



State Auditor
Rebecca Otto

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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November 20, 2009

1. Released: 2008 Town Finances Report
2. Released: Selected Relevant Statutes Summary
3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Cooperative Purchasing Venture

1. Released: 2008 Town Finances Report

State Auditor Rebecca Otto has released the 2008 Town Finances Report, a comprehensive report on revenues, expenditures and debt for Minnesota's towns. The report analyzes the financial operations of towns for the calendar year ended December 31, 2008. To view the complete report, which includes an Executive Summary, charts and tables, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/Reports/gid/2008/tnFinances/tnFinances08report.pdf>.

2. Released: Selected Relevant Statutes Summary

An updated version of the Selected Relevant Statutes summary for Volunteer Fire Relief Associations is now available for viewing. The summary can be used in conjunction with the statutes booklet prepared annually by the Pension Division. The statutes booklet contains many of the state laws applicable to volunteer fire relief associations, and the summary provides a short, easy-to-read companion. The booklet and summary can be accessed at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20070105.001>.

3. Avoiding Pitfalls: Cooperative Purchasing Venture

Vendors sometimes market their businesses by claiming that local units of government can purchase from them without bidding. Vendors may emphasize that they are part of the “state contract” and will sell at the “state contract price.” Public entities should be cautious before proceeding with these purchases. Public entities cannot avoid the normal bidding requirements simply by purchasing from these vendors.

The Cooperative Purchasing Venture (CPV) is a members-only joint powers program operated by the Minnesota Department of Administration. The CPV allows members to purchase goods and services under contract terms established by the State of Minnesota. It is available only to governmental units that have joined the CPV, but there is currently no fee. More information on the CPV, and how to become a member, can be found at:

<http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/cpv2.htm>.

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