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STATE AUDITOR



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

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**State Auditor Tom Salmon to address embezzlement
during this legislative session**

Much has been done ... but it's not enough

MONTPELIER – State Auditor Tom Salmon, CPA, announced today that he will work with the Vermont Municipal Advisory Commission to recommend embezzlement prevention and detection solutions to the Vermont Legislature on or before March 15, 2011.

“We have provided training to hundreds of municipal and school officials, facilitated solutions in dozens of towns but it is not enough” said Salmon, a former select board member in Rockingham.

This group will convene six times over the next eight weeks to develop tools to help “red-flag” organizations and situations across the state that are susceptible to risks of embezzlement. Among other things, the group will review the Vermont Professional Responsibility Board’s “red-flag” questionnaire that helps root out financial problems in the offices of Vermont attorneys.

The Vermont Municipal Advisory Commission (VMAC) was established in 2007 to provide technical support to the Auditor’s office and other entities. The commission consists of members (listed below) with a combination of skill and respect from peers.

“Vermont has suffered embezzlements totaling in the millions of dollars. It is unacceptable,” Salmon said. “Most of these cases involve a long-term trusted employee, a weak control environment, and a lack of written procedures and duty segregation.”

Salmon expects those charged with fiduciary responsibility such as select boards and school boards will support new mechanisms. “Vermont is a safe and trusting state. However, internal controls are required,” Salmon reflected.

Members of VMAC are John Cushing, town clerk/treasurer in Milton; Lisa Barrett, CPA and town clerk/treasurer in Lyndon; John Leisenring, finance director in Brattleboro; Jeffrey Mobus, finance director in Springfield; Ruth Woodard, finance director in Manchester; Nicole Daigle, town clerk/treasurer in Derby, and Wendy Wilton, treasurer in Rutland City. Other Vermont CPAs and a former embezzler have also volunteered to assist.

COFFEE WITH THE AUDITOR

Each Wednesday during the legislative session the auditor invites interested parties to join him in the Statehouse cafeteria at 10 a.m. to discuss audits, projects and other initiatives.