



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

6E  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** January 3, 2017

**Title of Item:** Authorize Agreement with the State Auditor's Office 2016

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
<b>Submitted by:</b> Patrick Wussow, Interim County Administrator		<b>Department:</b> Administration
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Patrick Wussow, Interim County Administrator		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b>
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> Authorize entering the agreement with the State Auditor's Office for 2016.		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b>		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$    See attachments. Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.



REBECCA OTTO  
STATE AUDITOR

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SUITE 500  
525 PARK STREET  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103-2139

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December 14, 2016

The Honorable Kirk Peysar  
County Auditor  
Aitkin County Courthouse  
209 Second Street N.W.  
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431

Members of the Board of Commissioners  
County Administrator  
Aitkin County

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide pursuant to Minnesota Laws for Aitkin County, Minnesota, for the year ended December 31, 2016. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of Aitkin County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement Aitkin County's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Aitkin County's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- Management's discussion and analysis
- Budgetary presentations for the general and major special revenue funds and related notes
- GASB-required supplementary pension information and related notes

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies Aitkin County's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements:

- Combining and individual fund statements
- Budgetary presentations for other funds
- Schedule of intergovernmental revenue
- Ditch schedule
- Schedule of expenditures of federal awards and related notes

### **Audit Objectives**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on—

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states that (a) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance and (b) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; the provisions of the Uniform Guidance; and the legal provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guides*, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions and to report in conformity with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guides*. We will issue written reports upon completion of our single audit. Our reports will be addressed to the governing body of Aitkin County. We intend to place reliance on the audit performed by auditors of the Aitkin Airport Commission, a joint venture in which Aitkin County has an equity interest and which is included in the City of Aitkin, Minnesota, financial statements as a discrete component unit, and plan to make reference to the joint venture auditors in our report on your financial statements. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the financial statements or the single audit compliance opinion are other than unmodified, we will

discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

### **Management Responsibilities**

Management is responsible for the financial statements, notes, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information as well as all representations contained therein. In order to meet your responsibilities for the financial statements, notes, and schedule of expenditures of federal awards, you agree to have information completed and available for audit by the dates identified in a schedule of completion document provided to auditors. If you are unable to prepare the information needed for the financial statements, notes, or schedule of expenditures of federal awards, or if the completion schedule varies significantly, we will, based on our staffing availability, provide the additional nonaudit services necessary to assist in the preparation of your draft financial statements, notes, and schedule of expenditures of federal awards in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and the Uniform Guidance based on management's chart of accounts and other information determined and approved by management. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. Any such services will be performed in accordance with applicable professional standards. The County understands this will result in additional costs and agrees to pay for these services.

You will be required to acknowledge in the written management representation letter our assistance, if any, with preparation of the financial statements, notes, and schedule of expenditures of federal awards and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them.

We will prepare the trial balances for all funds except the Road and Bridge and Health and Human Services Special Revenue Funds for use during the audit. Our preparation of the trial balances will be limited to formatting information into working trial balances based on management's chart of accounts.

Management is responsible for (a) establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (b) following laws and regulations; (c) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (d) ensuring that management is reliable and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (a) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (b) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance, (c) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (d) unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the written management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving (a) management, (b) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (c) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. Management is also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or abuse that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings, if applicable, should be available for our review.

You are responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written management representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (b) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (c) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited

financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written management representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (b) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (c) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing us with report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

With regard to using the auditor's report, you understand that you must obtain our prior consent to reproduce or use our report in bond offering official statements or other documents.

#### **Audit Procedures—General**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (a) errors, (b) fraudulent financial reporting, (c) misappropriation of assets, or (d) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. We will include such matters in the reports required for a single audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial

institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

#### **Audit Procedures—Internal Control**

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

#### **Audit Procedures—Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Aitkin County's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance, and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of Aitkin County's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on Aitkin County's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

#### **Audit Administration and Other**

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditor's reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit

clearinghouse and, if appropriate, to pass-through entities. Additional copies of the reporting package may be required. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditor's reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide your governing body, management, related organization representatives, and, if applicable, nonfederal grantor entities with copies of our reports. Management is responsible for all other distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of the Office of the State Auditor. We may be requested to make certain audit documentation and appropriate individuals available to a cognizant or oversight agency for audit or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under our supervision. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained, pursuant to our record retention plan, for a period of ten years after the date the auditor's report is issued. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact those contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation. We will be available throughout the year to answer questions, provide assistance, or assist you in implementing any of our recommendations.

Our fees are based on standard hourly rates plus travel and any out-of-pocket expenses. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Progress billings will be mailed to you every four weeks. The condition of your records and the assistance you are able to provide us affects both the timeliness and cost of the audit.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent peer review reports received during the period of the contract when requested by you. Our 2015 peer review report can be found on our website at [www.auditor.state.mn.us](http://www.auditor.state.mn.us).

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to Aitkin County and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please contact me at (651) 282-2748 or Randy Vogt, who will be in charge of this audit, at (651) 284-4136 or at [Randall.Vogt@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:Randall.Vogt@osa.state.mn.us). If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign where provided below and return it to us.

Sincerely,



FOX Dianne Syverson, CPA, Audit Manager



Aitkin County  
December 14, 2016  
Page 8

Approved: This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Aitkin County.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date