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Office of the State Auditor unveils new user-friendly Web site *~ Site lets visitors access needed information quickly and easily ~*

By Rebecca Otto, State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor rolled out a new and improved Web site for all of its visitors on January 17, 2008. The main goals of the new Web site were to be easy to navigate, to allow visitors to be two clicks away from the information they are seeking, and to be secure. The revamping took into account all types of users, and the type of information they want to access. Users whose needs were considered included the public, local government officials and staff, professionals that work with local government, legislators, students, the media, and researchers.

The Office of the State Auditor provides oversight for the spending of over \$20 billion per year by local governments across the state. It also issues many reports on local government finances, including townships. These reports can now be easily accessed. If you would like to access any reports we may have on your town, you simply choose "Reports and Data" on our main menu, then choose towns, and all reports for towns appear sorted by year. The same is true for cities, counties and other local entities.

The Web site address is still the same at: www.auditor.state.mn.us. Some of the highlights of the new site include:

- Information is organized in a way that quickly takes visitors to what they need from multiple points. For example, when you're looking for a specific form you need to file, you can find it under the "For Local Officials" on the main menu, and also under "Calendar and Deadlines" or "Forms."

- Our homepage provides direct links to the all of our E-Updates and division newsletters, and to lists of upcoming training opportunities and reporting deadlines.
- A new page called “FAQs” (Frequently Asked Questions) provides answers to key questions our divisions receive, such as “What is the due date for towns reporting on a cash basis?” or “Must local government officials and employees contact the Office of the State Auditor if they discover evidence of missing public funds or property?” or “How can I get a copy of the Small City and Town Accounting System (CTAS) Reference Manual?”
- A new “Contact Us” page provides contact information for each of our divisions and for staff who respond to public inquiries. The page includes telephone numbers, email addresses, and titles.

We will continue to add enhancements to the Web site over time to continue to make it even more user friendly. Please come back and visit frequently.

I invite you to visit our new site at: www.auditor.state.mn.us.