



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Town of Friday Harbor

For the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020

Published June 21, 2021

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**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

June 21, 2021

Mayor and Town Council
Town of Friday Harbor
Friday Harbor, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Town operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

Attached is our independent audit report on the Town's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Town operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

However, we noted certain matters related to procurement that we communicated to Town management and the Mayor and Town Council in a letter dated June 15, 2021. We appreciate the Town's commitment to resolving those matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Town of Friday Harbor from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Town's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Procurement – public works, purchases, change orders, purchasing exemptions, and professional services
- Cost allocation plans – equitable distribution of indirect costs
- Self-insurance for unemployment compensation
- Financial condition
- Open public meetings – documentation of minutes, executive sessions and special meetings

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the Town's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Town's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOWN

The Town of Friday Harbor was incorporated in 1909 and currently serves approximately 2,490 residents. The Town is the seat of San Juan County government and is the only incorporated town in the county. The economy is largely based on recreation, tourism, construction, and service activities. Its main source of revenue is derived from sales and personal property taxes.

The Town is administered by a mayor-council form of government. The Town has five elected Council members and an independently elected Mayor and Treasurer. The Council appoints an Administrator to oversee the Town's operations as well as its 37 employees. The Town provides services for street improvement, parks and general administrative services. In addition, the Town owns and operates four utility systems: water, sewer, refuse and stormwater. During fiscal year 2020 the Town's general fund operating expenditures were \$2.41 million.

Contact information related to this report

Address:	Town of Friday Harbor 60 2nd Street P.O. Box 219 Friday Harbor, WA 98250
Contact:	Bethany Berry, Finance Director
Telephone:	(360) 378-2810
Website:	www.fridayharbor.org

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Town of Friday Harbor at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the Washington State Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the people of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, www.sao.wa.gov. Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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