



TOWN OF TRYON

Special Investigative Audit

February 2, 2022

Cindy Byrd, CPA
State Auditor & Inspector

TOWN OF TRYON, OKLAHOMA
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE AUDIT
RELEASED FEBRUARY 2, 2022



Executive Summary

Why We Conducted This Audit

The Town Board of Trustees, in accordance with 74 O.S. § 227.8, requested an audit of questionable financial activity of former employees of the Town of Tryon.

What We Found

Payroll (Page 2)

Three former employees of the Town misappropriated \$79,320.19 in payroll. The improper payments consisted of excess salary, excess holiday pay, vacation pay, and overtime pay. All three employees were also improperly paid “hazard pay,” asserting that eight additional hours of pay could be claimed anytime they worked on the sewer system regardless of the actual number of hours worked. The majority of the unauthorized payroll amount was received by former Police Chief Jered Prickett.

The Board of Trustees (Board) improperly appointed the town clerk-treasurer, Candace Prickett, to an elected position. She remained in the position for over eight years, in violation of law.

Expenditures (Page 8)

Jered Prickett charged \$3,776.37 in questionable credit card expenditures. These expenses consisted of a combination of improper fuel purchases, along with other personal transactions such as food, medical care, and deer hunting supplies.

Jered Prickett also used town funds to purchase six firearms, totaling \$3,330.40. The firearms were not located in the Town’s inventory.

Police Auxiliary Account (Page 10)

Donations made to the Tryon Police Department, totaling \$3,960, were not deposited into the Town’s bank account. The checks were either cashed out by Jered Prickett or deposited into his personal bank account.

Jered Prickett also misappropriated \$4,866.50 from the Police Auxiliary bank account via cash and ATM withdrawals. Six of the ATM withdrawals occurred at local area casinos.

February 2, 2022

TO THE TRYON BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE CITIZENS OF TRYON

Presented herein is the special investigative audit report of the Town of Tryon. The goal of the State Auditor and Inspector is to promote accountability and fiscal integrity in state and local government. Maintaining our independence as we provide services to the taxpayers of Oklahoma is of utmost importance.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation extended to our office during our engagement.

This report is a public document pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act in accordance with 51 O.S. §§ 24A.1, *et seq.*

Sincerely,



CINDY BYRD, CPA
OKLAHOMA STATE AUDITOR & INSPECTOR



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Introduction

The Town of Tryon (Town) is located in Lincoln County and is managed as a statutory Town Board of Trustees (Board) form of government.¹ In May 2019, after it was discovered that sufficient funds were not available to meet the Town's financial obligations, board members became aware of the following:

- The police chief had reported W-2 earnings for 2018 of \$106,000.
- The Town's bank account was overdrawn by approximately \$8,000.
- The Town was several months behind on paying bills.
- Purchase Orders were being pre-signed.
- Credit card statements were being paid but not shown to the Board.

Based on this information, the Board became concerned about the Town's ability to meet future financial obligations. On June 12, 2019, the Board requested the State Auditor & Inspector's Office (SA&I) conduct an investigative audit of the Town and the Tryon Utility Authority's (TUA).

The following issues were identified as SA&I's audit objectives:

- 1) Determine if employee compensation was accurate, board approved, and paid in accordance with applicable laws.
- 2) Determine if expenditures were made for a municipal purpose, board approved, and properly supported.
- 3) Determine if donations received by the police department were properly recorded and deposited.

¹ 11 O.S. §§ 12-101, *et seq.*

Payroll

Overview

The Board alleged that three employees, Jered Prickett, Candace Prickett and Jessica Turpin, received compensation in excess of board approved amounts. Jered Prickett (Prickett) served as the Town’s Police Chief, Utility Operator, and Animal Control Officer and his spouse, Candace Prickett (C. Prickett), served as the Town Clerk-Treasurer and Utility Assistant. Jessica Turpin served as the Utility Clerk and the Court Clerk. The three employees performed essential town functions and were primarily responsible for the Town’s day-to-day operations. Payroll payments were issued twice per month from the Town’s General Fund bank account. When possible, pay rates were confirmed through board minutes.

Vacation and Sick Leave

Employee records were reviewed to determine if the accruing and payment of leave was in accordance with the *Employee Personnel Handbook*.² The *Handbook* specified that employees may elect to “sell back” up to half of their accrued vacation time **once** per year if approved by the Board. However, **at no time** shall the number of hours of vacation leave taken exceed the number of hours accumulated. Vacation time accumulated at the following rates:

Months of Service	Rate per Month	Maximum per Year
0-12 months	.416 day per month	1 week per year
13-36 months	.833 days per month	2 weeks per year
36 + months	1.25 days per month	3 weeks per year

When comparing vacation leave taken to leave records, it was noted that vacation requested and used was not consistently deducted from the employees accrued balance. For example, C. Prickett took six days of vacation leave, approved by the Board, between November 13 and November 26, 2018. Her timecard correctly reflected the requested leave; no work hours were recorded during the time she was on vacation. However, the leave time was not deducted from her accumulated leave totals. The report shown below reflects that only 3.5 hours of leave were deducted between November 13 and November 26, 2018.

² See Attachment 1.

TOWN OF TRYON		PERIOD START	PERIOD END	CHECK DATE			
Report Type: Time Off		Nov 16, 2018	Nov 30, 2018	Nov 29, 2018			
Report Created: 05/29/2020 08:48 AM							
EMPLOYEE	POLICY NAME	LAST PERIOD BALANCE (HRS)	EARNED THIS PERIOD (HRS)	USED THIS PERIOD (HRS)	CLOSING BALANCE (HRS)	EARNED YTD (HRS)	USED YTD (HRS)
PRICKETT, CANDACE	CP vaca	200.000	3.500	-3.500	200.000	213.500	13.500

Employee sick leave accrued at the rate of one working day per month, not to exceed 90 days. Per the *Handbook*, at no time shall the number of hours of sick leave taken exceed the number of hours accumulated. If an employee leaves in “good standing” the Town can elect to pay the employee for ten days of sick pay. The sale of sick leave was not addressed in the *Handbook* and was considered unallowable.

Hazard Pay

Employees claimed unauthorized *hazard pay* or *sewer pay*, asserting that eight additional hours of pay could be claimed anytime they worked on the sewer system regardless of the actual number of hours worked that day. “Sewer” pay was written in on timecards and paid in addition to any regular hourly pay. The timecard shown reflects the abuse of hazard pay. On September 7, two separate intervals of work were performed with an additional eight hours of sewer pay claimed for each work period. A total of 16 additional “sewer” hours was claimed on September 7, 2018.

DATE	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	TOTAL
1							
2							
3							5
4	8:30	2:00					5.5
5	8:30						
6	9:00	2:00					13
7	9:00	10:30					1.5
8	9:00	10:45					1.75
9							
10	8:25	2:00					5.75
11	8:30	2:00					4
12	8:30	2:00					5.5
13	8:30	2:00	6:45	7:45			6.5
14							
15							

Signature: _____
Approval: _____

When the employees were questioned by board members concerning hazard pay, they asserted that hazard pay had been approved by the Board. Board members adamantly denied that hazard pay was ever approved. There was also no evidence in the Town’s meeting minutes or ordinances indicating the Board approved hazard pay. The *Employee Personnel Handbook* was also silent as to hazard or sewer pay. Hazard pay was considered unauthorized pay.

Police Chief Jered Prickett

Finding

Between July 2016 and May 2019, Police Chief Jered Prickett received \$70,987.69 in unauthorized payroll, a misappropriation of public funds.

Prickett began his official position as Police Chief in June 2009. This position paid \$2,700 per month beginning January 2011 and increased to \$2,916 per month in August 2011. On May 16, 2015, Prickett was approved as the Utility Operator at a salary of \$12.50 per hour, he remained the Police Chief.

On September 1, 2017, the Board approved Prickett to be placed on a salary of \$3,000 a month for his services as the Utility Operator. At this time he was also serving as the Animal Control Officer at a rate of \$170 per month and remained on salary as the Police Chief, resulting in a combined monthly pay of \$6,086.

To earn extra holiday hours and be paid for those hours while also being paid a salary, the employee must perform actual work on the holiday. Between January 2017 and April 2019 there were 200 available holiday hours. After giving Prickett full credit for working the 200 hours of paid holiday time he was due, it was determined he was improperly paid for an additional 935 holiday hours, at his regular pay rate. This resulted in improper holiday pay of **\$25,401.21**.

During calendar year 2018, Prickett’s salary for Police Chief, Utility Operator, and Animal Control Officer was paid twice per month, in the amounts of \$1,490, \$1,500, and \$85, respectively. During the same time period, Prickett received 19 extra checks that could not be attributed to his regular salary. These extra checks totaled **\$18,672.96**.

Vacation leave was not tracked and recorded accurately. Records indicated that Prickett sold hundreds of hours of vacation leave that was not earned. Although the sale of vacation leave was to be approved by the Board, subsequent to May 2016, no evidence was found that the Board approved any of the vacation leave sold. Prickett was paid for 710 hours of unearned vacation time resulting in **\$15,170.90** of misappropriated vacation pay.

During a 90-day period between May 2017 and August 2017, Prickett was paid **\$11,217.62** for 598.5 hours of undocumented overtime pay. During this period, he claimed and was paid for over 2,200 hours of time worked, which equates to working over 18 hours per day seven days a week.

In April and August of 2017, Prickett was also paid **\$525.00** for 42 hours of hazard pay. As previously discussed, hazard pay was not approved by the Board and was determined to be unauthorized.

Jered Prickett Unauthorized Payroll					
	2016	2017	2018	2019 ³	Totals
Holiday Pay	-	\$6,047.55	\$11,433.46	\$7,920.20	\$25,401.21
Excess Salary	-	-	\$18,672.96	-	\$18,672.96
Vacation Pay	\$1,829.00 ⁴	\$13,341.90 ⁵	-	-	\$15,170.90
Overtime Pay	-	\$11,217.62	-	-	\$11,217.62
Hazard Pay	-	\$525.00	-	-	\$525.00
Totals	\$1,829.00	\$31,132.07	\$30,106.42	\$7,920.20	\$70,987.69

³ Includes pay through May 2019.

⁴ Due to lack of timesheets and other payroll records, only excess vacation pay was evaluated for 2016.

⁵ \$6,290 of 2017 vacation pay was not reported on the 2017 W-2.

In total, Prickett received \$70,987.69 in unauthorized payroll. These unauthorized payments constitute a misappropriation of funds. We recommend the District Attorney evaluate this misappropriate as a violation of 21 O.S. § 1451 which states in relevant part:

Embezzlement is the fraudulent appropriation of property of any person or legal entity...to any use or purpose not intended or authorized by its owner...with the fraudulent intent to appropriate it to such use or purpose, under any of the following circumstances:

4. Where the property is to be used for a public or benevolent purpose;
5. Where any person diverts any money appropriated by law from the purpose and object of the appropriation;

Prickett officially resigned effective June 13, 2019.⁶

Candace Prickett

Finding ***Between January 2017 and May 2019 Candace Prickett received a total of \$5,212.50 in unauthorized payroll, a misappropriation of public funds.***

Candace Prickett (C. Prickett) was appointed as the town clerk-treasurer in January 2011 at a salary of \$600 per month⁷ and beginning December 2014 was also paid a wage of \$12.50 per hour as the TUA Utility Operator.

C. Prickett’s employment with the Town exceeded three years⁸ which enabled her to earn three weeks of vacation leave annually. Between January 2017 and June 2019, C. Prickett had earned a total of 460 hours of vacation time. During the same time period she used 119 hours more than allowed. This resulted in an overpayment of vacation pay totaling **\$1,487.50**.

As previously discussed, employees stated they earned hazard pay when working on the sewer system and reported eight hours on their timesheets regardless of the actual hours worked. For example, C. Prickett’s timecard for July 16, 2018, reflected one hour of actual work time was recorded from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. with an additional eight hours claimed as “+8 sewer.” Between January 2017 and June 2019, C. Prickett was improperly paid for 272 hours of hazard pay, totaling **\$3,400**.

DATE	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	TOTAL
16	8:00	9:00					9
17	8:30	2:00					5.5
18	8:20	2:00					5.67
19	8:00	2:00					5.85
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							5.5
26	8:30	2:00					5.5

⁶ See resignation letter at Attachment 2.

⁷ Per Ordinance 2009-06.

⁸ Jered Prickett was hired on January 13, 2009, Candace Prickett on January 18, 2011, and Jessica Turpin on October 1, 2015.

It should also be noted that even though a timeclock was available, time was most often manually entered instead of using the timeclock.

To earn holiday pay while already on salary, employees must conduct actual work on the holiday. Between January 2019 and June 2019 there were 40 available holiday hours. After giving C. Prickett full credit for working all 40 hours of paid holiday time, records indicated she was improperly paid for an additional 26 holiday hours totaling **\$325.00**.

Candace Prickett Unauthorized Payroll				
	2017	2018	2019	Totals
Hazard Pay	\$300.00	\$3,100.00	-	\$3,400.00
Vacation Pay	\$162.50	-	\$1,325.00	\$1,487.50
Holiday Pay	-	-	\$325.00	\$325.00
Totals	\$462.50	\$3,100.00	\$1,650.00	\$5,212.50

Finding *The Board appointed Candace Prickett to serve as the town clerk-treasurer, an elected position. She improperly remained in the elected position for over eight years.*

On January 18, 2011, C. Prickett was appointed to a vacant position to serve as the town clerk-treasurer. At the time of her appointment the *Tryon Town Code* reflected that both the town clerk and the town treasurer positions were to be elected by the qualified electors of the Town.

Article 3. Town Clerk

Sec. 1-7. Town Clerk; Elected.
 (A) the Town Clerk shall be elected by the qualified electors of the Town of Tryon pursuant to the provisions of the Sections 1-1 of the Tryon Town Code.

Article 4. Town Treasurer

Sec. 1-9. Town Treasurer; Election
 (A) the Town Treasurer shall be elected by the qualified electors of the Town of Tryon pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-1 of the Tryon Town Code.

C. Prickett remained as an appointee in the elected positions until her resignation effective June 17, 2019, in violation of town ordinances and 11 O.S. § 8-109(A) which states in part:

*When a vacancy occurs in an office of an elected municipal official except the mayor, the governing body shall appoint, by a majority vote of the remaining members, a person to fill the vacancy **until** [Emphasis added]*

the next general municipal election...to serve until a successor is elected and qualified. Any vacancy shall then be filled at the next general municipal election or biennial town meeting by election of a person to complete the balance of any unexpired term.

On January 14, 2020, the Board approved Ordinance No 2020-1 which changed the clerk position from elected to appointed. This too was a violation of statute. Title 11 O.S. § 16-207(B) requires that converting a town clerk and town treasurer position from an elected position to an appointed position requires a vote of the people, the statute states:

The board of trustees of any town may provide by ordinance for the submission to a vote of the registered voters of the town the question of providing for the appointment by the board of trustees of the town clerk, the town treasurer or the town clerk-treasurer.

Jessica Turpin

Finding ***Between January 2017 and May 2019, Jessica Turpin received a total of \$3,120 in unauthorized payroll, a misappropriation of public funds.***

Jessica Turpin was hired as the TUA Utility Clerk on October 1, 2015, at a rate of \$10 per hour. Her pay was increased to \$12.50 per hour in July 2018. On January 12, 2017, she was designated as Court Clerk with a salary of \$150 per pay period. Turpin served as both the Utility Clerk and Court Clerk until she was terminated in November 2020.

Between January 2017 and May 2019 Turpin was compensated for 280 hours of hazard pay resulting in **\$3,120** in unauthorized pay. Timesheets reflected that she was compensated in the same manner as C. Prickett for hazard/sewer pay. In one instance, on June 1, 2018, time worked was from 8:10 am to 2:00 pm, approximately six hours, with an additional “sewer +8” added.

DATE	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT
1	3:00	5:30				
2						
3						
4	8:01	8:50				
5	8:30	2:00				
6	8:49	2:00				
7	8:10	2:00				
8						

Expenditures

In a resignation letter⁹ submitted on June 2, 2019, Prickett admitted to using the Town's fuel card for personal expenses and to purchasing a rifle for personal use with Town funds. Based on the disclosure of these questionable transactions, town expenditures were reviewed from May 1, 2017, through May 31, 2019, to document the use of the fuel card and to determine if other personal expenditures were incurred with town funds.

Finding ***Police Chief Prickett used the Town's credit cards for questionable personal expenditures totaling \$3,776.37.***

Conoco Phillips

The Conoco Phillips credit card was routinely used for fuel purchases. The records provided did not include itemized receipts and the Town did not maintain vehicle use or fuel logs to track the use of the card. The Town of Tryon fire department owned one diesel vehicle. Prickett's personal vehicle was also a diesel engine. Per board members, except in emergency situations, the Tryon Volunteer Fire Department and the Police Department were to fuel their vehicles at a local convenience store in Tryon. Diesel purchases made outside of the Town's emergency response area were determined to be personal in nature.

Of the Conoco Phillips credit card purchases reviewed for the period of May 2017 through May 2019, **\$2,964.35** was determined to be questionable. All of the questionable transactions were made by Prickett for diesel fuel and were made outside of the town of Tryon, including one purchase made on a Saturday out of state, in Galveston, Texas.

Comdata

The Board approved obtaining a Comdata credit card on May 10, 2018. Two cards were issued, one to Prickett and one to C. Prickett. The Comdata account was paid directly from the Town's General Fund bank account, via electronic fund transfers. Purchase Orders and checks were not prepared or presented for board signature and approval. This practice allowed Comdata purchases to be paid without being presented to the Board. The Comdata statements were also addressed to the Tryon Police Department at an address in Oklahoma City.



A total of **\$817.02** in Comdata credit card purchases were determined to be a questionable use of public funds. The transactions included food, fuel, deer hunting supplies, medical care, and vehicle parts.

⁹ See resignation letter at Attachment 2.

Firearms

Finding ***Six firearms purchased with town funds, totaling \$3,330.40, could not be accounted for.***

Between January 2016 and January 2019, seven firearms were purchased by the Town. Of these seven firearms, only one was located in the Town's possession. The remaining six firearms, totaling \$3,330.40, were unaccounted for. The weapons not located included the following:

- Glock 43 9mm (3)
- Glock 27 Black Gen 4 40 (1)
- Ruger 6.5 Creed Bolt-Action Rifle (1)
- Remington Model 700, M40LR (1)

In Prickett's resignation letter he stated that Glock 43's used by town officers had been purchased and paid for by the officers and shipped to the Town. We found no evidence supporting these statements, all the guns in question were paid for by the Town.

"As for the Glock 43's that each officer have. They purchased those weapons. They paid the monies for them to be purchased and shipped to the Police Department. I have two that belongs to the town that will be in my inventory," he wrote, "The rifle in question will also be paid for. I honestly thought I had written a check out of my personal account covering the cost of that rifle back to the town."¹⁰

The firearm records will be turned over to the local District Attorney for further follow-up.

¹⁰ Resignation letter at Attachment 2.

Police Auxiliary Account

Finding ***Donations totaling \$3,960 intended for the Tryon Police Department were retained by former Police Chief Prickett instead of being deposited into town bank accounts.***

Between April 2017 and October 2018, a local business donated \$3,960 to the Tryon Police Department via four checks¹¹ made payable to “Jered Prickett.” All four checks were endorsed by Prickett, and the proceeds were paid to him in cash or deposited into his personal bank account. There was no evidence the funds were ever transferred to the Town.

Prickett was accountable for the funds donated to the Police Department. The donation checks should have been deposited into a town bank account. The conversion of these funds to personal use constitutes a misappropriation of public monies and a possible violation of 19 O.S. § 641 which states in relevant part:

If any...officer...charged with the collection, receipt, safekeeping, transfer or disbursement of the public money, or any part thereof, belonging to...any city, town or school district of the state shall convert to the officer's or person's own use...such...officer or person shall be guilty of an embezzlement.

Finding ***Prickett misappropriated \$4,866.50 from the Tryon Police Auxiliary bank account, via cash and ATM withdrawals.***

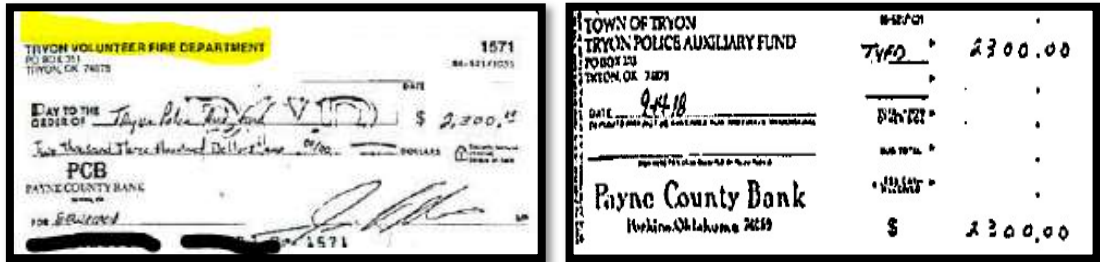
Prickett withdrew a total of \$4,866.50 from the Tryon Police Auxiliary bank account via three bank cash withdrawals, totaling \$2,940.00, and seven ATM withdrawals, totaling \$1,926.50. Six of the ATM transactions occurred at local area casinos, and one occurred at a local convenience store. Prickett was the only signatory on the Auxiliary account between January 2013 and June 2019 and maintained the only known debit card for the account.

The ATM withdrawals began on June 22, 2017, at the Cimarron Casino and continued through July 2017. The withdrawal frequency varied and did not correspond with any documented town expenditures. The Board did not authorize any cash purchases or ATM withdrawals from the Tryon Police Auxiliary bank account during the period of the withdrawals.

Approximately one year after the ATM withdrawals, three cash withdrawals were made directly from the bank. All three of the cash withdrawals were signed for by Prickett. Two of the withdrawals occurred the same week Prickett transferred \$2,300 from the Tryon Volunteer Fire Department bank account to the Police Auxiliary account.

¹¹ See check copies at Attachment 3.

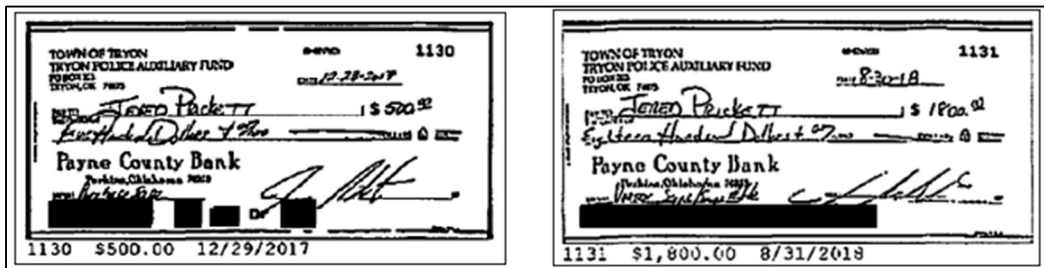
Prickett, who was not an authorized signer on the Tryon Volunteer Fire Department bank account, wrote a check from this account and deposited it into the Police Auxiliary account. That same day, September 14, 2018, he made a cash withdrawal for \$1,900 from the Auxiliary account. Seven days later he made another cash withdrawal of \$640, with a final cash withdrawal of \$400 being made on November 1, 2018.¹² The \$400 withdrawal reduced the Auxiliary account balance to \$33.20; the account balance remained at this amount through January 2020.



The ATM and cash withdrawals were not approved by the Board and there was no evidence to support the funds withdrawn were used for a public purpose. As previously noted, 19 O.S. § 641, establishes that if an officer charged with the safekeeping, transfer, or disbursement of public money converts the funds to their own use they shall be guilty of embezzlement.

Finding *Prickett issued and cashed two checks to himself, totaling \$2,300, from the Tryon Police Auxiliary bank account. There was no supporting documentation showing the transactions were for an allowable town purpose.*

Check numbers 1130 and 1131 dated December 28, 2017, and August 30, 2018, were signed and cashed by Prickett. There was no evidence to indicate that the two checks were for town expenditures, thus resulting in an improper use of town funds totaling \$2,300.



¹² “TVFD”, as noted in the deposit slip shown, stands for Tryon Volunteer Fire Department.

Final Thoughts

The issues addressed in this report reflect that the Town of Tryon has experienced a major financial loss at the hands of its former employees. Although these losses are really the responsibility of the alleged perpetrators, some culpability can also be directed at those who served as board members over the course of the past several years.

Several trustees asserted they were unaware of the improper payroll payments and unlawful expenditures. Even though several of the questionable transactions appeared to be purposefully hidden from the oversight of the Board, a timely review of bank statements, timecards, check registers, or monthly expenditure reports, should have brought some of the questionable transactions to light.

Inherent to any small town, the lack of the ability to segregate duties limits the effectiveness of an internal control system to properly protect the assets of the entity. When this type of situation exists, it is imperative that the Board be hyper-vigilant in their oversight of financial transactions. The Board must become part of the internal control process by providing the increased oversight required in order to protect town assets. The Board ultimately bears responsibility for the financial welfare of the Town.

Attachment 1 – Employee Personnel Handbook – Leave Regulations

500 - LEAVE REGULATIONS

501. VACATION ACCRUAL AND LEAVE

- A. There will be a twelve (12) month waiting period before vacation time can be taken. Vacation time can be accumulated from the date of employment, but cannot be used until after the employee has completed at least one (1) year of service. At no time shall the number of hours taken exceed the number of hours accumulated.
- B. Employees shall accumulate vacation time at the following rates:

Months of Service	Rate per Month	Maximum per Year
0-12 months	.416 day per month	1 week per year
13-36 months	.833 days per month	2 weeks per year
36 + months	1.25 days per month	3 weeks per year

- C. Vacation time renews at the anniversary date of employment. No vacation time may be taken prior to the end of employees' probationary period, unless the Board of Trustees approves an emergency circumstance involving the employee. At no time shall the number of hours taken exceed the number of hours accumulated. Following the first year of employment, employees shall have earned one week of accrued vacation time. Employees may carry over a maximum of **2 WEEKS** of accrued vacation time from the previous physical year. All vacation hours in excess of the amount carried over to the subsequent calendar year shall be forfeited without compensation.
- D. Vacation periods and scheduling are subject to the approval/disapproval of the Department Head and or Board of Trustees.
- E. The Town Clerk's office must be notified of the vacation so that accurate records of vacation time can be maintained.
- F. Vacations may be taken any time during the year providing the absence will not place undue hardship on the department.
- G. The needs of the department will take precedence over vacation periods.

Attachment 2 – Resignation Letter

From: Jered Prickett [REDACTED]
Date: June 2, 2019 at 5:34:05 PM CDT
To: Seeberger Anthony [REDACTED]
Subject: Resignation Letter

Tryon Town Board of Trustees & Town Attorney Anthony Seeberger

I am hereby tendering my resignation as the Tryon Chief of a Police and as the Tryon Utility Supervisor.

On the issue of the Conoco Phillips fuel card. I will repay the Town the monies I charged to my personal vehicle. This has occurred before when Bobby Martin was here and he was terminated for the same thing. In lieu of pursuing criminal charges the Town Board of Trustees allowed him to repay the monies over a period of 60-90 days. I'm not sure who was on the board at that time however your legal representation was Anthony Seeberger. He can attest as to this, and it is within the law to allow it. Since it has happened before and the board allowed it, I feel it should be allowed again or it would appear the board picks and chooses who it wants charged with a crime.

As for the issue of me using the Town's Branson tractor as collateral on a bank loan note. Yes I did this. I have contacted my banker and had it removed from the loan. It was done solely for the purpose of obtaining a lower interest rate.

As for the Glock 43s that each officer have. They purchased those weapons. They paid the monies for them to be purchased and shipped to the Police Department. I have two that belongs to the town that will be in my inventory.

Attachment 2 – Resignation Letter, continued

The rifle in question will also be paid for. I honestly thought I had written a check out of my personal account covering the cost of that rifle back to the town.

As for the question of the bullet proof vests that was purchased through the Police Auxillary Fund those are all present and accounted for along with the rifle plates, accessory pouches, and identification badges that were add on items. That account will be closed and monies transferred to the town. That account is held by me and the tax ID number in my name.

All effects will be printed out on a list and secured in the police truck and custody of truck and all of my weapons, keys, cell phone, and lap top will be given to James Hampton on Monday. Anthony has the combination to the evidence room.

I will have to show someone all the ins and outs of the sewer lagoons and water wells. And what to do in certain situations. They are predicting flooding rains this coming week and I have advised James that I will attempt to get the lagoons both down to low levels to help prevent a bypass, but should you all need help don't hesitate to contact me, I won't leave you "without help".

This resignation will be effective June 13, @ 8pm which should be after the next regular meeting. This way the reserves can work until an interim Chief is named and the resignation can be accepted. However I will not be working or have possession of any of the towns equipment during that lapse in time.

I have no excuses for the things that have happened. I violated your trust in me and for that I hold myself accountable. I ask that these matters be in executive session at the meeting and that any and all slander or talks about this issue be kept between board members. Candace has no part in any of this, nor was she aware it had happened. I will attempt to be at the board meeting, however with my new job I cannot make that promise as there is no telling where I will be on that day. Please get me the total amount that needs to be repaid for the fuel card and rifle. Also as for my vacation time that has accrued and regardless of the scenario should be paid to me, I ask that those monies be used towards what is owed. The sick time that is maxed out I am not worried about. I plan on paying this amount as soon as I'm told how much it is. I do not have a cell phone yet so the best way to contact me is email at this time.

Respectfully,
Jered Prickett

Attachment 3 – Donation Checks

RAINS DIESEL REPAIR LLC
217 W. 116TH STREET
PERKINS, OK 74059
(405) 547-5655

Stroud National Bank
PERKINS, OK 74059
85-1028/1031

7586

4-20-17

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Jared Prickett \$ 1000.00
one thousand dollars

MEMO To: Tryon Pol Dept - Donation

Stroud National Bank's routing number

RAINS DIESEL REPAIR, LLC
DAX RAINS
217 W. 116TH PH. 405-547-5655
PERKINS, OK 74059

5-26-2017 DATE

2650

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Jared Prickett \$ 1000.00
one thousand dollars

SNB STROUD NATIONAL BANK

R.M. Donation to TPD

2650

Stroud National Bank's routing number

RAINS DIESEL REPAIR, LLC
DAX RAINS
217 W. 116TH PH. 405-547-5655
PERKINS, OK 74059

2747

1-25-18 DATE

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Jared Prickett \$ 1460.00
one thousand four hundred sixty and 00/100

SNB STROUD NATIONAL BANK

R.M. Donation Tryon Pol Dept

2747

Stroud National Bank's routing number

RAINS DIESEL REPAIR, LLC
DAX RAINS
217 W. 116TH PH. 405-547-5655
PERKINS, OK 74059

10-26-18 DATE

2880

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Jared Prickett \$ 500.00
five hundred and 00/100

SNB STROUD NATIONAL BANK

R.M. Donation to Pol Dept

2880

Stroud National Bank's routing number

DISCLAIMER

In this report, there may be references to state statutes and legal authorities which appear to be potentially relevant to the issues reviewed by the State Auditor & Inspector's Office. This Office has no jurisdiction, authority, purpose, or intent by the issuance of this report to determine the guilt, innocence, culpability, or liability, if any, of any person or entity for any act, omission, or transaction reviewed. Such determinations are within the exclusive jurisdiction of regulatory, law enforcement, prosecutorial, and/or judicial authorities designated by law.

O·K·L·A·H·O·M·A
S·A·I
STATE AUDITOR & INSPECTOR



Cindy Byrd, CPA | State Auditor & Inspector

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