Accounting Forms & Records

Cities & Towns Manual, Ch. 5 lists the forms and records to use.

Includes descriptions and prescribed methods

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Following is a list of form prescribed for cities and braines.

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Accounting Forms & Records

Most Common City/Town:

- Ledger of Receipts, Disbursements, and Balances
- Accounts Payable Voucher (claim)
- Receipt
- Warrants / Checks
- Payroll Schedule and Voucher
- Employee's Earnings Records
- Employee's Service Records
- Purchase Order
- Mileage Claim

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Accounting Forms & Records

Most Common Utility:

- Various Utility Cash Journal
- Accounts Payable Vouchers (claims)
- Guarantee Deposit Receipts (meter deposits)
- Guarantee Deposit Ledger (meter deposits)

Also specific forms for:

- City/Town courts
- Barrett Law (for those with Barrett Law)

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Utility Accounting Requirements

IC 8-1.5-3-4 requires the board over a water, gas, or electric utility to deposit all money collected with the municipality's fiscal officer & make monthly reports to the fiscal officer of the receipts & disbursements of money belonging to each utility

This section (as well as language in IC 36-9-23 for wastewater utilities) does not appear to require a clerk-treasurer to perform any duties other than

- Maintain a bank account for each utility
- · Sign utility checks
- · Invest utility funds

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Utility Accounting Requirements

Audit Position:

The board over the utilities would decide which person would be responsible for utility billing and collection.

- · Could be Clerk-Treasurer
- · Could be someone else

If you are in charge of billing and collection:

- · More records to maintain
- · Monthly billing & collections
- · Shut-off
- Liens

Utility Accounting Shut-offs/Write offs

Discontinuing Utility Service (shut-offs):

- Must have a written policy
- Governed by:
 - □ IC 8-1.5-3-4
 - □ IC 36-9-23-6
 - □ IC 36-9-25-11.5
- All relative to nonpayment of wastewater services
- We are not aware of any statutory process for shutting off water service for nonpayment of the water service.
- Separate statutes for delinquent wastewater/sewer service.

Utility Accounting Shut-offs/Write offs

Discontinuing Utility Service (shut-offs) continued:

A 2012 Court case established that a customer facing discontinuation of water service:

- Must be adequately notified; and
- Must be given opportunity to be heard before discontinuation

Melanie J. Wayt and Walter Wayt, Plaintiffs, v. TOWN OF CROTEHRSVILLE, CROTHERSVILLE UTILITIES

- ✓ Heard and decided in US District Court for Southern District of Indiana, New Albany Division.
- ✓ Has the effect of law in all counties within this court's jurisdiction.

Utility Accounting Shut-offs/Write offs

Discontinuing Utility Service (shut-offs) continued:

We have advised:

- Printing a shut-off date on bill is not sufficient notice
- Separate disconnect notices be sent for shut off of each utility service
- Separate notice communicate:
 - > Disconnection is pending due to nonpayment
 - Customer has a right to hearing before utility governing body

Utility Accounting Shut-offs/Write offs

Procedures for Wastewater Delinquent Accounts:

- Governed by IC 36-9-23-31 through IC 36-9-23-33
- A "lien" is placed on the property.
- Lien is recorded with the county for collection with the next May installment of property taxes.
- The governing body may write off a fee or penalty less that \$40 [IC 36-9-23-33(m)]

Budget Transfers

TRANSFERS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS

When proposing transfers from <u>one department or office to another</u>, in addition to an ordinance of the town council or common council authorizing such transfer, advertising to the taxpayers is required. Passage of the ordinance would take place at an open, public meeting.

Budget Transfers

TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS – WITHIN SAME DEPARTMENT:

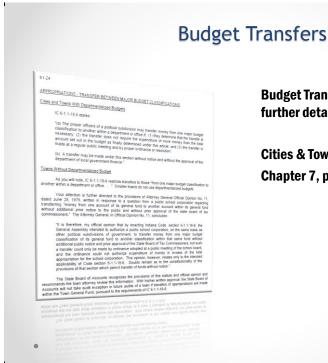
Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-18-6, all cities and towns using departmental budgets may, by ordinance or resolution, transfer appropriations from one major budget classification to another within a department or office at any regular public meeting without prior notice and without approval from the DLGF, provided such transfer does not necessitate expenditure of more money than the total amount set out in the budget.

Budget Transfers

TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS – NOT DEPARTMENTALIZED:

In those towns where the general fund budget is <u>not</u> <u>departmentalized</u>, attention is directed to the provisions of Attorney General's Official Opinion No. 11, dated June 28, 1976.

The SBOA recommends the town attorney review IC 6-1.1-18-6 and Official Opinion No. 11, dated June 28, 1976. With the attorney's written approval, the State Board of Accounts will *not take audit exception* in future audits of a town if transfers of appropriations are made within the town general fund pursuant to the requirements of IC 6-1.1-18-6.



Budget Transfers - discussed in further detail:

Cities & Towns Manual Chapter 7, p. 61-24





Cities - Temporary Loans IC 36-1-4-9 IC 36-4-6-20

Towns - Temporary Loans IC 36-1-4-9 IC 36-5-2-12

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Temporary Loans

In general,

- Statutes grant authority for cities and towns to borrow money
- Not more than 5 years
- In anticipation of revenues to be levied & collected during the term of the loan
- · Authorized by ordinance

Also, IC 36-1-8-4 authorizes cities/towns to make temporary transfers to depleted funds

See also Cities & Towns Manual, Ch. 7, p. 61-16

Grant Accounting

- ☐ Grant agreement provisions are important and generally indicate how a grant is to be accounted for.
- ☐ Generally, we recommend federal and state grants be accounted for in a separate fund.
- ☐ Some grants require money be in a separate bank account. If no specific requirement for this in the grant agreement, grant funds can be deposited into your regular city/town bank account.

Grant Accounting

3 Basic types of Grants

- Advance Grants
- Reimbursement Grants
- Matching Grants



Grant Accounting

Advance Grant:

Grant proceeds are "advanced" directly by federal or state grantor agency to a city or town prior to any disbursements being made.

- · Placed and accounted for in separate fund.
- If <u>all</u> federal no appropriation necessary to spend
- If <u>both federal and state</u> money advanced, an appropriation for the combined amount *is* necessary.

Grant Accounting

Reimbursement Grant:

Where a federal or state grant provides for reimbursement after payment by the city/town of expenses.

- Not required to be placed and accounted for in separate fund unless the terms of the grant require it.
- Entire amount of federal or state reimbursement may be appropriated by council without using additional appropriation procedures - if funds are designated as "reimbursement" [IC 6-1.1-18-7.5]

Grant Accounting

Reimbursement Grant (continued):

If accounted for in separate fund and ledger shows negative cash balance, we normally won't take exception to the negative cash balance.

- Documentation must exist to show city/town is actively pursuing reimbursement.
- If not pursing reimbursement, will take exception.

Grant Accounting

Matching Grant:

When a federal grant or program requires expenditures or "matching" funds to be provided from city or town funds.

- An appropriation must be obtained for the amount of such expenditures or local matching funds.
- Individual program requirements and terms of the grantor agency should dictate from what fund the appropriation should be obtained.

Grant Accounting

Page 4.

TOMM MASSIANS—CLOTING AND COURSENT MASSIANS

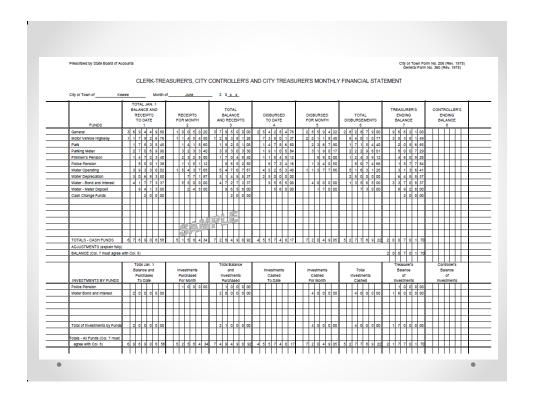
TOMM MASSIANS—CLOTING AND COURSENT MASSIANS

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Summary:

- ➤ Terms of grant agreement should be adhered to
- Necessity for appropriations depends on type of grant and source of funds
- Further discussion in <u>Cities &</u> <u>Towns Bulletin</u>, March 2009, p.4





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