

CLAIMS AND DISBURSEMENTS

LEGAL COMPLIANCE MANUAL

CLAIMS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Introduction

Municipal transactions involving an account, claim, or demand made for any property or service which can be itemized in the ordinary course of business and disbursements of municipal funds are covered in this section.

“Municipality” for the purposes of this section means a county; local social services agency; county board of education for unorganized territory; school district; charter school; town or home rule charter city of the second, third, or fourth class; or park district. This section also applies to statutory cities.

In addition, Minn. Stat. § 471.425 (Prompt Payment of Local Government Bills), applies to any home rule charter or statutory city, county, town, school district, political subdivision, or agency of local government. It also applies to the Metropolitan Council and any board or agency created under Minn. Stat. ch. 473.

Minn. Stat. Section	CLAIMS AND DISBURSEMENTS	Yes	No	Workpaper Reference
Part I. General Provisions - For Municipalities				
§ 471.38, subd. 1	<p>A. Has every person or the person's agent claiming payment put such claim in writing (which includes an electronic transaction record) by items?</p> <p>B. Has each declaration for payment (described below) been signed to the effect that such account, claim, or demand is just and correct and that no part of it has been paid?</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
§ 471.38, subd. 2	<p>NOTE: The provisions of this section do not apply to any claim or demand for an annual salary or fees of jurors or witnesses, fixed by law, nor to the salary or wages of any employee whose salary or wages have been fixed on an hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly basis, by the governing board of the municipality, and which is now authorized by law to be paid on a payroll basis.</p>			
§ 471.391, subd. 1	<p>Declaration Form - The declaration is sufficient if in the following form: "I declare under the penalties of law that this account, claim or demand is just and correct and that no part of it has been paid.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Signature of Claimant)"</p>			
§ 471.391, subd. 2	<p>The check or order-check by which the claim is paid may have printed on its reverse side, above the space for endorsement thereof, the following statement: "The undersigned payee, in endorsing this check (or order-check) declares that the same is received in payment of a just and correct claim against the county (county board of education for unorganized territory, school district, town or city), and that no part of it has heretofore been paid." When endorsed by the payee named in the check or order-check, such statement shall operate and shall be deemed sufficient as the required declaration of the claim.</p>			
§ 471.392	<p>C. Any person who willfully and falsely makes the declaration provided for is guilty of a felony.</p>			
§ 471.425, subd. 2	<p>D. Prompt Payment of Local Government Bills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard payment period is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 35 days from receipt for governing boards that meet at least once a month; - 45 days from receipt of goods or services or invoice, whichever is later, for governing boards that do not meet at least once per month; and - 45 days from receipt for joint powers entities. 			

Minn. Stat. Section	CLAIMS AND DISBURSEMENTS	Yes	No	Workpaper Reference
Part I. General Provisions - For Municipalities (Continued)				
§ 471.425, subd. 2	1. Were all bills paid within the time period set by the terms of the contract or within the standard payment period?	_____	_____	_____
§ 471.425, subd. 4	- The government entity must pay interest on bills not paid in a timely manner. The interest rate is 1½ percent per month or part of a month. The minimum monthly interest on a bill of \$100 or more is \$10.			
§ 471.425, subd. 4	2. For bills paid after the time period set by the contract or the standard payment period, did the government entity calculate and pay interest as requested by law?	_____	_____	_____
§ 471.425, subd. 4a	3. Did each contract between the government entity and a prime contractor require the prime contractor to pay subcontractors within ten days of receipt of payment from the government entity or pay interest at the rate of 1½ percent per month or any part of a month? Note: The interest penalties in these questions do not apply to good faith disputes.	_____	_____	_____
Part II. Claims and Disbursements - Statutory Cities				
§ 412.271, subd. 1	A. Have all disbursements been made on orders drawn by the mayor and clerk upon the treasurer? B. Have all claims been audited and allowed by the city council, except when issued for payment of judgments, salaries and wages previously fixed by the council or by statute, principal and interest on obligations, rent and other fixed charges, the exact amount of which has been previously determined by contract authorized by the council or as provided in E and F below, or if the city has delegated authority to approve claims under Minn. Stat. § 412.271, subd. 8?	_____	_____	_____
§ 412.271, subd. 2	C. Claims and Payment 1. Payroll a. Has the clerk maintained a payroll record giving the name of each employee and the number of hours or days worked by each? b. Has the timekeeper, supervisor, or other officers or employees having knowledge of the facts, signed a declaration indicating the facts recited on the payroll are correct to the best of the declarant's information and belief? c. Have the claims for payroll been signed in proper form or declaration under Minn. Stat. § 412.271, subd. 2?	_____	_____	_____

Minn. Stat. Section	CLAIMS AND DISBURSEMENTS	Yes	No	Workpaper Reference
	<p>Part II. Claims and Disbursements - Statutory Cities (Continued)</p> <p>2. Other claims for payment for goods or services.</p> <p>a. Was the claim prepared in written items (where possible in the ordinary course of business)?</p> <p>b. Has a declaration for payment been signed that the claim is just and correct and no part of it has been paid, <u>or</u> was the declaration made by endorsement as provided in Minn. Stat. § 412.271, subd. 3?</p> <p>D. Endorsement of Claims</p> <p>1. Has the clerk endorsed each claim with either "disallowed" or "allowed in the sum of \$_____, " if approved in whole or in part and specifying the items rejected, if any?</p> <p>2. Has each order been drawn so that when signed by the treasurer it became a check?</p> <p>3. Has each order presented to the treasurer and not paid for want of funds been so marked and paid in order of its presentation with interest from the date of presentation?</p> <p>E. Immediate Payment of Claims</p> <p>1. Have all claims based on contract paid prior to a council meeting been signed by a majority of the council and formally approved at the next council meeting?</p> <p>F. Imprest Funds</p> <p>1. Has a custodian been appointed for each imprest fund?</p> <p>2. Has money for the imprest fund been transferred from the general fund?</p> <p>3. Have all claims been itemized and presented to the council at the next council meeting after payment has been made?</p> <p>4. Has the council issued orders covering imprest fund claims?</p> <p>5. Have all claims been approved in full and/or has the custodian replaced the difference for which he or she is personally responsible?</p>			
§ 412.271, subd. 3				
§ 412.271, subd. 4				
§ 412.271, subd. 5				

Minn. Stat. Section	CLAIMS AND DISBURSEMENTS	Yes	No	Workpaper Reference
	Part III. Independent Board Powers--Statutory Cities (Utility & Park Boards)			
§ 412.271, subd. 6	<p>A. Has any independent board, which is authorized to disburse funds without the approval of the council, met the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 412.271, subds. 4 and 5 (found as Part II.E. and F. above)?</p> <p>Note: In reviewing the above subdivisions with regard to independent boards, the term "council" shall be considered to be the "board or commission" and the money for the fund may be obtained from any undedicated fund under its jurisdiction.</p>	_____	_____	_____
	Part IV. Claims and Disbursements - Counties and Statutory Cities			
§§ 412.271, subd. 8, & 375.18, subd. 1b	<p>A. Delegation of Authority for Paying Certain Claims</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the county board or city council delegate its authority to pay certain claims made against the county or city by adopting a resolution authorizing a specified county or city administrative official to pay the claims that meet the standards and procedures established by the board or council? 2. Does the county board or city council have adequate internal accounting and administrative control procedures to ensure the proper disbursement of public funds, including regular and frequent review of the county or city administrative officials' actions by the board or council? 3. Was a list of all claims paid under the procedures established by the county board or city council presented to the board or council at the next regularly scheduled meeting after payment of the claim? <u>and</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In the case of a city, is the city one which prepares annual audited financial statements which have been attested to by an independent certified public accountant, public accountant, or the state auditor? <u>or</u> b. In the case of a county, is the county not a home rule charter county for which the county charter provides an alternative method of paying claims? 	_____	_____	_____

Minn. Stat. Section	CLAIMS AND DISBURSEMENTS	Yes	No	Workpaper Reference
§ 375.171	Part VI. Credit Card Purchases - For Counties			
§ 375.17	<p>A. If a county officer or employee made a purchase on behalf of the county by credit card;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Had the county board authorized the use of the credit card by the officer or employee, 2. Was the officer or employee otherwise authorized to make a purchase on behalf of the county, and 3. Did the purchase otherwise comply with all statutes, rules, or county policies applicable to county purchases? <p>B. If a county officer or employee made a purchase by credit card that was not approved by the county board, was the officer or employee held personally liable for the amount of the purchase?</p> <p>C. If publishing of disbursement was required, were actual vendors providing goods and services to the public entity identified and not just the credit card company?</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
	Part VII. Payments With Credit Cards - For Cities and Towns			
§ 471.382	<p>A. If a city or town officer or employee made a purchase on behalf of the city or town by credit card:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Had the city council or town board authorized the use of the credit card by the officer or employee, 2. Was the officer or employee otherwise authorized to make a purchase on behalf of the city or town, and 3. Did the purchase otherwise comply with all statutes, rules, and city or town policies applicable to city or town purchases? <p>B. If a city or town officer or employee made a purchase by credit card that was not approved by the city council or town board, was the officer or employee held personally liable for the amount of the purchase?</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Part VIII. Audit Conclusion

The auditor must state a conclusion--based on this questionnaire and any other audit procedures performed--whether the client has complied with the legal provisions reviewed relating to claims and disbursements.

Conclusion: _____
