

**ATTESTATION REPORT
OF
LINCOLN COUNTY COURT**

JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

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Issued on February 12, 2009

LINCOLN COUNTY COURT

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LINCOLN COUNTY COURT

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

During our examination of Lincoln County Court, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting that is presented here. The comment and recommendation is intended to improve the internal control over financial reporting in the following area:

Overdue Balances

Good internal control and sound business practices require overdue balances of the County Court are reviewed on an ongoing, timely basis to determine what action should be taken to collect and/or otherwise resolve those balances.

Of 20 overdue case balances tested, totaling \$1,573, 13 did not have subsequent action taken by the County Court to ensure collection and/or resolution of the balances, such as the issuance of warrants and/or suspensions or declaration of certain overdue balances as uncollectible.

Without a regular review of overdue case balances, there is an increased risk overdue balances may not have proper follow up action taken or the balances may have been previously resolved and should not longer be reflected as being overdue.

We have noted this comment in the prior two reports.

We recommend the County Court review the Overdue Case Account Report on an ongoing, timely basis and take action, when appropriate, to further collect and/or resolve the balances overdue the County Court.

County Court's Response: I have taken the steps to ensure that the Overdue Balance report is reviewed on a monthly basis and that steps are taken to further collect and/or resolve the balances overdue the County Court.

It should be noted this report is critical in nature as it contains only our comment and recommendation on the area noted for improvement and does not include our observations on any accounting strengths of the County Court.

Draft copies of this report were furnished to the County Court to provide them an opportunity to review the report and to respond to the comment and recommendation included in this report. The formal response received has been incorporated into this report. The response has been objectively evaluated and recognized, as appropriate, in the report. A response that indicates corrective action has been taken was not verified at this time, but will be verified in the next examination.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended to our auditors during the course of the examination.



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LINCOLN COUNTY COURT

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

We have examined the accompanying Schedule of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of Lincoln County Court as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. The County Court's management is responsible for the Schedule. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the Schedule and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the Schedule referred to above presents, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the Agency Funds of Lincoln County Court as of June 30, 2008, and the related activity for the fiscal year then ended, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court as described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 21, 2009, on our consideration of Lincoln County Court's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an attestation engagement performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our examination.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Supreme Court, others within the County Court, and the appropriate Federal and regulatory agencies; however, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Signed Original on File

January 21, 2009

Deann Haeffner, CPA
Assistant Deputy Auditor

LINCOLN COUNTY COURT
 NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
AGENCY FUNDS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008

	Balance July 1, 2007	Additions	Deductions	Balance June 30, 2008
ASSETS				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 352,989	\$ 2,477,142	\$ 2,341,079	\$ 489,052
 LIABILITIES				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 27,694	\$ 326,800	\$ 326,364	\$ 28,130
Law Enforcement Fees	2,198	26,115	26,225	2,088
State Judges Retirement Fund	8,463	104,488	104,657	8,294
Court Administrative Fees	15,486	186,606	186,762	15,330
Legal Services Fees	10,285	124,211	124,539	9,957
 Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	51,968	644,897	641,419	55,446
Overload Fines	17,420	313,705	299,325	31,800
Regular Fees	1,814	42,303	41,396	2,721
Petty Cash Fund	50	-	-	50
 Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	771	15,694	15,399	1,066
Regular Fees	488	5,165	4,849	804
Trust Fund Payable	216,352	687,158	570,144	333,366
Total Liabilities	\$ 352,989	\$ 2,477,142	\$ 2,341,079	\$ 489,052

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

LINCOLN COUNTY COURT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL SCHEDULE
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008

1. Criteria

A. Reporting Entity

The Lincoln County Court is established by State Statute and is administratively operated through the Court Administrator's Office of the Nebraska Supreme Court, which is part of the State of Nebraska reporting entity. The Schedule of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of the County Court reflect only the Agency Funds activity of the County Court; the receipts, and their subsequent disbursement to the appropriate entities for which they were collected. The Schedule does not reflect the personal services expenses of the County Court, which are paid by the Nebraska Supreme Court, or the operating expenses, which are paid by Lincoln County.

B. Basis of Accounting

The accounting records of the County Court Agency Funds are maintained, and the Schedule of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions have been prepared, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Under this system of accounting, fines, fees, and receipts relating to trust funds are shown as additions to assets and as an increase in the related liability when received. Likewise, disbursements are shown as deductions to assets and a decrease in the related liability when a check is written.

2. Deposits and Investments

Funds held by the County Court are deposited and invested in accordance with rules issued by the Supreme Court as directed by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-2713 (Reissue 2008). Funds are generally consolidated in an interest-bearing checking account; however, the County Court may order certain trust funds to be invested separately. Any deposits in excess of the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation are required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-2326.04 (Reissue 2003) to be secured either by a surety bond or as provided in the Public Funds Deposit Security Act.



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LINCOLN COUNTY COURT REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN EXAMINATION OF THE FINANCIAL SCHEDULE PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

We have examined the accompanying Schedule of Lincoln County Court as of and for the year ended June 30, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated January 21, 2009. We conducted our examination in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our examination, we considered Lincoln County Court's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the Schedule, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Court's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Court's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's Schedule that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the Schedule will not be prevented or detected by the County Court's internal control.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Lincoln County Court's Schedule is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of Schedule amounts; however, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The County Court's written response to the findings identified in our examination are described in the Comments Section of the report. We did not examine the County Court's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Supreme Court, others within the County Court, and the appropriate Federal and regulatory agencies; however, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Signed Original on File

January 21, 2009

Deann Haeffner, CPA
Assistant Deputy Auditor