

County Clerk

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Baker-Tilly Audit voter/taxpayer questions

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To avoid any quorum issue, no members of the Commissioners Court were included on this email which is being sent to all other elected officials or their coordinators (please forward to your elected official).

Several Taxpayers and Voters still have unanswered questions about the Baker Tilly audit. **This email is a compilation of our questions** which we hope to have answered at the next commissioners court meeting:

1. Why isn't there any document or final report regarding the results of the Baker Tilly audit attached to Tuesday's Agenda?

2. Why is the Baker Tilly audit now being called an “*investigation*” on Tuesday’s agenda? Whose investigation is it?

3. Is the commissioners court an investigative body?

4. If there’s nothing to hide, why do taxpayers have to wait to see the audit results?

5. Is it significant that Sara Ann Luther was the one to find the so-called “irregularities” in the Sheriff’s Department payroll last year when Judge Oakley was on suspension, and that Commissioner Luther was the only commissioner whom Judge Oakley let see the draft of the audit?

6. Why was Commissioner Luther taken into Judge Oakley’s confidence on the draft but Commissioner Dockery, who ran the County in 2023 when Judge Oakley was on judicial suspension, was not afforded that confidence?

7. If the Baker Tilly audit could not be discussed in open court nor in Executive Session, and only Commissioner Luther saw the draft, what was the compelling evidence that was used to justify spending \$28,707.50 of taxpayer money on this audit, especially since the DA said it was simply a matter of “mislabeling”?

8. Are there any non-county employees who have seen any of the draft audit paperwork?

9. Why didn’t Judge Oakley provide the Baker Tilly initial proposal dated September 15, 2023, before the Commissioners voted to fund the audit?

10. If there’s nothing to hide, why did it take a Public Information Request to produce the September 15, 2023 proposal - shouldn’t it have been included in the minutes?

11. What did Judge Oakley intend in his June 12, 2024 email to the County Attorney, saying "We've received a draft that needs revisions and clarity of scope"?

12. Did someone not like the draft because it didn't produce the desired results?

13. Why were the results of the audit delayed for 10 months when the initial proposal said the results would be ready by early November 2023?

14. Did Baker Tilly breach the contract when the report wasn't provided within the contract term timeline?

15. What information was disclosed to Commissioners Dockery, Wall and Beierle before they voted to spend this money?

16. If no information was presented, why did the commissioners vote to proceed with the forensic audit?

17. When will the public see some actual discussion or debate amongst the commissioners instead of the endless rubber stamping that we see?

18. Why was Terry Wilson involved, and who asked for his intercession?

19. Lastly, based on audio records, we believe that the presiding official of the Commissioners Court owes Mr. Raymond Whelan an apology and the commissioners were remiss to allow Mr. Whelan to be mistreated: in our opinion this has happened at least one other time since September 2023 (regarding the presiding officials statement that the audit could not be discussed in open court nor in Executive Session).

If you don't want to receive these types of emails, please reply only to the sender and your email will be removed from future emails.

Thank you,
a few Burnet County Voter/Taxpayer/Residents