



Oklahoma State Auditor & Inspector

News Release

For Immediate Release

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January 28, 2014

Former Roland Deputy Clerk, Town Administrator Received More Than \$180,000 in Unsubstantiated Payments, Audit Says

OKLAHOMA CITY – A special investigative audit, released today, into the finances of the Town of Roland identified \$180,000 in questioned payments to two former employees.

The Town of Roland Board of Trustees requested the audit following the resignation of former Deputy Town Clerk Joetta Tyler-Hyde and the termination of former Town Administrator Greg Wilson.

“It’s amazing how quickly someone in a position of trust can empty town accounts when no one is watching,” said State Auditor Gary Jones. “We’re finding this problem more and more in small communities across the state that have limited personnel and have placed people in positions to handle finances with little or no oversight.”

The audit report found that former Deputy Town Clerk Joetta Tyler-Hyde received \$129,441.52 in unsubstantiated payments from July 1, 2009 to January 14, 2013. Tyler-Hyde resigned her position effective January 14, 2013, just one day after skipping a scheduled meeting with town officials to discuss allegations she had received improper payments.

In addition, the audit report found former Town Administrator Greg Wilson received \$51,633.27 in questioned payroll payments for the period of July 1, 2009 to February 1, 2013. Wilson was terminated by the Roland Town Board of Trustees during a special meeting held February 1, 2013.

“Part of the challenge for town officials was that allegedly falsified documents provided by the pair justified some of these payments,” Jones said. “For instance, we found that Tyler-Hyde falsified meeting minutes to show her husband as a full-time employee in order to obtain more than \$12,000 in health insurance benefits.”

The breadth of the fraud includes allegations that Tyler-Hyde used petty cash funds to pay for personal expenses. The report alleges undocumented reimbursement from petty cash to Tyler-Hyde and her husband as well as misuse of the town’s Sam’s Club card to make personal purchases. In addition, power tools and other equipment are missing from the town’s inventory.

A copy of the audit report has been forwarded to the Sequoyah County District Attorney’s Office. The full report is available online for review or download at www.sai.ok.gov