

Auditor / Treasurer Update

September 14, 2021

2:03 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Arny Davis, Grace Jimenez, Rodney Reynolds, Austin Majors, Becky Butler

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Treasurer:

Arny Davis said the Treasurer's Office is in the process of wrapping up the debt fund. There were some general increases due to inflation and these will be presented during budget meetings. Most monetary needs for Lewis County are paid for by bond funds and Arny said he feels Lewis County should invest more of the liquid dollars in long-term investments. Rodney Reynolds said approximately \$200 million is invested for Lewis County and approximately \$150 million of that is invested in short-term investments for special purpose districts. Long-term investments have a higher interest return rate.

Rodney feels based on earnings, there is more money to invest. This is countrywide and is evidenced by low return rates nationally. Rodney said lodging tax has generated considerable dollars in the Packwood and Mossyrock areas due to AirBNB rentals this year.

Auditor:

Grace said her office is currently behind in processing inter-fund billings. They are currently at 44% of billings compared to being 66% through the year. This is due to being short staffed. These are items adopted in the normal budget that need to be processed. There have been difficulties finding a senior analyst. This position has been open since May 2021. Grace said the State Auditor's Office (SAO) is still actively auditing for 2020. Grace has been working with the SAO to fulfill any documentation requests. She expects to be done in the next two weeks.

Grace said Larry Grove was preparing the next ballot. There will be a 60-page pamphlet due to the amount of elections.

Becky Butler is attending a conference. She is looking forward to working with the SAO and risk group.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.