



State Auditor
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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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October 16, 2015

1. Revised: Statement of Position on TIF
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1. Revised: Statement of Position on TIF

The Statement of Position entitled TIF Interfund Loans has been updated and revised for clarity. To view the complete Statement, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110519.000>.

2. Meeting: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group

The Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group will meet on Wednesday, October 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at our 525 Park Street office in Saint Paul. Meetings are open to the public. Working Group materials are available on the OSA website at:

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

3. Reminder: Fire State Aid and Supplemental State Aid

Fire state aid and supplemental state aid were disbursed on October 1 for most volunteer fire relief associations in Minnesota. The municipal treasurer is required under State law to transmit both the fire state aid and supplemental state aid to the treasurer of the affiliated relief association within 30 days after receipt if an organized relief association exists and the association has filed a financial report with the municipality.

The Reporting Form signed annually by the municipal clerk and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor is the financial report referred to in this statutory provision. The relief association treasurer should ensure that the fire state aid and supplemental state aid are promptly deposited into the association's Special Fund.

A list of the 2014 fire state aid and supplemental state aid amounts is available on the Minnesota Department of Revenue's website at:

http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/local_gov/prop_tax_admin/Pages/fsa.aspx.

4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Prompt Payment of Local Government Bills

Cities, counties, towns, school districts, and local government political subdivisions or agencies must pay vendor bills according to the terms of the contract with the vendor. If no contract term applies, the bill must be paid within a "standard payment period" unless there is a good faith dispute over the bill. See [Minn. Stat. § 471.425](#). If the bill is not paid within the standard payment period, the public entity must pay interest charges.

Under the statute, the standard payment period from the date of receipt of the goods or services, or the invoice for the goods or services, whichever is later, is:

- 35 days for governing boards with regularly scheduled meetings at least once a month;
- 45 days for governing boards that do not regularly meet at least once a month; and
- 45 days for joint powers organizations.

If an invoice is incorrect, defective or otherwise improper, the statute requires the entity to notify the vendor within ten days of the date of receipt.

This statute applies to all goods, leases and rents, and contracts for services, construction, repair and remodeling. It provides a specific exception for certain contracts with a public utility or telephone company.

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