



State Auditor
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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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1. Released: Pension Newsletter
2. Released: TIF Newsletter
3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Claim Approval by the Governing Body

1. Released: Pension Newsletter

The February **Pension Newsletter** has been released. The Newsletter provides information about a new Internal Revenue Service (IRS) procedure for reinstating the tax-exempt status of organizations, including volunteer fire relief associations, which have had their tax-exempt status revoked due to a failure to file annual returns with the IRS.

The Newsletter also provides a Working Group update, information about the 2013 reporting forms, and a reminder about the upcoming deadline for filing the Fire Equipment Certification Form with the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The complete Newsletter can be viewed at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=pensionDocs>.

2. Released: TIF Newsletter

The February **TIF Newsletter** has been released. The Newsletter contains information on county administrative expenses and the Four-Year Knockdown Rule. The Newsletter also includes a reminder for the 2013 TIF District information from counties.

To view the complete Newsletter, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=tifDocs>.

3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Claim Approval by the Governing Body

Generally, the governing body of a public entity, as a whole, must approve the expenditure of public funds. The decision to expend public funds should be based upon a formal vote of the governing body that is memorialized in the meeting minutes.

On occasion, an elected official will authorize a payment on behalf of their public entity without first obtaining approval from the governing body. A public official who individually agrees to a payment of public funds runs the risk that the governing body will disagree. When that happens, the public official may be personally liable for the payment.

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