

07/09/2024

To All,

Please enter the following comments and questions into the Public Record;

Concerning Old Business from the June 28th 2024 meeting related to Meeting Minutes from September 26th, 2023, Item 21b. Forensic Audit.

Regarding Baker Tilly's Sept. 20th, 2023 Letter of Intent and fees of \$20,000, I contacted the County Auditor last week and received an email response showing that six checks dated in order from Oct. 10th, 2023 till April 9th, 2024 totaling \$28,707.50 were sent to Baker Tilly.

1. Since the original letter of intent from Baker Tilly stated that they agreed to keep their fees under \$20,000 and this was confirmed by Judge Oakley, is the money paid to Baker Tilly that exceeds the \$20,000 amount because of a change to the initial contract ? Was the scope of work changed ?
2. If the scope of work was not changed, what explains the payment totals exceeding the \$20,000 dollar cap ? If the scope of work or contract was changed what was the reason for the change ? Who made those changes ? Why were those changes not publicized ?

In the July 3rd edition of the Burnet Bulletin it is reported by Raymond Whelan that the "investigation of potential payroll irregularities started in September of 2023 after former County Human Resource Director Sara Luther received a complaint from an **"Unnamed Party"** related to Sheriff's Office personnel overtime pay documentation".

3. What was the exact date in Sept. 2023 that the original complaint on the payroll irregularities was sent to Sonny McAfee's office and the Texas Rangers by the Human Resource Director and The County Auditor ?

The Burnet Bulletin article then confirms that "Sonny McAfee's office informed County Attorney Eddie Arredondo" that **the Texas Rangers found "No Theft"** and the documentation was not a criminal matter, but rather **"mislabeling"**.

4. Did the County Attorney advise the court to review the results of the Investigation before hiring an outside auditor ?
5. Was there any discussion about the investigation between members of the Commissioner's Court before making the decision and voting unanimously to hire Baker Tilly during the Sept.26th ,2023 meeting ? (The letter of intent from Baker Tilly is dated Sept.20th, 2023).