

Mason County Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2024

Committee Members in attendance:

Liza Frazier, Treasurer & Committee Chair
Randy Neatherlin, Board of Commissioners Chair & Committee Member
Steve Duenkel, Auditor & Committee Secretary

Others in attendance:

Kevin Shutty, Commissioner, District 2
Sharon Trask, Commissioner, District 3
Leo Kim, Chief Finance Officer
Mark Neary, County Administrator
Jennifer Beierle, Support Services Budget & Finance Manager
Cami Olson, Acting Clerk

Meeting Summary

Treasurer Lisa Frazier opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m. and presented a review of the 2024 Q1 Mason County Finance Committee Report. CE Cash Balance as of March 29, 2024, is \$25,804,027.12. This is as \$387,933.80 increase over the same period in 2023. General Fund Reserve contingencies required per Contingency Policy (2021-034) are on track and \$19,054,081.49 over the amount required. (Total Reserves are \$7,900,000.00)

Cash and Investments total \$260,829,797.85, with \$245,153,301.28 in the Treasurer's Investment Funds portfolio. Investment interest for 2024 as of March 31st totals \$635,663.95 against the budgeted amount of \$900,000.00. Interest rates remain high.

Outstanding debt for the County is \$16,549,334.80. Most debt payments have interest payments due on June 1 and principal and interest payments due on December 1, 2024.

Treasurer Frazier led the discussion on Old Business items. The Skokomish River Restoration (comprised of 5 discrete projects) continues with property acquisition activity. Contract award is now anticipated in February 2026 with construction beginning in the summer. The Belfair Wastewater System Extension is substantially complete, with the Public Works Board submitting their project report to lock in a .54% interest rate for the final note remaining for a loan amount anticipated at \$2,787,844.39 (less 5% Loan Forgiveness).

For New Business, Treasurer Frazier addressed the Shetland Road RID (Road Improvement District). Estimated costs for the district (if approved and created) are \$365,000 with a target start in the summer of this year. Initial expenditures can come from the Road Fund as a short-term loan, however Treasurer Frazier anticipates challenges with obtaining a 10-year loan for this amount. General Obligation debt is preferred; however, this amount is not large enough for a bond. There was discussion on potential ways

to secure the loan and the Board of County Commissioners will ultimately decide how to fund the district. The loan would be repaid by a special assessment by the RID and the debt would be foreclosable.

Treasurer Frazier then provided an overview of the registered warrants. Shelton School District #309 has been able to redeem their registered warrants each month though the district's expenditures exceed cash on hand. The district is paying about 7% interest (total) on short-term loans to cover them until their next apportionment. The Port of Allyn recently redeemed their registered warrants.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.



Steve Duenkel
Auditor