

# PIPER | SANDLER

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Piper Sandler & Co  
Since 1895. Member SIPC and NYSE

May 27, 2021

Woodbury County Board of Supervisors  
Rocky DeWitt, Chairman  
620 Douglas Street, Room 103  
Sioux City, Iowa 51101

Re: Engagement Letter with Piper Sandler & Co for Road Improvement Projects

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

We understand that Woodbury County, Iowa (the "Issuer") wishes to issue approximately \$10,000,000 General Obligation Urban Renewal Bonds or Notes (to financing the urban renewal road improvement projects), (collectively, the "Bonds," the "Bond Issue" or the "Project") and has selected Piper Sandler & Co. ("Piper" or the "Underwriter") to serve as underwriter for the proposed issuance. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you in this manner. This letter will serve as an agreement regarding the terms of this engagement. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to set forth some pertinent information about the process of underwriting.

Although the Underwriter intends to work closely with you during the period preceding the pricing and sale of the proposed Bond Issue with the aim of timely completion of the financing, we are not herein making a final commitment to underwrite bonds until certain events have occurred. Such a commitment is subject to, among other things, satisfactory completion and execution of all final documentation for an offering (including a Bond Purchase Agreement containing all provisions necessary to satisfy federal securities laws and the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, and all other applicable rules and regulations); absence of any material adverse change in the financial markets or in the financial condition, operations or prospects of the Issuer; receipts of all required governmental approvals and appropriate legal opinions; an underwriter's review ("due diligence") of the offering documents, as required under federal securities laws; the negotiation of appropriate indemnification; state blue sky reviews, as appropriate; and credit approval by the Underwriter. This Agreement is therefore not a final commitment by the Underwriter, express or implied, to underwrite or purchase any securities, nor does it obligate the Underwriter to enter into a Bond Purchase Agreement. While we do not anticipate difficulties in the course of the proposed financing, and look forward to a successful conclusion to this engagement, we prefer to identify these conditions to our final commitment at the outset.

Our efforts will include:

- a) Preparation of numbers describing various options to finance the Project
- b) Assistance securing rating on proposed bonds
- c) If a portion of any financing considered includes an advance refunding, subscribe for SLGS or acquire U.S. Treasury securities as agent for and on behalf of the Issuer
- d) Assistance with disclosure counsel regarding preparation of the official statement
- e) Marketing the bonds to potential investors
- f) Coordination of closing effort for bonds

During the course of the engagement, Piper will to participate in discussions with bond counsel, finance officials or internal legal counsel of the Issuer to assist in advising the Issuer, as part of the underwriting process, of various financial structures for the proposed offering and their probable reception in the municipal bond markets.

The Underwriter will perform due diligence respecting any offering documents as part of their obligation under federal securities laws. If a final commitment to underwrite the Bonds is approved by the Underwriter, and subject to the conditions described above, the Underwriter will underwrite the Bonds and manage a public offering of the Bonds. Further details regarding the underwriting will be set forth in a Bond Purchase Agreement to be executed at the time of pricing of the Bonds. The Issuer and its chosen counsel agree to cooperate with and assist the Underwriter in connection with such duties.

As compensation for the Underwriter's services, the Issuer will pay the Underwriter a fee to be determined by the nature of the offering as set forth in Schedule A hereto. Fees will be payable to the Underwriter in the form of an underwriter's discount on the Bond Issue as set forth therein. The fees, disbursements and other charges of the Underwriter's outside legal counsel will be added to the underwriter's discount. The Underwriter shall select such counsel in its sole discretion.

The Issuer may not terminate this Agreement at any time prior to completion of the Project other than for non-performance on the part of the Underwriter, in which case the Issuer may terminate this agreement, and upon such termination, all fees due to the Underwriter for time served assisting with the Project shall be due and payable immediately by the Issuer. The Underwriter may terminate this Agreement at any time on 30 days written notice.

Assignment Neither the Underwriter nor the Issuer shall have the right or power to assign this Agreement or parts thereof, or its respective duties, without the express written consent of the other party. In the event of acquisition of the Underwriter by a third party firm, notice shall be given to the Issuer regarding the acquisition and the Issuer shall have the opportunity to consent to the assignment of this Agreement, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

No Advisory or Fiduciary Role. We are writing to provide you with certain regulatory disclosures as required by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. As part of our services, Piper Sandler may provide advice concerning the structure, timing, terms, and other similar matters concerning an issue of municipal securities that Piper Sandler is underwriting or placing. However, Piper Sandler intends to serve as Underwriter and not as a financial advisor to you in this transaction; and the primary role of Piper Sandler is to purchase securities for resale to investors or arrange for the placement of securities in an arm's length commercial transaction between you and Piper Sandler. Piper Sandler has financial and other interests that differ from your interests.

No Recourse for Tax Matters. No recourse shall be had against the Underwriter for loss, damage, liability, cost or expense (whether direct, indirect or consequential) of the Issuer arising out of or in defending, prosecuting, negotiating or responding to any inquiry, questionnaire, audit, suit, action, or other proceeding brought or received from the Internal Revenue Service in connection with the Bonds or otherwise relating to the tax treatment of interest on the Bond.

Governance This Agreement will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Iowa, without regard to principles of conflicts of law to the extent that the application of the laws of another jurisdiction would be required thereby. The Issuer and the Underwriter each hereby irrevocably waive any right they may have to a trial by jury in respect of any claim based upon or arising out of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

Consent to Jurisdiction: Service of Process, waiver of jury trial. The parties each hereby (a) submits to the jurisdiction of the Federal court sitting in Des Moines, Iowa with respect to any actions and proceedings arising out of or relating to this Agreement, (b) agrees that all claims with respect to such actions or proceedings may be heard and determined in such court, (c) waives the defense of an



inconvenient forum, (d) agrees not to commence any action or proceeding relating to this Agreement other than in the Federal court sitting in Des Moines, Iowa and (e) agrees that a final judgment in any such action or proceeding shall be conclusive and may be enforced in other jurisdictions by suit on the judgment or in any other manner provided by law. The parties each hereby agree to waive any right to a trial by jury with respect to any claim, counterclaim or action arising out of or in connection with this agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

Issuer To Provide Information and Documents to Underwriter. The Issuer agrees to provide to the Underwriter all documents on which the Issuer has relied for purposes of certifying the Issuer is not aware of a material fact, nor has the Issuer omitted to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, with respect to the issuance of the Bonds. The Issuer also agrees to complete, and agrees to cause its agents and consultants to provide, upon request, answers and provide any documents requested by the Underwriter as part of due diligence requested by the Underwriter in compliance with the Underwriters duties and obligations with respect to MSRB, SEC or other regulatory requirements

This Agreement embodies the entire agreement and understanding between the parties hereto and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings relating to the subject matter hereof. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable in any respect, such determination will not affect such provision in any other respect or any other provision of this Agreement, which will remain in full force and effect. This Agreement may not be amended or otherwise modified or waived except by an instrument in writing signed by both the Underwriter and Issuer except that to the extent that any term of an executed Bond Purchase Agreement conflicts with the terms of this Agreement, in which case the terms of the Bond Purchase Agreement shall have precedence.

This letter agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one agreement. Delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page of this letter agreement by facsimile transmission shall be effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart of this letter agreement.

Please confirm that the foregoing correctly sets forth our agreement by signing and returning to Piper Sandler & Co., the enclosed original copy of this Agreement.

Very truly yours,

Travis R. Squires  
Managing Director

Please acknowledge your acceptance by indicating below:

Signature



Issuer:

Woodbury County, IA

Name

Rocky DeWitt

Title

CHAIRMAN

Date on which this letter is executed by the Issuer:

JUNE 2, 2021

### **Schedule A – Maximum Fees**

All fees are calculated based on the par amount of bonds offered:

- the maximum fee shall be 0.525%

Issuer will reimburse Piper for the cost of their Underwriter's Counsel. A process will be run for selection of Underwriter's Counsel and Piper will review the costs with the Issuer's Municipal Advisor prior to selection.

## Appendix A – G-17 Disclosure

Thank you for engaging Piper Sandler & Co. (“Piper Sandler”) to serve as your underwriter. We are writing to provide you with certain disclosures relating to the captioned bond issue (Bonds), as required by Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) Rule G-17 as set forth in MSRB Notice 2019-20 (Nov. 8, 2019).<sup>1</sup>

Piper Sandler & Co. intends to serve as an underwriter, and not as a financial advisor or municipal advisor, in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. As part of our underwriting services, we may provide advice concerning the structure, timing, terms, and other similar matters concerning the issuance of the Bonds.

The following G-17 conflict of interest disclosures are now broken down into three types, including: 1) dealer-specific conflicts of interest disclosures (if applicable); 2) transaction-specific disclosures (if applicable); and 3) standard disclosures.

### ***Dealer-Specific Conflicts of Interest Disclosures***

Piper Sandler has identified the following actual or potential<sup>2</sup> material conflicts of interest:

- We have entered into a separate agreement with Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. that enables Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. to distribute certain new issue municipal securities underwritten by or allocated to us which could include the Bonds. Under that agreement, we will share with Charles Schwab & Co., a portion of the fee or commission paid to us.

### ***Transaction-Specific Disclosures***

- Disclosures Concerning Complex Municipal Securities Financing:
  - Since we have not recommended a “complex municipal securities financing” to the Issuer or Obligor, additional disclosures regarding the financing structure for the Bonds are not required under MSRB Rule G-17.

### ***Standard Disclosures***

- Disclosures Concerning the Underwriters’ Role:
  - MSRB Rule G-17 requires an underwriter to deal fairly at all times with both issuers and investors.
  - The underwriters’ primary role is to purchase the Bonds with a view to distribution in an arm’s-length commercial transaction with the Issuer. The underwriters have financial and other interests that differ from those of the Issuer.
  - Unlike a municipal advisor, an underwriter does not have a fiduciary duty to the Issuer under the federal securities laws and is, therefore, not required by federal law to act in the best interests of the Issuer without regard to its own financial or other interests.
  - The Issuer may choose to engage the services of a municipal advisor with a fiduciary obligation to represent the Issuer’s interest in this transaction.
  - The underwriters have a duty to purchase the Bonds from the Issuer at a fair and reasonable price, but must balance that duty with their duty to sell the Bonds to investors at prices that are fair and reasonable.
  - The underwriters will review the official statement for the Bonds in accordance with, and a part of, their respective responsibilities to investors under the federal securities laws, as applied to the facts and circumstances of this transaction.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Revised Interpretive Notice Concerning the Application of MSRB Rule G-17 to Underwriters of Municipal Securities (effective Mar. 31, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> When we refer to *potential* material conflicts throughout this letter, we refer to ones that are reasonably likely to mature into *actual* material conflicts during the course of the transaction, which is the standard required by MSRB Rule G-17.

<sup>3</sup> Under federal securities law, an issuer of securities has the primary responsibility for disclosure to investors. The review of the official statement by the underwriters is solely for purposes of satisfying the underwriters’ obligations under the federal securities laws and such review should not be construed by an issuer as a guarantee of the accuracy or completeness of the information in the official statement.

- Disclosures Concerning the Underwriters' Compensation:
  - The underwriters will be compensated by a fee and/or an underwriting discount that will be set forth in the bond purchase agreement to be negotiated and entered into in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. Payment or receipt of the underwriting fee or discount will be contingent on the closing of the transaction and the amount of the fee or discount may be based, in whole or in part, on a percentage of the principal amount of the Bonds. While this form of compensation is customary in the municipal securities market, it presents a conflict of interest since the underwriters may have an incentive to recommend to the Issuer a transaction that is unnecessary or to recommend that the size of the transaction be larger than is necessary.

If you or any other Issuer officials have any questions or concerns about these disclosures, please make those questions or concerns known immediately to the undersigned. In addition, you should consult with the Issuer's own financial and/or municipal, legal, accounting, tax and other advisors, as applicable, to the extent you deem appropriate.

Please note that nothing in this letter should be viewed as a commitment by the underwriters to purchase or sell all the Bonds and any such commitment will only exist upon the execution of any bond purchase agreement or similar agreement and then only in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof.

You have been identified by the Issuer as a primary contact for the Issuer's receipt of these disclosures, and that you are not a party to any disclosed conflict of interest relating to the subject transaction. If our understanding is incorrect, please notify the undersigned immediately. We are required to seek your acknowledgement that you have received this letter. Accordingly, please send me an email to that effect, or sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter to me at the address set forth above. Otherwise, an email read receipt from you or automatic response confirming that our email was opened by you will serve as an acknowledgment that you received these disclosures.

Depending on the structure of the transaction that the Issuer decides to pursue, or if additional actual or potential material conflicts are identified, we may be required to send you additional disclosures regarding the material financial characteristics and risks of such transaction and/or describing those conflicts. At that time, we also will seek your acknowledgement of receipt of any such additional disclosures.

## Appendix B – Fixed Rate Bonds

The following is a general description of the financial characteristics and security structures of fixed rate municipal bonds (“Fixed Rate Bonds”), as well as a general description of certain financial risks that are known to us and reasonably foreseeable at this time and that you should consider before deciding whether to issue Fixed Rate Bonds. If you have any questions or concerns about these disclosures, please make those questions or concerns known immediately to us. In addition, you should consult with your financial and/or municipal, legal, accounting, tax, and other advisors, as applicable, to the extent you deem appropriate.

### Financial Characteristics

***Maturity and Interest.*** Fixed Rate Bonds are interest-bearing debt securities issued by state and local governments, political subdivisions and agencies and authorities, whether for their benefit or as a conduit issuer for a nongovernmental entity. Maturity dates for Fixed Rate Bonds are fixed at the time of issuance and may include serial maturities (specified principal amounts are payable on the same date in each year until final maturity) or one or more term maturities (specified principal amounts are payable on each term maturity date) or a combination of serial and term maturities. The final maturity date typically will range between 10 and 30 years from the date of issuance. Interest on the Fixed Rate Bonds typically is paid semiannually at a stated fixed rate or rates for each maturity date.

***Redemption.*** Fixed Rate Bonds may be subject to optional redemption, which allows you, at your option, to redeem some or all the bonds on a date prior to scheduled maturity, such as in connection with the issuance of refunding bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates. Fixed Rate Bonds will be subject to optional redemption only after the passage of a specified period, often approximately ten years from the date of issuance, and upon payment of the redemption price set forth in the bonds, which may include a redemption premium. You will be required to send out a notice of optional redemption to the holders of the bonds, usually not less than 30 days prior to the redemption date. Fixed Rate Bonds with term maturity dates also may be subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption, which requires you to redeem specified principal amounts of the bonds annually in advance of the term maturity date. The mandatory sinking fund redemption price is 100% of the principal amount of the bonds to be redeemed.

### Security

Payment of principal of and interest on a municipal security, including Fixed Rate Bonds, may be backed by various types of pledges and forms of security, some of which are described below.

***General Obligation Bonds.*** “General obligation (GO) bonds” are debt securities to which your full faith and credit is pledged to pay principal and interest. If you have taxing power, generally you will pledge to use your ad valorem (property) taxing power to pay principal and interest. The debt service on “unlimited tax” GO bonds are paid from ad valorem taxes which are not subject to state constitutional property tax millage limits, whereas “limited tax” GO Bonds are subject to such limits.

General obligation bonds constitute a debt and, depending on applicable state law, may require that you obtain approval by voters prior to issuance. In the event of default in required payments of interest or principal, the holders of general obligation bonds generally will have certain rights under state law to compel you to impose a tax levy.

***Revenue Bonds.*** “Revenue bonds” are debt securities that are payable only from a specific source or sources of revenues. Revenue bonds are not a pledge of your full faith and credit, and you (or, if you are a conduit issuer, the obligor, as described in the following paragraph) are obligated to pay principal and interest on your revenue bonds only from the revenue source(s) specifically pledged to the bonds. Revenue bonds do not permit the bondholders to compel you to impose a tax levy for payment of debt service. Pledged revenues may be derived from operation of the financed project or system, grants or excise or other specified taxes. Generally,

subject to state law or local charter requirements, you are not required to obtain voter approval prior to issuance of revenue bonds. If the specified source(s) of revenue become inadequate, a default in payment of principal or interest may occur. Various types of pledges of revenue may be used to secure interest and principal payments on revenue bonds. The nature of these pledges may differ widely based on state law, the type of issuer, the type of revenue stream and other factors.

Some revenue bonds (conduit revenue bonds) may be issued by a governmental issuer acting as a conduit for the benefit of a private sector entity or a 501(c)(3) organization (the obligor). Conduit revenue bonds commonly are issued for not-for-profit hospitals, educational institutions, single and multi-family housing, airports, industrial or economic development projects, and student loan programs, among other obligors. Principal and interest on conduit revenue bonds normally are paid exclusively from revenues pledged by the obligor. Unless otherwise specified under the terms of the bonds, you are not required to make payments of principal or interest if the obligor defaults.

The description above regarding "Security" is only a summary of certain possible security provisions for the bonds and is not intended as legal advice. You should consult with your bond counsel for further information regarding the security for the bonds.

### **Financial Risk Considerations**

Certain risks may arise in connection with your issuance of Fixed Rate Bonds, including some or all the following (generally, the obligor, rather than the issuer, will bear these risks for conduit revenue bonds):

*Issuer Default Risk.* You may be in default if the funds pledged to secure your bonds are not enough to pay debt service on the bonds when due. The consequences of a default may be serious for you and, depending on applicable state law and the terms of the authorizing documents, the holders of the bonds, the trustee and any credit support provider may be able to exercise a range of available remedies against you. For example, if the bonds are secured by a general obligation pledge, you may be ordered by a court to raise taxes. Other budgetary adjustments also may be necessary to enable you to provide sufficient funds to pay debt service on the bonds. If the bonds are revenue bonds, you may be required to take steps to increase the available revenues that are pledged as security for the bonds. A default may negatively impact your credit ratings and may effectively limit your ability to publicly offer bonds or other securities at market interest rate levels. Further, if you are unable to provide sufficient funds to remedy the default, subject to applicable state law and the terms of the authorizing documents, you may find it necessary to consider available alternatives under state law, including (for some issuers) state-mandated receivership or bankruptcy. A default also may occur if you are unable to comply with covenants or other provisions agreed to in connection with the issuance of the bonds.

This description is only a summary of issues relating to defaults and is not intended as legal advice. You should consult with your bond counsel for further information regarding defaults and remedies.

Bonds payable from the general fund, particularly bonds without a defined revenue stream identified to pay debt service, reduce your flexibility to balance the general fund. Because a fixed debt service payment is required to be paid regardless of how your general fund is impacted by revenue losses or by increased expenses, you have less flexibility in the options available to you in assuring a balanced budget for your general fund.

General Fund Obligations that are Project Based. Some general fund obligations are issued for projects which are expected to generate revenues that will pay for some or all of the debt service on the bonds. In the event the project does not generate the anticipated levels of revenues available for debt service, or, in the extreme case, does not create any revenue available for debt service, you may need to make payments from other available general fund revenues. This may



force you to reduce other expenditures or to make difficult decisions about how to pay your debt service obligation while meeting other expenditure needs.

General Fund Obligations that are Subject to Annual Appropriation. Some general fund obligations require that debt service is subject to annual appropriation by your governing body. If your governing body decides not to appropriate payments for debt service, your credit ratings may be negatively impacted and you may be forced to pay a higher interest rate on future debt issuance or may be unable to access the market for future debt issuance.

For all bonds, a default may negatively impact your credit ratings and may effectively limit your ability to publicly offer bonds or other securities at market interest rate levels. Further, if you are unable to provide sufficient funds to remedy the default, subject to applicable state law and the terms of the authorizing documents, it may be necessary for you to consider available alternatives under state law, including (for some issuers) state-mandated receivership or bankruptcy. A default also may occur if you are unable to comply with covenants or other provisions agreed to in connection with the issuance of the bonds.

*Redemption Risk.* Your ability to redeem the bonds prior to maturity may be limited, depending on the terms of any optional redemption provisions. If interest rates decline, you may be unable to take advantage of the lower interest rates to reduce debt service.

*Refinancing Risk.* If your financing plan contemplates refinancing some or all the bonds at maturity (for example, if you have term maturities or if you choose a shorter final maturity than might otherwise be permitted under the applicable federal tax rules), market conditions or changes in law may limit or prevent you from refinancing those bonds when required.

*Reinvestment Risk.* You may have proceeds from the issuance of the bonds available to invest prior to the time that you are able to spend those proceeds for the authorized purpose. Depending on market conditions, you may not be able to invest those proceeds at or near the rate of interest that you are paying on the bonds, which is referred to as “negative arbitrage”.

*Tax Compliance Risk.* The issuance of tax-exempt bonds is subject to several requirements under the United States Internal Revenue Code, as enforced by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). You must take certain steps and make certain representations prior to the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. You also must covenant to take certain additional actions after issuance of tax-exempt bonds. A breach of your representations or your failure to comply with certain tax-related covenants may cause the interest on bonds to become taxable retroactively to the date of issuance of the bonds, which may result in an increase in the interest rate that you pay on the bonds or the mandatory redemption of the bonds. The IRS also may audit you or your bonds, in some cases on a random basis and in other cases targeted to specific types of bond issues or tax concerns. If tax-exempt bonds are declared taxable, or if you are subject to audit, the market price of your bonds may be adversely affected. Further, your ability to issue other tax-exempt bonds also may be limited.

This description of tax compliance risks is not intended as legal advice and you should consult with your bond counsel regarding tax implications of issuing the bonds.