



MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MnGFOA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

Excellence and Leadership in Government Finance

www.mngfoa.org

Message from the President

By: Ron Hedberg

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow, oh wait that's a different holiday. I hope you like winter and especially this one with all the snow, being from Minnesota we all need to find a hobby that involves snow to keep us sane this winter.

At this time of the year there are a number of items to be on the lookout for including the MNGFOA scholarships to the Advanced Government Institute, the Robert Ehlers Scholarship to the National GFOA conference, the new Springsted Scholarship to the MnGFOA State Conference, and the internship grant.

Thanks to Jay Kennedy and Jupe Hale from WSB & Associates on an interesting presentation on options in financing public works projects at the February monthly meeting. We heard of the traditional funding sources that we have known about for years but they also covered some new trends in funding of these projects and in a new approach to planning for projects.

The new approach they introduced was in the way we think of project outcomes and that the funding of the project may help to define what features are included in the projects. In the traditional method a project solves a problem but because of the constraints in funding we now need to consider funding alternatives and the requirements that may come with the funding when developing the solution.

This approach is required because it may involve getting participation from other entities and they may specific outcomes that they require to participate. An example they provided was one project that included a green streets policy and approach which

involved narrowing streets and implementing significant storm water management. With these additional criteria added they were able to attract alternative funding sources and the resulting project was different than what would have been achieved under the more traditional approach and at a lower cost to the public.

When thinking about your upcoming projects ask yourself the following:

- Does it create jobs?
- Does it clean up or restore environmental issues?
- Does it promote alternative transportation?
- Does it address storm water pollution or reduce impacts?
- Does it reduce the burden of regional facilities?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes there may be another entity that may be interested in the outcome of the project and to participate in the design of the project they may be willing to share in a portion of the project costs.

It seems that every day another bill is introduced by the legislature that will impact our communities. One of the provisions of the Governor's Budget included not making additional cuts to LGA and MVHC. Even though there may not be additional cuts proposed there are still existing cuts that many communities will still experience. The League of Minnesota Cities has posted a full analysis of the potential impact of SF 60 on state aid to cities as well as a spreadsheet with city-by-city estimates of reductions. This spreadsheet also shows what the cuts to LGA and MVHC would be even if SF 60 does not pass. You can find this file by search on SF 60 in their search box.

It will be a long session with changes proposed seemingly daily.



MONTHLY MEETING

*****NOTE LOCATION CHANGE*****

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2011
LOCATION: Lakeville Water Treatment Facility
 18400 Ipava Avenue
 Lakeville, Minnesota
TOPIC: CAFR Review & GASB Update
SPEAKERS: Peggy Moeller and Dave Mol
 HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.
TIME: 9:00 am – Check-in
 10:00 am – Program
 11:45 am – Networking Luncheon
LUNCH: Box Lunches (sandwiches and wraps)
COST: \$20.00

THIS IS A REPEAT OF THE TRAINING TO BE HELD AT THE LODGE AT BRAINERD LAKES IN BAXTER, MINNESOTA ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011. PLEASE SEE TOPIC AND SPEAKER BIO UNDER THAT INFORMATION

Reservations: It is preferred that you register on the MnGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org) – there is a link on the home page to register for this training event. You can also register for the networking lunch only. You can pay for the training and luncheon online also!! You could also send an email to Education Committee Chair Tom Kelly at Tom.Kelly@ci.monticello.mn.us or leave him a voice mail at (763) 271-3211 **NO LATER THAN Friday, March 11, 2011.** Please remember you must pre-register for this training and luncheon to provide that enough meals are ordered and tables set up for the meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

CAFR REVIEW & GASB UPDATE Greater Minnesota

DATE: Wednesday, March 9, 2011
LOCATION: Lodge at Brainerd Lakes
 6967 Lake Forest Drive
 Baxter, Minnesota
www.lodgehotelsbrainerd.com
 (for directions or rooms)
TOPIC: CAFR Review & GASB Update
SPEAKERS: Peggy Moeller and Dave Mol
 HLB Tautges Redpath, LTD
TIME: 9:00 am – Check-in
 10:00 am – Program
 11:45 am – Networking Luncheon
LUNCH: Little Italy Buffet
COST: \$20.00

THIS TRAINING WILL BE REPEATED AT THE MONTHLY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011 TO BE HELD AT THE LAKEVILLE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY IN LAKEVILLE. SEE MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Reservations: It is preferred that you register on the MnGFOA website (www.mngfoa.org) – there is a link on the home page to register for this training event. You can pay for the training online also!! You could also send an email to Education Committee Chair Tom Kelly at Tom.Kelly@ci.monticello.mn.us or leave him a voice mail at (763) 271-3211 **NO LATER THAN Monday, March 7, 2011.** Please remember you must pre-register for this training to provide that enough meals are ordered and tables set up for the meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

Topic: CAFR Review and GASB Update: The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) reviews the GFOA Certificate Program reporting comments received by Cities and Counties in the past year. The instructors will share comments, discuss why the comments were received and more importantly provide examples on the proper presentation to avoid a comment in the future on your CAFR.

The will also present an update on GASB Statements No. 51 through No. 62 with emphasis on No. 51 (Intangibles) and No. 54 (Fund Balances).

Speaker Bios:

David Mol, CPA and Peggy Moeller, CPA are Partners at the firm of HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd. They specialize in providing audit and other services to local governments.

David Mol, CPA: David is a former national reviewer of the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement For Excellence in Financial Reporting Program. David received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Augsburg College and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants (MNCPA) and the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association (MnGFOA).

Peggy Moller, CPA: Peggy is a current reviewer of the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement For Excellence in Financial Reporting Program. Peggy received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants (MNCPA) and the Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association (MnGFOA).

COMMITTEE

ORNER

Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee met at the Ramada Plaza on Wednesday, February 16th and took the following actions:

- Discussed the process for advertising and process for Ehlers and Springsted Scholarships.
- Ratified the purchase of a laptop and associated software by the Association for the Treasurer's use each year.
- Received and discussed updates from the Education and Social Committees.

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

The Social Committee would like to invite you to an impromptu gathering for Cinco de Mayo on Thursday, May 5, 2011. This gathering will provide a chance to network with colleagues and friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

DATE: Thursday, May 5, 2011

LOCATION: Ol' Mexico Restaurante
1754 Lexington Avenue North
Roseville, MN 55113
(651) 487-2847
www.olmexico.com

TIME: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm



It will be a cash bar and they will have Happy Hour specials. Check their website for details. Please RSVP to Lynn Cornwell by May 2nd at lynn.r.cornwell@wellsfargo.com. Hope to see you there.

MnGFOA Scholarship Announcements

Springsted Scholarship Program – Starting in 2011, The MnGFOA, along with Springsted Incorporated, will award a scholarship to two MnGFOA members for the purpose of funding their registration to the annual state-wide conference. The Scholarship honors Springsted's found, Osmon R. Springsted, a pioneer in the field of municipal finance. His mission was simple: to provide expert, independent advice to public issuers that needed to borrow money for capital projects. He strove for excellence in the level of service he provided and encouraged others to do the same. Applications are being accepted for this Scholarship from March 1st through April 30th. Members may apply for themselves, or nominate another member. Scholarships will be awarded in June.

Robert L. Ehlers, Sr. GFOA Scholarship – During 2010, the MnGFOA, along with Ehlers & Associates, began the Robert L. Ehlers, Sr. GFOA Scholarship to annually fund the registration fee for a MnGFOA active member to attend the National GFOA conference. The Scholarship honors Robert Ehlers, Sr. who formed Ehlers & Associates in 1955, an independent financial advisory firm serving public sector clients throughout the Midwest. Ehlers developed this scholarship to honor Mr. Ehlers for the contributions he made and his commitment to education in the world of finance. Applications are being accepted for this Scholarship from March 1st through April 30th. Members may apply for themselves, or nominate another member. Scholarship will be awarded in June and would reimburse recipient after they attend the National GFOA Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute Scholarship

– Applications continue to be accepted for the Lori A. Webster Advanced Government Finance Institute (AGFI) Scholarship through March 31, 2011. Every other year GFOA partners with the University of Wisconsin-Madison to hold a week-long program that explores emerging trends, professional and personal development tools, and selected issues in government finance. This year's AGFI will take place on July 24-29, 2011, and will be attended by 50 GFOA members through an application process. More information can be found on the GFOA website at www.gfoa.org. The MnGFOA provides up to 2 scholarships for members of our organization that serve as public finance officers.

John Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship

– Applications are also being accepted for the John Lilja Undergraduate Scholarship through April 15, 2011. This scholarship provides opportunities to undergraduate students of accounting or government finance attending any college or university located in Minnesota. The amount of each scholarship is \$1,000, and the MnGFOA awards at least one a year, up to a maximum of four. Scholarship application forms for all scholarships are available on the MnGFOA website or you can contact Secretary Cory Kampf for information application information. Completed applications should be emailed to Cory Kampf at cory.kampf@brooklynpark.org or hard copies mailed to Cory Kampf, City of Brooklyn Park, 5200 – 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443.



Don't Miss

Membership Renewals

By now you should have received your MnGFOA renewal notice in the mail. You can also complete the renewal process online on the MnGFOA website. Renewals and payments are currently past due. Renewal forms should be mailed (*even if you register on line*) to: Dan Jordet, City of Brooklyn Center, 6301 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430 or via email at djordet@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us. Please note that you can help save on postage and printing by requesting your newsletter by email. Mark your membership renewal form in the appropriate spot.

The MnGFOA's Role in Legislative Affairs

As most of you know, the Legislature has already convened and this session appears to be rife with a number of issues that will impact many of us. We encourage you to stay informed on important issues and to work with your own legislative delegation to make sure your viewpoints are heard.

Historically, the MnGFOA has chosen not to get involved in lobbying efforts, deferring to the League of Minnesota Cities, and similar organizations to represent our views. Periodically, the Executive Committee does hold a discussion on this topic. We've always concluded that it is essential to preserve the MnGFOA as professional and educational organization, rather than a political one.

That being said, we recognize there is strength in numbers and there are available mechanisms to lend our support on issues that have unilateral impacts on the membership. Again, we feel that any direct participation by the MnGFOA would be inappropriate, but perhaps an occasional "Statement of Position" might be acceptable.

As always, we welcome your thoughts on this or any other matter. If you have some guidance or feedback, please feel free to contact any of the Executive Committee members.

National GFOA On-line Training Opportunities

Train without the travel with GFOA's Internet Offerings – ALL courses take place from 1:00 to 3:00 pm (CT) and will earn you 2 CPE credits with your participation. The registration fee for most seminars is \$85.00 for Active/Associate GFOA Members and \$160 for Nonmembers. Upcoming training events include the following:

- Learning from the Evidence: Evaluation and Making Adjustments to the Budget – March 2, 2011
- Managing the Salary and Wage Budgeting Process – March 16, 2011
- Essential Policies for Budgeting and Financial Management – April 13, 2011

Visit www.gfoa.org for additional information and to register for these and any other training opportunities offered by GFOA.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ~

Angie McIntire. The City of Monticello welcomes Angie McIntire as their new Assistant Finance Director. Angie previously worked in the cities of Minnetrista and Edina. Angie replaces Karri Thorsten who was elected Auditor-Treasurer of Benton County. Monticello is glad to have Angie on board!

David Blumberg. The City of Minnetonka welcomed David Blumberg as their Assistant Finance Director replacing Darin Nelson who moved on as the Finance Director for the City of Fridley. David comes to Minnetonka after serving as the Assistant Finance Director in Hutchinson and as CPA with HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd. for a number of years.

Job Announcements

2011 Important Dates

FINANCE DIRECTOR CITY OF DAYTON

Dayton (pop. 5,013), located in northwest Hennepin County on the Mississippi and Crow rivers, is accepting applications for the full-time position of Finance Director. Responsibilities includes development of accounting procedures, maintenance of financial records ensuring conformity with government accounting principles, manages and oversees payments, utilities, escrow account billings, payroll, fixed assets and funds deposited, management and investment of City funds, and preparation and planning of the City's annual budget. The Finance Director will consult with the City's auditors and bond consultants in coordinating information and financial reporting. This position will supervise the City's Finance Clerk. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration or finance, masters degree preferred, considerable experience in a local government finance position, extensive experience with finance software applications, and the ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing. Compensation will be \$73,852-\$93,447 annually, depending on qualifications plus a comprehensive benefits package. Send cover letter, resume and completed application to Erin Stwora, Assistant to the City Administrator, 12260 S. Diamond Lake Road, Dayton, Minnesota 55327. The full job description and employment application can be found on the City's website at www.cityofdaytonmn.com. The application deadline is 12:00 p.m., April 8, 2011.

ACCOUNTANT/BOOKKEEPER CITY OF WYOMING

The City of Wyoming is accepting applications for an accountant/bookkeeper position in the Administration/Finance Department. This is a non-supervisory position, which is responsible for assisting with the overall management and maintenance of the City's financial system. Duties include: accounts payable, payroll, journal entries, monthly reviews and analysis of general ledger accounts, budget reporting, escrow accounts, regulatory reporting, payroll reporting and monthly-annual financial statements. In addition, this position will assume lead responsibility for payroll, benefits administration and other duties as assigned. The position requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field and must have at least one year of municipal accounting or governmental finance experience. Deadline for applications is 4:30 p.m., Friday March 18, 2011. To obtain an application packet please visit the City of Wyoming website www.wyomingmn.org Applicants may also phone (651)462-0575 to request an application packet by mail. All application materials must be returned to Wyoming City Hall 26885 Forest Blvd. P.O. Box 188, Wyoming, MN 55092 AA/EEO

MONTHLY MEETINGS / EVENTS (event times and locations could change so please check the website or the calendar in the monthly newsletters for updates):

- March 9, 2011 - CAFR Review Session, Lodge at Brainerd Lakes, Baxter, MN
- March 16, 2011 - CAFR Review Session and Monthly Luncheon, Lakeville Water Treatment Facility, Lakeville, Minnesota
- April 20, 2011 - Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- May 5, 2011 - Cinco de Mayo Gathering, Ol' Mexico Restaurante, Roseville
- May 18, 2011 - Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- May 22 - 25, 2011 - National GFOA Conference, San Antonio, TX
- June 15, 2011 - Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- June 2011 - Training: In-Depth Training - Excel Modeling (location and time TBD)
- July 20, 2011 - Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- August 17, 2011 - Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- September 21 - 23, 2010 - Annual MnGFOA Conference, Alexandria, Minnesota
- October 19, 2011 - Monthly Luncheon, Radisson Hotel Roseville
- October 2011 - Governmental Accounting Sessions: Intermediate and Advanced (dates and locations TBD)
- November 16, 2011 - Extended Monthly Luncheon Topic: How To Communicate Effectively To The Public, Council and Staff, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- November 16, 2011 - Annual Food Drive in conjunction with November Luncheon
- December 14, 2011 - Monthly Luncheon, Ramada Plaza Minneapolis
- December 14, 2011 - Annual Toys for Tots Collection in conjunction with December Luncheon

Jessie Hart
White Bear Township
1281 Hammond Road
White Bear Township, MN 55110



Message from the Editor

By: Jessie Hart



It is always interesting to hear from our members regarding items which may be of interest to others. Retirements, job changes, promotions, certifications received, just to name a few. Don't be bashful; we will present the information appropriately. Please drop me an email, note or fax or even a phone call will work! The cutoff date for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month, and the newsletter will be emailed or mailed about the first day of the upcoming month. Thanks.

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