

# County Report to Commissioners 8-26-2020

Once again I sit here in front of the Commissioners with basically no financial information to report. Perhaps one may think the Treasurer would request current financial information from the fiscal office. However I would like to remind the Commissioners that only within the past few weeks I have had the ability to enter the financial office, without trying to go through a couple of locked doors. Notwithstanding that issue, I do feel like I am treated like a minor child instead of an elected official. The comments out of the office are unnecessary and the office could use some appropriate office behavior protocol training. I believe this is a subject the Commissioners have received complaints on previously.

To the main issue at hand, as you know, there have been many audits dating back to 2014 and up to and including the report by Scott Eagen and most recently from the County's current auditor about items that need to be completed by the fiscal office. If needed, I can outline these specifically. It has been a long time issue to get these things completed in a reasonable amount of time, yet there is no specific plan to change the County's method of operations to improve the situation. This is deeply disturbing to me as an elected County official. I have discussed this matter with a number of people in the county and have had conversations with some of the major people at DRA. I am sure that the Commissioners are all aware of these matters. I am told by a number of local and state officials that the responsibility rests with the Commissioners. I have tried a number of times to help with correcting the issues. There was a person at a recent Commissioners meeting who was willing and able to step in and assist the fiscal department, yet they were dismissed. I do hope the Commissioners realize this was a fantastic opportunity to get the fiscal department headed in the right direction. I do understand that a CFO may be in the near works and it is expected that this new position will get the fiscal department issues resolved. I do hope that is the case. Given the past experience of bringing someone in to the fiscal office has been less than fruitful.

In the mean time as your elected official, I am not able to provide any information with regards to the any fiscal matters of the County. It is difficult signing checks each week without knowing exactly the financial condition of the County. Please understand I do believe the County is in a good financial position and I do not want to send any message that it is otherwise. My message is that the County can no longer operate under these same procedures. This is what I have been trying to get across for the past 2 years. It is long past the time that the Commissioners take decisive action instead of being held hostage.

I do fail to understand the appearance of non actions of the Commissioners office on this major issue plaguing the county. And while this is my final plea by way of having no financial information to report on. It is up to the Commissioners to rectify the problem.

Once the issues are dealt with by the Commissioners and I receive a written response to this memo. I will expect going forward a weekly report out of the fiscal office detailing the total revenues spent to date vs budget along with expenses to date vs budget, any uses of the TAN and why along with a balances. At the same time, the balances as of the date in the County's deposit accounts including sweeps and repurchase accounts. Finally a recap of all accounts in the fiscal office being balanced on a monthly basis.

With all due respect

  
J.L. Costello, Carroll County Treasurer