

Open Records Request
Titus Co Commissioners Meeting
April 28, 2014

I submitted an open records request to the Auditor's office for copies of expenditures on the Riddle Street remodel job and received the information in a timely fashion. There was some detailed information lacking and I then submitted a request to the architect Chris Basham on March 27 by e-mail. Although Mr. Basham provided me with total numbers a few days later, I specifically wanted to know how much work was done by the crew of Commissioners Mike Fields and Phillip Hinton on the parking lot, sidewalk and curbing. I did finally receive that info from the County Judge last week.

There is one open records request I submitted over a month ago that has not been fulfilled and that is for an itemization of payment to Larry Lawrence for \$13,842.00. His invoice states that it is for removal of concrete at front door, dirt work to prep for sidewalks and curbing, labor and material. Also, although Mr. Basham stated that he paid Mr. Lawrence \$9,000 for construction management out of the \$11,000 he billed to the county, I have not seen any paper work on that transaction.

I have a little problem understanding how this entire project was apparently handled by Mr. Lawrence when the court voted on December 23, 2013 to turn the project over to Chris Basham who would arrange for bids to flow through the business manager, James Webster. In fact, James was not involved at all and none of the jobs were advertised for public bids, including the position of construction manager that was assumed by Larry Lawrence. I am concerned about a significant conflict of interest since Judge Lee is a friend and business partner. I am also troubled by a lack of transparency and failure to comply with a freedom of information request on a taxpayer funded project.

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