



## State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

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### **Audit Identifies 20 Problem Areas in Meigs County Government**

Meigs County government continues to have significant issues with its management and bookkeeping practices, an audit by the state Comptroller's office shows.

The audit, which was released today by the Comptroller's Division of Local Government Audit, included 20 findings – that is, areas of serious concern with the government's practices.

Of those 20 findings, 16 had been highlighted in previous audits but appropriate corrective action had not been taken.

Thirteen of the 20 findings were in the director of finance's office. These included issues with the way the office was handling payroll, purchasing, budgeting and administration of state and federal grants.

Auditors also noted that Meigs County has not appointed an audit committee and does not utilize a centralized system of accounting, budgeting and purchasing.

"Twenty findings is an unacceptably high number for any audit," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "It's particularly troubling to me that so many of these findings were also present in previous audits. Failure to follow sound management, budgeting and accounting practices creates a climate where fraud, waste or abuse of public money is more likely to occur. I hope that Meigs County officials will take these findings seriously and adopt steps to prevent the findings from appearing in future audits."

To view the audit online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/la/>.

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, you may call the Comptroller's hot line at 1-800-232-5454 or fill out a report online at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/shared/safwa.asp>.

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