

# WARREN COUNTY, N.J. NEWS

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## New Jersey comptroller's follow-up audit finds Washington Borough implementing proper financial procedures

By [Stephen J. Novak](#)

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[A follow-up report released by the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller today](#) indicates Washington Borough has or is in the process of fulfilling many of the office's recommendations from a revealing audit last year.

**"We found that borough officials have made substantial progress in implementing the recommendations contained in our initial audit report,"** the new report says.

That audit, released last May, [uncovered glaring deficiencies in Washington's fiscal management](#). One notable criticism was the mishandling of a public works garage -- which saw its cost increase more than four times initial projections over 10 years.

Though the garage is still incomplete, the comptroller's office noted that [recent delays are outside of the borough's control](#) as the builder was found in default.

Actions to remedy the borough's other financial issues have been taken, the report said, including closer reviews of contracts and monitoring of building projects.

**"I am delighted that we have taken such tremendous strides towards advancing our procurement practices in a relatively short period of time,"** Borough Manager Richard Phelan wrote in a letter included in the report. **"We are confident that by staying on this course of action, our circumstances will only get better over time."**