6/12/2026

Subject: Appeal Response – Audit Completion Delay and Corrective Actions

To Whom It May Concern:

The audit was not completed within the required timeframe due to circumstances affecting the auditor's ability to finalize the engagement as originally scheduled. The delays were primarily related to workload constraints, scheduling challenges, and the time required to obtain, review, and reconcile supporting documentation necessary to ensure the audit was conducted accurately and in accordance with applicable standards.

Throughout the audit process, the Town has worked diligently to support the auditor and facilitate timely completion of the audit. We have responded promptly to information requests, provided access to financial records and supporting documentation, maintained regular communication with the auditor, and made staff available to address questions and clarify information as needed. We have also monitored the audit's progress and coordinated efforts to address any issues that could affect completion timelines.

In addition to supporting the current audit process, the Town has taken several proactive steps to strengthen its financial management practices and improve compliance with annual audit requirements. These actions include:

- Seeking bookkeeping, accounting, auditing, and technical assistance from the North Carolina League of Municipalities and other professional resources available to local governments.
- Consulting with other municipalities and local government professionals regarding best practices for financial management, bookkeeping, and audit preparation.
- Contracting for professional assistance with financial statement preparation and related accounting functions to ensure records are maintained accurately and audit-ready.
- Participating in training and educational opportunities related to local government finance, internal controls, budgeting, accounting, and audit compliance. Town officials and staff continue to pursue relevant training opportunities to enhance financial oversight and strengthen internal processes.
- Reviewing and improving internal financial procedures, recordkeeping practices, and communication processes to ensure timely preparation of information needed for future audits.
- Evaluating additional resources and support options to improve financial operations and reduce the risk of future audit delays.

The Town remains committed to maintaining sound financial practices and achieving full compliance with all annual audit requirements. While the current delay was largely outside of the Town's direct control, we have taken and will continue to take reasonable and proactive measures to support the auditor, improve financial management, and ensure timely completion of future audits.

We respectfully request consideration of these circumstances and the corrective actions undertaken by the Town. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Corinthia Lewis Lemon
Town Clerk
Town of Morven