

Auditor / Treasurer Update

December 17, 2025

10:45 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Arny Davis, Noah Hudson, Grace Jimenez, Graham Gowing, Larry Grove, Becky Butler

Guest(s): None

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Public comment: None

Treasurer's Office Update:

Arny Davis presented year-to-date investment earnings, noting that the investment balance remains near \$3 million. Noah Hudson shared historical earnings data for the County and Arny explained that the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) was introduced to Lewis County in 2022. Arny explained that a decline in interest rates would result in lower earnings on long-term investments.

Arny reported that Sales and Use Tax revenue showed an overall year-to-date increase, although November collections declined by 2%. Lodging Tax receipts increased by 3.8% through November.

Arny also explained that two large payments were issued on behalf of Lewis County while funds were intentionally kept at minimal levels to maximize higher interest earnings. These payments were returned as non-sufficient funds due to a banking miscommunication. To prevent this from occurring in the future, Arny stated he is working with Umpqua Bank to establish a secondary money market account that will serve as a backstop for outgoing payments.

Auditor's Office Updates:

Grace Jimenez said there aren't any offices or departments that exceed 92% of their budgets. Grace said overall budget expended for the County was 89% year-to-date.

Graham Gowing shared that keeping current with insurance and benefit changes has been challenging. He expressed appreciation for payroll staff for the significant time and effort they have dedicated to managing these updates. Graham suggested reconvening after all changes are finalized to reassess how updates are communicated and implemented. He also noted that the overtime tax deduction presents several challenges the office is currently working through.

Larry Grove said there was a hand recount for Fire District 5. Boistfort, Centralia, and Onalaska will have school levies on the next ballot.

Announcements:

Arny noted Thurston County has agreed to use Tyler's assessment and tax software and two other counties are considering utilizing it.

Larry said Grace passed the final testing component for the CP exam.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 am