



OFFICE OF THE
UTAH STATE AUDITOR

News Release
For Immediate Release
February 27, 2014

**Office of the Utah State Auditor Releases List of Delinquent
Filers Among Utah's Local Government Entities**

Nearly \$900,000 in funds being withheld due to delinquent filings dating from 2003 - 2012

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

In Utah, nearly 1000 local government entities, including cities and towns, counties and special service districts, such as cemetery and water districts, are required to file annual budget and financial reports with the Office of the Utah State Auditor (Office). The majority of Utah's local government entities, which manage billions in tax dollars, are committed to good financial management and promptly file their required financial reports with the Office. These reports allow citizens to see the intended and actual use of their tax funds within their local government.

However, a small number of these entities are consistently late in their filings and in some cases are behind by as many as 10 years, with many of them behind by 4 or 5 years. The Office has made a concerted effort to help local government entities come into compliance with their filing requirements through numerous written reminders as well as visits of Office team members to assist them. Ryan Roberts, Local Government Supervisor said, "Over the past year, we have undertaken extensive efforts to help our local governments become current with their financial reporting requirements. As a result, many of the entities that we have worked with have become current for the first time since I have been working with local governments. I particularly appreciate the efforts of our County Treasurers, such as John Bond of Weber County, who work closely with their local governments to keep them in compliance with financial reporting requirements. When he is apprised that we are holding funds due to delinquent reporting, he takes the initiative to call the local government and work with them to catch them up." In addition, the Office has implemented a new, online filing system to make it even easier for Utah's local government entities to file timely reports to inform their citizens of their use of taxpayer funds.

Despite this effort by the Office, a total of 53 local government entities have failed to file over 200 reports, dating between 2003 and 2012 (reports for Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014 are still in process). Many of these entities have funds that have been withheld by this Office and those withheld funds total approximately \$900,000. That is nearly \$900,000 in taxpayer funds which have been collected for a stated purpose, but cannot be used for that purpose because the receiving entity refuses to comply with their statutory obligation to provide transparency to their citizens.

As a serious example, one cemetery maintenance district was delinquent in filing 11 reports dating back to 2009, 10 of which have just been filed as a result of the Office's efforts. However, because they are still not in compliance with all of their requirements, Cache County is still holding nearly a quarter of a million dollars, \$248,703.62 to be precise.

Another cemetery district, which also had nearly a quarter of a million in funds held, has just recently filed 14 outstanding reports dating back to 2008.

Other local government entities with significant amounts of funds being withheld due to delinquent filings include the following:

- Eureka City: \$ 149,616.20 held
- Lehi Metropolitan Water District: \$100,397.51 held
- New Harmony Valley Special Service District: \$64,360.96 held
- Box Elder County & Willard City Flood Control District: \$59,512.26 held
- Corinne Drainage District 1: \$45,191.44 held

In addition, the Office is disappointed to note that the Utah Municipal Finance Agency (MFA), an interlocal agency, is behind on its required filings and has not filed all of its required reports since 2005. The Municipal Finance Agency is a pooled capital improvement financing program formed for the purpose of financing the costs of projects involving cities, towns, and various districts that are members of MFA.

The Office encourages Utahns to hold their local governments accountable for their stewardship of taxpayer funds, including asking about delinquent reports and associated withheld funds. A complete list of local government entities which are delinquent in their filings as of February 25, 2014 is available on our website auditor.utah.gov and specifically at <http://site.secure.utah.gov/auditor/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/05/Auditor-List-of-Delinquent-Local-Govt-Entities-2-2014-Final2.pdf>.

About the Office of the Utah State Auditor

The Office of the Utah State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud & compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Utah State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every 4 years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. Additional Information at Auditor.Utah.gov

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