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State Audit Exposes Apparent Fraud at Norfolk Senior Center

Nebraska State Auditor Mike Foley announced today the release of a new report alleging that the former director of the Norfolk Senior Center (Center) pilfered tens of thousands of dollars from that facility. Her techniques appear to have involved, according to Foley, padding her paychecks with multiple unapproved salary increases and making inappropriate personal use of the Center's credit card.

The former director's cumulative approved salary over the three-year period from 2023 through 2025 was slightly under \$120,000, yet she pocketed almost \$154,000 in pay during that time. The audit team believes, moreover, that her inappropriate credit card usage totaled approximately \$900 for expenses at spas, an online jewelry outlet, and clothing boutiques.

Additionally, the auditors identified another 190 expenditures, totaling \$75,470, made with the Center's credit card that were likely personal in nature. The items purchased, the report explains, often appeared incongruous with the legitimate expenses of a senior center. Furthermore, some \$10,000 in gift cards were procured, ostensibly for use as volunteer incentive and retention perquisites; however, the former director's extremely shoddy record keeping made it virtually impossible to identify not only the actual recipients of the gift cards but also when those rewards were supposedly disbursed.

Another 129 purchases, totaling \$14,871, with the Center's credit card at Amazon.com and various retailers suffered from a similar impediment due to a glaring lack of supporting documentation, such as itemized receipts, effectively masking the true beneficiary of those expenditures.

The entire matter is now in the hands of the Madison County Attorney, who is utilizing the work of the audit team to pursue criminal charges against the former director.

"This is yet another chapter," Foley observed, "in a long and regrettable saga of perhaps disengaged boards of directors for nonprofit entities being hoodwinked by unscrupulous supervisors under their control."

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