

Emergency Meeting

Hancock County Board of Commissioners

June 18, 2009

Recording begins 11:30 am

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners President, Derek Towle called the Emergency Meeting to order. Meeting was called regarding the arrest of the Hancock County Auditor, Linda J. Grass Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Commissioner Tom Stevens, Deputy Auditor Ginny Martin and Attorney Ray Richardson were in attendance.

Commissioner Towle read the following letter to call for the Auditor's immediate resignation; this letter was served on Linda J. Grass this morning at 9:30 am.

June 18, 2009

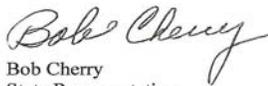
Dear Ms. Grass,

We, the undersigned, respect your right to defend yourself against criminal charges. However, the findings of the Indiana State Police investigation undermine the public trust in your service as Hancock County Auditor. We call upon you to resign immediately as Hancock County Auditor. The appointment of a new auditor must take place quickly to assure that county government can function as taxpayers expect that it should. If you do not resign, impeachment proceedings will be filed against you.

We would like your decision within 24 hours.



Beverly Gard
State Senator



Bob Cherry
State Representative



Derek Towle
Hancock County Commissioner



Brad Armstrong
Hancock County Commissioner



Tom Stevens
Hancock County Commissioner

Commissioner Towle also read this immediate release from the Hancock County Board of Commissioners:

HANCOCK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

111 American Legion Place
Suite 217
Greenfield, IN 46140
(317) 477-1105
Fax (317) 477-1712

For Immediate Release

Date: 6/18/2009

Media Contact:
Commissioner Derek Towle, President
Phone #: 317-710-3039

Hancock County Auditor Arrested

Greenfield, Indiana – Towards the end of 2008, the Hancock County Commissioners discovered questionable claims and towards the beginning of this year called for an independent, third party investigation by the Indiana State Police. After a lengthy investigation, Hancock County Auditor, Linda Grass, has been arrested on multiple charges. These charges include bribery, theft, obstruction of justice and conflict of interest. Ms Grass was elected Hancock County Auditor in 2006 and began serving her term in January of 2008.

We, the Hancock County Commissioners, State Senator Beverly Gard and State Representative Bob Cherry have requested Linda Grass to resign her position as Hancock County Auditor. The Hancock County Commissioners met in an emergency meeting this morning to hire an attorney to start the impeachment process if Ms. Grass refuses to resign.

The commissioners want to assure the residents of Hancock County, that their government is looking out for their best interest and will ensure that all functions of government will be operating properly and without delay.

We would like to thank the Indiana State Police and the Shelby County Prosecutor for their hard work with the investigation.

For more information, please contact Derek Towle, President Hancock County Commissioners at 317-710-3039

Commissioner Brad Armstrong made a motion to hire attorneys David Brooks, Samantha DeWester and David Hooper to represent the county through the impeachment process if the Auditor, Linda J. Grass does not resign . Commissioner Tom Stevens seconded motion. Vote 3-0

Commissioner Towle asked audience if there were any questions that the Commissioners could answer.

1. When was the first sign of problems or concern by the Commissioners?

“In October and November 2008 was the first indication of problems or concerns.”

2. Will Barger Construction be charged also?

“Yes, Jim Barger currently has a warrant out for his arrest.”

3. What types of claims were concerns to the Commissioners?

“There are several types of claims and one we entrusted Linda with was the building claims. As time went on the claims became very vague and that is when there were red flags raised. “

4. Do Commissioners sign-off on the claims as they are presented?

“Yes”

5. Are you Mr. Towle surprised at the alligations of the current Auditor and the charges that have been filed?

“Yes, I am very surprised”

6. Will there be any effort made by the Commissioners to recoup the money from these charges for the County?

“Yes, every effort will be made to recoup the funds through restitution”

7. Are there procedures changes in place to prevent this type of activity again?

“ Yes, the Commissioners have become very critical of the claims review “

8. Are you embarrassed by the events that have occurred?

“Yes, I am extremely disappointed in Ms. Grass actions”

9. Is other County work being delayed by the actions of Ms. Grass and having to deal with it?

“No”

10. How do you regain the trust of the residents of Hancock County?

“That is a very difficult question, but I can assure you that we will take every step in regaining that trust”.

11. How will the replacement of the Auditor happen?

The Republican Party will hold a Caucus for selection of the Auditor to complete Linda’s term.

12. Are there any other persons involved in the case?

“It is an ongoing investigation”

13. What is the impeachment process?

“Attorneys will gather the evidence and file the case in Circuit Court. This is a Civil process not a Criminal process and it should take 20 days to complete”.

Meeting Adjourned

Recording stopped 11:41 am

Approved this 22nd day of June 2009.
