



# STEPHEN P. WEBER

WILL COUNTY AUDITOR

302 N. CHICAGO STREET • JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60432 • (815) 740-4609 • FAX (815) 740-4319

**June 7, 2002**

## **Press Release-For Immediate Release**

Will County Auditor Stephen Weber is enhancing the services his office and staff provide to the other departments within the County and is effectively streamlining several long-standing county procedures.

Specifically, to increase efficiencies in the County's financial system, Weber has introduced on-line functions for purchasing and receiving county goods and services, and has initiated training sessions for these functions. "Because the Auditor's Office works with the entire financial system more than any other office does, we are taking responsibility for training county employees on it. In addition, we are saving taxpayer dollars by not hiring the outside software vendor to fulfill this responsibility," Weber commented. Catherine Pleasant, one of his Deputy Auditors, has already trained 34 county employees on beginning and intermediate levels of the financial system; she has met with an enthusiastic response.

In addition, the Auditor's office is also assisting other offices by establishing uniform petty cash policies and procedures. Currently, Weber has distributed a questionnaire to all elected officials and department heads so that in the future he can evaluate and make recommendations to the Finance Committee for stricter internal controls. "Lack of controls leads to theft and misuse. Standardized policies and procedures ensure every office has the controls it needs."

The Auditor's Office has also taken the initiative in working with the County Executive's Grant Coordinator to establish procedural guidelines for grants and will introduce grant audits in the future. Weber believes this will strengthen the financial reliability of the County's budget by providing a more specific guideline for future funding sources and possible future liabilities. "Just because it is grant-funded doesn't mean it doesn't obligate Will County taxpayers since the County match is out of our pockets."

Weber is also saving taxpayer dollars by streamlining several county procedures. These include setting a standardized day once a week for county check runs which, according to Weber, will provide, "a consistent turnaround on the County's bills so that vendors do not have to wait and the county does not have to incur late fees." Weber has also established a minimum amount for county reimbursement checks; he commented "the end must justify the means." It costs the County approximately \$15.00 to cut a check so we have to tighten out belt and accumulate reimbursement charges to a certain amount before the check is printed." He has also eliminated the use of the warrant step in the check run process. As Weber noted, "The warrant process originated from a now obsolete statute (which didn't consider technology.) This new process will save the County a ton of paper and filing time."

**Contact: Marlo Orlovich /phone(815) 740-4610; morlovich@willcountyillinois.com**