

OBSERVATIONS FROM JUNE 29, 2023, EXECUTIVE SESSION TRANSCRIPT

1. Stated purpose of the executive session was a personnel matter.
2. The actual executive session resulted in Braden Wilson making a presentation to why he is the best person to hire as County Manager.
3. Reasons stated by Braden Wilson in support of 2. above:
 - a. He has been a reliable employee for the past 2 years.
 - b. He has sought to gain as much knowledge as possible.
 - c. He currently performs most of the essential County Manager job functions that he and the Commissioners collaborated in November of 2022.
4. Key Accomplishments as stated by Braden Wilson in support of 2. Above.
 - a. Successful software conversion. **Audit does not support this.**
 - i. Key accounts were not reconciled on a timely basis. Most importantly cash was not being reconciled to the general ledger successfully after conversion to the new accounting software. (see audit finding 2022-03)
 - ii. Have all employees been adequately trained in using the software? Some conversations have indicated employees have not been adequately trained.
 - b. Created a new budget. **Can a budget be created if actual fund balances are unknown?**
 - i. Braden included \$101,000 in his 2023 budget for the County Manager position.
 - c. Strategically analyzed fund balances so they know how much money they actually have. **Audit does not support this.**
 - d. Implemented policies and procedures with emphasis on creating a better environment for employees. **Audit states there are no internal control procedures. Kelly Camper stated that out-of-cycle check procedures do not exist. It is unclear who and how many people have check writing authority.**
5. Braden Wilson's resume included application for an MBA degree that he was to earn while serving as County Manager. **Was it to be paid for by the county? Did Braden Wilson's resume currently include specific qualifications for a County Manager position?**
6. Braden did not feel that the County Manager position needed to be competed or voted on. Rather, he felt the Commissioners could just promote him; in fact, he thought it was a promise that this was something that needed to happen.
7. Braden sees the County Manager as the County CEO.
8. Braden assumed that once he became County Manager, Lisa Bivins would be promoted to his existing position as Director of Human Resources and Finance. In fact, he had already talked to Lisa about this.