

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2002**

***AUDITOR RECOVERS MISSING FEES***

What happens when over \$81,000 in cable television franchise fees paid to DuPage County doesn't turn up in County bank accounts? County Auditor Jim Rasins gets the call to track down the money.

County personnel notified Rasins when eight checks issued to the County by one of the unincorporated area cable television providers were never deposited with the County Treasurer. The cable company produced copies of the cancelled checks ranging in amount from \$963 to \$23,409.

The checks had cleared the company's bank, indicating that the related funds were received by someone, or deposited into a bank account somewhere. But exactly who received the money was not known.

"Usually banks require the party receiving the funds from a check to provide some type of endorsement on the check. But, no endorsements appeared on the backs of any of these checks," Rasins said.

- more -

The lack of endorsements made the identification of the recipient of the funds a bit more challenging, according to the Auditor. Bank coding information that was printed on the checks during the clearing process was examined, and used to identify the bank into which the checks were deposited. The depositor bank was then confirmed by the bank used by the cable television company.

Representatives from the depositor bank were contacted by Rasins' staff, and provided the identity of the recipient of the check proceeds.

"It turned out that the checks were received by Will County and erroneously deposited into one of its bank accounts," the Auditor said.

Rasins contacted personnel in the Offices of the Will County Auditor and Treasurer, and advised them of the situation. The information provided was confirmed by Will County staff, who promptly issued checks to DuPage County for the amount of the eight checks.

"We're not certain how the checks found their way to the Will County bank. We think that they were included with checks payable to Will County that were sent by the same cable company," he said.

The Auditor cited the effective operation of DuPage County internal controls in identifying the checks that were not received, enabling the recovery of the funds.

###

For additional information call (630)682-7190.