



COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO

Office of the County Auditor

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County Auditor Fraud/Waste/Abuse Hotline Report

Incident Number: 1506504905

Date Received: September 27, 2017

Type of Incident: Code of Ethics Violation

Summary of Complaint: Complainant makes several personal attacks and makes 3 primary allegations regarding a high level employee with County Administration:

- The 2018 County budget was prepared by an employee who deliberately concealed massive increases in spending and protected certain budgets under the County Board Chairman.
- An employee has an unethical relationship with a County Board member and has provides data to this individual preferentially. The complainant specifically mentions an article critical of the County Sheriff.
- Alleges the employee involved in the above and another employee live outside the County. The complainant indicates that a policy should exist to address residency requirements.

Auditors Office Response: We have reviewed the 3 primary allegations and have addressed each below:

- The County Auditor's Office has a significant understanding the budget document. We noted no effort to conceal spending or conceal increases in the County Board Chairman's budget. The presentation of the budget did change slightly in that health insurance is included in the administrative account rather than each individual department. This represents a change in accounting and is not deceptive in nature.
- We reviewed the article that we assume is the subject of the second complaint. The article presents information that is readily available on the County's website and other avenues. Similar data has been the part of the County budget conversation for several years.
- County Ordinance requires department heads to live in the County. However a provision exists that allows for employees to seek waivers from this requirement. Both employees in the complaint acquired a waiver several months ago.

We find no actionable items in this complaint. A copy of this letter and the original complaint will be forwarded to the County Board Chairman.

It is our mission to provide high quality services and promote a safe community for all people in Winnebago County.