Dissemination Agent for the CDU's we have been handling.

This Letter covers these securities and any subsequent securities for which Ehlers has acted as the Municipal Advisor. The Issuer may request in writing that Ehlers act as the Dissemination Agent on any future securities subject to the Rule not involving Ehlers.

If our engagement under the terms of this Letter is acceptable, please sign this Letter in the appropriate signature block below and return a signed copy to us for our records. If, however, you do not wish to engage our services, please note that election and return a copy of this Letter to us.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss our engagement further.

Sincerely,

Ehlers

Dawn Gunderson, CIPFA  
Senior Financial Advisor

**SO ACCEPTED BY ISSUER**

Issuer hereby accepts this Letter and engages Ehlers to provide the services noted herein and executes this Letter as of the date noted below:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**SO DECLINED BY ISSUER**

Issuer hereby acknowledges that it will be responsible for updating and submitting all necessary continuing disclosure reports and filings as may be required of Issuer without the assistance of Ehlers. Issuer further acknowledges and agrees that Ehlers assumes no responsibility for the compilation and/or submission of any such continuing disclosure reports or filings.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## APPENDIX A

### **EHLERS DISSEMINATION AGENT SERVICES AND FEES**

Ehlers' continuing disclosure services are designed to assist the Issuer in meeting its continuing disclosure obligations. Depending on the size of a transaction and the total amount of debt outstanding at the time of issuance, different debt issues may be subject to different reporting requirements. Ehlers will provide the services identified below, which are reflective of the Issuer's requirements under its respective Continuing Disclosure Undertaking (CDU). In no event will Ehlers assist Issuer with assessing whether information provided or omitted as part of an annual filing is "material" or whether an event is "material" under the federal securities laws requiring the filing of an event notice pursuant to a CDU. If the Issuer accepts this letter and engages Ehlers as the Dissemination Agent, Ehlers shall provide the following services and charge the following fees:

#### **Full Disclosure Services.**

##### **Background**

Since 1995, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule") has required underwriters of municipal securities to ensure that issuers are obligated to provide periodic reporting of specific information with respect to certain issues of municipal securities. An issuer is classified as a "full disclosure" reporting entity when it issues securities subject to the Rule in an amount of \$1 million or more, and further provided that total securities subject to the Rule and currently outstanding exceed \$10 million. Full disclosure reporting entities must:

- File reports consisting of specific information at least annually with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's (MSRB) Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) system (<http://emma.msrb.org>).
- File "Event Notices" regarding enumerated events specified in SEC rules and CDUs within 10 business days of occurrence. Event Notices are filed through the same EMMA system.

##### **Description of Services**

Issuer engages Ehlers to provide the following services in connection with the preparation and dissemination of Issuer's continuing disclosure reports and Event Notice filings in connection with all outstanding debt issues of Issuer subject to the Rule and for which continuing disclosure reports or filings are required. During the Term of the engagement, Ehlers shall provide the services hereinafter described with respect to all existing and future securities of the Issuer subject to the Rule and having continuing disclosure requirements. Ehlers shall provide these services for any other securities of the Issuer when requested in writing by the Issuer.

##### **Annual Filings, or More Frequently, if Required**

- a. Review and catalog of all Continuing Disclosure Agreement/Certificate/Undertaking (CDU)'s of Issuer relative to current and future issues of securities subject to the Rule.
- b. Creation of a timetable for the anticipated schedule of events relating to the preparation of Issuer's annual (or more frequently, if required) continuing disclosure report.
- c. Collection of information from third parties and Issuer, as applicable, to the extent necessary to prepare the annual (or more frequently, if required) continuing disclosure report.
- d. Preparing the annual (or more frequently, if required) continuing disclosure report in a standardized format acceptable for submission to the EMMA system, or any future industry standard.
- e. Submission of the annual (or more frequently, if required) continuing disclosure report and any Event Notices to the designated recipient based on the applicable CDU's of Issuer and all laws, rules and regulations relative thereto.

- f. Delivering a copy of any report or notice submitted in accordance with (e. above) to Issuer for its records, as well as confirmations of receipt of filing(s).
- g. Respond to Underwriter/Investor inquiries and requests.
- h. Providing recommendations to Issuer relating to future continuing disclosure related matters.

**Event Notices**

- a. Informing Issuer of the types of events that may require the filing of an "Event Notice" and the required reporting period for such notices.
- b. Notifying Issuer of any information Ehlers discovers that may require the filing of an Event Notice, and preparation and filing of the required Event Notice.
- c. Upon notification by Issuer of any circumstances that may require the filing of an Event Notice, preparing, filing, and providing confirmation of filing the required Event Notice.

**Description of Fees**

Full Disclosure Services fees shall be assessed as follows:

Number of Issuer Continuing Disclosure Undertakings	Annual Fee
One (1) to three (3) CDU's	\$2,800
Four (4) to six (6) CDU's	\$3,300
Seven (7) or more CDU's	\$3,800

Plus any out of pocket expenses.

Special Circumstances

If an Issuer's CDU requires periodic filings (quarterly or semiannually) in addition to the annual filings, a fee of \$500 per required CDU filing shall be assessed.

Limited Disclosure Services.

**Background**

In 2009, the Securities and Exchange Commission put into place revised rules regarding a limited scope of continuing disclosure requirements for certain municipal securities issuers. These rules apply to any securities issued on or after July 1, 2009 in amounts of \$1 million or more and where the Issuer's total amount of principal outstanding and subject to the Rule is less than \$10 million upon issuance. Any issuer meeting the aforementioned parameters must comply with a limited disclosure undertaking and file annual reports. Issuers subject to limited disclosure requirements must file audited financial statements (or unaudited financial statements if allowed under a CDU) on an annual basis, rather than both financial statements and operating and statistical data.

**Description of Services**

Ehlers shall provide the following services in connection with the preparation and dissemination of Issuer's continuing disclosure reports and Event Notice filings for all current and future outstanding securities of Issuer subject to the Rule and for which continuing disclosure reports or filings are required. During the Term of the engagement, Ehlers shall provide the services hereinafter described with respect to all future issuances for which Ehlers provides municipal advisory services and that have continuing disclosure requirements. Ehlers will also provide these services for any other issues when requested in writing by the Issuer.

Services to be provided are as follows:

**Annual Filings**

- a. Review of all Continuing Disclosure Agreement/Certificate/Undertaking (CDU)'s of Issuer relative to currently outstanding issuances.
- b. Creation of a timetable for the anticipated schedule of events relating to the dissemination of Issuer's annual updated financial information and operating data.
- c. Submitting the Issuer's annual financial statements to the designated recipient thereof based on the applicable CDU's of Issuer and all laws, rules and regulations relative thereto.
- d. Delivering a copy of any report or notice submitted in accordance with (c above) to Issuer for its records.
- e. Respond to Underwriter/Investor inquires and requests.
- f. Providing recommendations to Issuer relating to future continuing disclosure related matters.

**Event Notices**

- a. Informing Issuer of the types of events that may require the filing of an "Event Notice".
- b. Notifying Issuer of any information Ehlers discovers that may require the filing of an Event Notice, and preparation and filing of the required Event Notice.
- c. Upon notification by Issuer of any circumstances that may require the filing of an Event Notice, prepare and file the required Event Notice.

**Description of Fees**

Limited Disclosure Services shall be provided annually for a fee of \$750.

**Future Fee Changes**

Ehlers reserves the right to adjust fees during the Term of the engagement without prior consent of the Issuer, but not more than annually. Prior to any fee adjustments, the Issuer will be notified in writing of the revised fees and their effective date.

APPENDIX A AMENDMENT

The City of Franklin has contracted with Ehlers to be the dissemination agent for disclosure filings through December 31, 2019. The base annual fee will be \$1400 plus a miscellaneous office expense for the first revenue source. If Ehlers prepares an Official Statement on behalf of the City in the same revenue year, there will be no charge for disclosure filings. As dissemination agent, Ehlers will provide dissemination services as described in this agreement. Any other dissemination agreement executed between both parties is replaced by this agreement.

At the end of the term of the aforementioned agreement and for any dissemination services provided January 1, 2020 and thereafter, the fees for this service will be those charged by Ehlers for services provided as outlined in Appendix A.

## APPENDIX B

### EVENT NOTICES

If any one of the listed events occurs in relation to the Issuer and/or any of the Issuer's securities subject to this agreement, you must notify Ehlers at the earliest possible time to discuss the applicability and the need for any filing of an Event Notice. The Issuer may also wish to discuss the matter with its legal counsel to gauge materiality of any occurrence.

#### **Mandatory Event Notices**

- Principal and interest payment delinquencies
- Non-payment related defaults, if material
- Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties
- Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
- Substitution of credit or liquidity providers or their failure to perform
- Adverse tax opinions, IRS notices or material events affecting the tax status of the security
- Modifications to rights of security holders, if material
- Bond calls, if material
- Defeasances
- Release, substitution or sale of property securing repayment of the securities, if material
- Rating changes
- Tender offers
- Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the obligated person
- Merger, consolidation, or acquisition of the obligated person, if material
- Appointment of a successor or additional trustee, or the change of name of a trustee, if material

#### **Additional / Voluntary Event-Based Disclosures**

- Amendment to continuing disclosure undertaking
- Change in obligated person
- Notice to investors pursuant to bond documents
- Certain communications from the Internal Revenue Service
- Secondary market purchases
- Bid for auction rate or other securities
- Capital or other financing plan
- Litigation / enforcement action
- Change of tender agent, remarketing agent, or other on-going party
- Derivative or other similar transaction
- Other event-based disclosures