

**Plain Talk: Lawmaker involved in AG's office space scandal rips auditor for 'gotcha audit' (inforum.com) November 2, 2022**

**Rob Port:** Welcome to Plain Talk and you know something that has made news a lot recently in the attorney general's office, and in fact it's been making headlines for months is a building project which when, aww, Attorney General Wayne Stenhje, or excuse me Attorney General Drew Wrigley, our current attorney general, was appointed to replace, a former Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. Umm, shortly after that happened, a Wrigley notified, first the state auditor's office, and then the legislature that there as a very large budget overrun in that office related to a, a, I call it "a building project" I guess that's part of it but basically it was new office space for the BCI and some other departments in the attorney general's office. Umm, after that, you know we had kind of a cascading series of scandals where, a, it came out that some email accounts that where, my, myself and others had filed open records requests for emails from the attorney general, from the deputy attorney general, Troy Seibel and those requests were in, in part resulted in no rec, we got some records, I shouldn't say that, but, but you know a lot of the records were gone. The email accounts were deleted. That made headlines. Now we're down to the question of whether or not this deal, this, this lease that was drawn up with a company that one of the owners is a lawmaker. That lawmaker joins us, Representative Jason Dockter he's a republican from Bismarck, of course joining me as he always does on Wednesdays is Chad Oban. Jason, how you doing?

**Jason Dockter:** Good, good, thanks for having me on.

**Rob Port:** There was an audit report, that I think you would probably agree with me, made this situation look very negative for you. Umm, and I guess, first of all just tell us about

that. I mean that came out, that certainly gave the public impression of what, what went on, you know, what was your reaction, what do you have to say about it?

**Jason Dockter:** Well, aw, my reaction, I was pretty shocked cause I was actually at the North Dakota Greater Chamber, I was on a panel and I knew that the they were gong to give the report in the afternoon, and that if I recall I believe that over 25 emails we received from the auditor and we had two in person meetings and then my business partner had one more to show, a, a tour of the building. And at no time did they bring up any of these issues that they felt were issues that they brought in the report. They never once contacted us about those issues. So from my perspective I was like, if they had something that they weren't sure of or anything, they would have been emailing us or talking to us about that to see if we have the documentation, what's the reasoning for this. So then they can give a complete report. In my eyes, it was an inaccurate and incomplete report and, aw, I don't know if you read the Tribune article, he bas..., the auditor basically said they didn't have enough time. Well, why didn't they contact the Senator Klein, the chairman and say can we have more time. Instead, what he did is put an incomplete report, was dragging people through the mud and I just want to say this isn't new. I mean we can go back to the state library. We can go to the department of commerce. These are things that the auditor has done in the past and from what I see this is what he did with this report.

**Chad Oban:** So, Representative Dockter, umm, you know, reading the, the response from, from your Attorney Monte Rogneby, I'm going to be honest I didn't read the whole thing. It's 800 pages. I read maybe the first 10. Ummm,

**Jason Dockter:** So you, you actually have a life then because...

**Chad Oban:** Yeah, exactly right. So can you sort of talk through, you know one of the things that I don't think that people necessarily understand is so you have, DNS, LLC. Which then does business under Parkway Property Management and then also as Frontier Contracting and so there's these 3 different companies, why are there 3 different companies and isn't that part of the confusion that who's doing what and I think it's the same owners for all 3 companies, right? Can you just sort of explain the thought process of why you set up these businesses the way you did?

**Jason Dockter:** Okay, yep and, and aww, to let you know that actually too, so what it is it's DNS doing business as, doing business as they call them dbas as Parkway Property. Aww, my business partner and I we bought the business in late 2015 and it was already call Parkway so we had to set up an entity that, aww, that was separate but we use as a dba. Aww, when we purchased the building, or a building, the business there was also aww, they had a maintenance/repair company within Parkway and we felt at the time we need to have a separate entity in order to do these repairs and everything so we can keep track for an accounting. So, then we formed Frontier Contracting. So we're the same owners and it's for accounting and so basically there, they call um you know subsidiary or there together with the same owners but separate for accounting purposes because at any time we felt if we ever down the road wanted to sell the maintenance we could just sell the Frontier part. If we wanted to sell the management part we would just sell DNS and how we bought the business it took us awhile to figure, cause it was a little confusing cause everything was co-mingled and that's why we did it.

**Chad Oban:** So, so, it, it, Rob I'm going jump in just..

**Jason Dockter:** Go ahead.

**Chad Oban:** So just to be clear that contractor license was not held by Frontier Contracting it's actually held by DNS, LLC.?

**Jason Dockter:** Correct, with Parkway. Yep and the reason for that is Frontier Contracting actually does not have any employees. We have vehicles, we have equipment, so what we have it's called a common paymaster and what that is you can have two companies that with the same owners and you pay so, DNS has all the employees, we do all the work, so we have all of our insurance and our contractor's license through DNS which is Parkway Property and then we have Frontier Contracting. You know, as the report reflects and going forward we should have had Frontier Contracting dba Parkway. So there was the confusing. I, I fully, I will admit that we, we our invoices should have stated that so the confusion but that's how we always done our business to separate you know everything out so Frontier Contracting, umm, doesn't have any employees, we don't you know so all of our workforce safety, job service, everything is all under DNS dba Parkway.

**Rob Port:** Jason, I think one concern that a lot of people have had about this is, is your involvement cause you're, you're a state lawmaker, aww, and you are also involved in, in the form where this deal was done under the former attorney general, you were involved in his campaign. When I'm reading the report, and by the way those of you listening to this, I'm embedding the entire 816 page report and series of documents that came from Representative Dockter's attorney, umm, that will be embedded in the news article that's with this. So, if you want to look at that you can certainly find that Inforum, all the places where this podcast publishes where most of you listen to it, umm, as I'm reading that on page 8 it's point, I think it's point number 55, it says that report incorrectly questions how

Dockter became involved in this project as noted above, the genesis was an informal conversation between Dockter and Director Grabowska, who's the director of the BCI, I believe if I'm getting that right. Umm,

**Jason Dockter:** That's correct.

**Rob Port:** Which resulted in further communications between Parkway and the attorney general and the office of management and budget. Then it goes on and this is point 57 and you're really stressing here, and reports stresses that Stealth did not purchase the building before securing the lease with the attorney general. The finding is incomplete. Parkway executed a purchase agreement and paid \$30,000 in earnest money on the building which was not contingent on any agreement with the attorney general. Now, Jason, I'm reading those two things and I'm thinking, it feels like you're making distinctions without a difference. Like, the, the, the you had an informal conversation with somebody at BCI, based on that informal conversation you enter into a purchase agreement for a building you'd like to lease to the general off, attorney general's office so I realize your purchase agreement wasn't contingent on the AG's office coming in but I think a lot of people are looking at, saying this is a state lawmaker who's good friends with the attorney general's office. Do you understand how that might appear to the public?

**Jason Dockter:** Ohh, yeah, Rob, yes, I, totally agree, so if I , I'll back up and kind of walk through everything,

**Rob Port:** Sure.

**Jason Dockter:** So everything you said was correct. So let's go to the purchase agreement, so in November we actually did a purchase agreement. We went back and

forth on the pricing and then on December 5<sup>th</sup> we executed a purchase agreement and that we were going to buy the building. And where it comes in where the attorney general and their lease, umm, wasn't contingent on this sale. The building, so the building is actually it's approximately 42,000 square feet so Chad you would remember the old Sykes building in Bismarck. It's two buildings and Rob they have the same exact building in Minot.

**Rob Port:** I used to work in that building at one point.

**Jason Dockter:** Oh, okay, so you would know.

**Rob Port:** I worked for Sykes when I was in high school actually, yeah.

**Jason Dockter:** Ok, small world. So half of it would, when we executed the purchase agreement was already leased out by the health department. The other half was leased out by ITD because they have the debacle with their building where they have those all issues and they had to move out. So, when we did the purchase agreement, our, and we already talked to the AG, our intent was okay, we're gonna buy this building, we know that half of its gonna be leased no matter what to the health department. We know that ITD is, is gonna move out cause they, I, I can't remember the end date but that be month to month but they already knew that they were moving out cause they were going to go back to their building. That was their whole intent. And so when we went to the bank, you go, so they go on the numbers and they say okay what, what are you gonna, you know, so we have half of it leased out and they are okay, yep, numbers works. Well, then when we got farther along with the AG and AG says yep we're gonna go along with this but we want these remodeling costs and then we want to do an addition. Well, once that

triggered the bank says okay you're gonna have to have a lease because were not gonna give you an operating loan or extra funding to do a build out and do a new, umm, building without having a lease. It's no different than if I was a farmer and I wanted to rent out more land and I go and I go, to my banker and say you know I need an operating loan for all my inputs and everything. The first thing the banker is gonna say is where's the lease that we have. Even though you're not going to do it until next year we need to have a lease in place cause we have to know are you going to be able to pay it back. And that was our whole thing is that we were going to buy the building and we could have made a cash flow just with the health department but once the AG established that they want, they need the remodeling we had to get the signed agreement or the bank wouldn't give you the extra funds to do the remodel. No one would in their right mind would remodel and do a new building without having a lease in place and no bank would ever, unless you pay cash. We couldn't pay cash we financed the building. The, no bank would give you the loan. Does that make sense?

**Rob Port:** Yeah, I mean, I, I think that makes sense. I, I think what your status as a lawmaker I think is the variable that a lot of people are having a hard time. How many of us can, can cut a multi-million-dollar deal with the state government based on an informal conversation? You know, does, does, does other property managers have that or I guess I don't know what to call it developers or property landlords. Do they have that sort of access to the state government where they can have an informal conversation, and, can I mean, at the very least you had at least some, a good idea. I mean it seemed like you were betting that the attorney general's office would probably lease. I think people are

really worried about that level of access that, that you had a level of access that other people who might be competing with you for the state's business don't have.

**Jason Dockter:** Well, you know, my answer would be that, and we can go back to the report or whatever, but is as everyone can see by the report in 2016 the attorney general was already looking and they would have purchased Sax the grade school but it got bought by a church. I don't know what church, but there's a church now that in that location and they also looked at the Sears building. They're looking at different buildings. There are people, there are other lawmakers that have, aww, you know have leases with the state. We gave them, I had the informal conversation. I went to a realtor they said this is something that could work and as it states in the report, aww, Troy Seibel said here we need to have drawings to see if it can fit. And, you know they had other projects that you, you know that come and go. I do this, Rob, we do this all the time, we do projects. We get some, we don't get some. It just all depends there's just so many variables that go through and as you can see by the report they didn't real, sign the lease until April. Until then we were you know 6 weeks out we were gonna buy the building regardless, that's just how things happened. You know and we always talk in North Dakota we're a citizen legislature. You know we meet every two years for 80 days. We, we you know, we talk about this. We pride ourselves on that but now people are coming and saying okay the private citizen Jason Dockter not the representative should he be able to get this opportunity. My question, my answer is I have to make a living. Was the lease, was the lease appropriate? Was it a fair market? And you know the answer is yes. I'll go back to the report. So the auditor when they met with us I said well their branch is actually less. And she goes well that's not true per square foot cause it's 2600 hundred square feet less



than their previous building and my answer would be the AG looked at it and they said in the drawing okay we can fit the same amount then our current building and as you know Rob, working there, the Sykes building is just a big open. There's no really hallways or anything. There's no... The usable space is max. Where their old building BCI they had all these hallways and different things that, umm, that made it so they still had to pay rent but wasn't usable space and so if you look at the numbers that 950 a square foot and you take it times that 2600 it's approximately \$25,000 a year. The AG was going to save by moving from their current location, their previous location, to the current one and through all this they got everything custom they wanted they also got, they also rec., they got a shop and then the original plan the shop was only one bay, they added another bay. So they got everything they want and the goal we always talk about in the legislature how can the government become more efficient. Well, this is a prime example. You take several different agencies that were scattered out through the town, putting them together to be more efficient to save money on rent and to get a building that's functional for them because BCI is a very unique, umm, agency. I mean there are law enforcement for the attorney general and with the current location, Chad, can verify where the current location is. The BCI is right by the crime lab now. They are very close. The crime lab. They need to be by the highway to have access to get to other cities. It, there was all these you know things that the AG had to look at and make a decision and so this they got a custom building and they had their rent reduced.

**Chad Oban:** So, Representative Dockter, I think we're sort of glossing over some of the ethical concerns um, that, that people are concerned about so again going back to the report from um Monte Rogneby, it'd be on page 2 under facts. It says during the 2019

legislative session, so, you were working as a legislator this was during the session. Dockter had an informal conversation with Lonnie Grabowska, Division Director of BCI North Dakota office of attorney general at the state capitol. Mr. Grabowska indicated the attorney general had been searching for a building in Bismarck to lease for the BCI. Dockter indicated to Director Grabowska that Parkway could assist the attorney general. Dockter asked whether Director Grabowska wanted assistance for the building. So, you are a sitting legislator, at the state capitol during the legislative session, when the attorney general's budget is before the legislature and you have an informal conversation about this. Can, first of all, did you consider recusing yourself from any issues having to do with the attorney general's budget, but secondly, can you not see the potential conflicts of a sitting legislator soliciting business from a state agency during the legislative session? I mean you're talking about citizen versus legislator but literally in the report that you provided you said it was during the session at the capitol. This wasn't citizen Jason Dockter, this was Representative Dockter, aww, in the capitol having this conversation. Can you like, can you see why that sort of reeks and why people would be uncomfortable with that even if the end product was good? How you got there just seems icky, aww, for lack of better words. Can you respond to that? I mean, it just doesn't seem like this is an option that most, most contractors, most people would have, umm, you know when they're voting for the attorney general's budget?

**Jason Dockter:** Well, I, I, I can tell you how the conversation went and yeah, it, it, it looks like conflict but again, I'm, I'm a citizen, I've known, you know, Grabowska for a long time. We, in the hallway were talking about a committee thing and then I said, we got on something on the building cause where my current office is at, I'm right south of Capital

Electric in Bismarck and there's was on the end. And I said congratu..., cause I think Lonnie just got the BCI director job just very before this conversation, I said hey congratulations, hey by the way I think your office is right up the street and then that's, from my office, and that's how we got on the conversation and we came to that. All the documentations there, yes, the conflict, but again it's, if he says yeah we're looking for a building and this is what my business does, do I just say well, you know, we've looked at the opportunity, we presented it, the AG made a decision. They're saving money on rent, they got a custom building and now what you see with the findings and after because this whole time and the auditor didn't present it, they were estimates because they wanted to have everything paid in the 21 Biennium. Now that you look, we're actually, the, we're gonna owe back the state because we did some electrical work where they didn't have to get a new generator, they got to use their current generator that they had for the some of their divisions and we saved other money and so at the end of the day taxpayers gonna say what do they have a reasonable rent rate. Okay and they saved money, they got everything, they got everything that they wanted to be efficient and at the end of the day people are gonna make conclusions. Umm, I, I completely understand what the conflict but again we had a conversation, I had conversations with, with people all the time and people will say, they'll come up to me and say well, Doc, how did you get this, how did you get so and so to rent a building or to do a building over here with your property management? While I was in grade school with them. You know I was whatever I'm, I'm I'm a lifelong resident of Bismarck. I'm, I just know people for years and I, I, I pride myself. I have great relationships with people. I'm honest and upfront and I always with people and if people are going to look at that I mean then you know, I don't know what to say. It,

it it's one thing if I got a lease and lease is \$3 more a square foot and the state's paying this much more, and they have this and that well then that would, but this is with them, you had O and B you had the attorney general, you had all these different areas looking at this to make sure this was good lease. A fair lease and it as going to fit what the AG's office wanted. There was just, not just not one person, there were several people involved with this decision.

**Rob Port:** Do you, do you feel cause, cause, you're, you're right there were a lot of people who signed off this, umm, they're state employees, aww and aww, obviously most of them not elected. I mean I think the only person involved in the AG's offices was elected would be former AG Wayne Stenehjem. Is that not part of the conflict though? I mean you're talking about people whose budgets you vote on, right? I mean if you're a state employee and you're being asked by state lawmaker, hey, what do you think of this proposal? If it's, if it's just a member of the public there's an added, I, I, I think consideration there where they're like well, hey, his guy also votes on my budget, ummm. Ummm, now would you do that Jason, would you if you didn't get a contract and, and would you take you know retribution on them and in, in in committee on a budget or something? I mean I'd like to think that you wouldn't but let's say it's not you I mean. I mean should other lawmakers be able to will that sort of power, I mean maybe not everybody's, Jason Dockter. Do you understand what I'm saying?

**Jason Dockter:** No, I, Rob, I totally get it and if you look at my voting records, there's only a few budgets I've ever voted no on. I usually go with the recommendation of what aww, you know appropriations.

**Rob Port:** Yeah.

**Jason Dockter:** Awe, yeah there, there is a bill, there is a bill floating around that aww, that will probably come next session that you have to recuse yourself of voting on budgets. I have no problem. I, I stand up on conflict, you can look back, I don't know the date, but I've stood up you know aww, on other conflicts of interest too. If, if, if that's what people want, I mean, it's no different than should I stand up if I'm a teacher and recuse myself that I'm going to vote on an education budget. Where are we gonna go or there's something with for farmers or there's something for engineers or attorneys. Are we all just gonna keep standing up? I mean I'm a big proponent of education. Do I expect educators to stand up and say well no I don't like this formula because my school district is gonna give me a \$3,000 raise? No. Because we are citizens. I, it, it comes to a point what people want us to do I will do it. I'll recuse myself, do whatever but at what point do people have to you know we give more money to law enforcement. Somebody is in law enforcement. Someone's a social worker. We've been giving more to DHS so social workers get paid more. I'm all for that we need social workers to get paid better. We have social workers in legislature. Do they stand up and recuse themselves? No, because people know that we are citizens we have other lives besides the legislature and aww, no know that's just how it goes. So, if I have to recuse myself, I, I have no problem. Anyone else, any other lawmakers that have leases with the state they can recuse themselves too of any budgets that they have.

**Chad Oban:** Yeah, yeah and I think those are all umm, fair points in terms of recusal and I'm actually I don't think there should be any sort of bans on, umm, state legislators owning property and leasing it to the state. I think that again I think you are a citizen. What I think makes this slightly different is the conversation took place while you were a

sitting legislator and while this stuff was going on and you know and it, you know I guess my question for you Representative Dockter is it normal practice for state legislators to solicit business during the legislative session from state entities? I can't imagine that's a normal practice during the legislative session.

**Jason Dockter:** Well, what I'll say is that is I'm a legislator. When I'm elected I'm a legislator for four years. Every day regardless if I'm in during session, out of session I'm a lawmaker, constituents call me all the time. I'm always a law... so yeah, it was at the capitol, an informal conversation, I've known Lonnie for years. It was just an informal, aww, aww conversation I, you know I, I I gave everything in as in the auditor's report. They wouldn't put the emails that said that, that aww, Director Grabowska and them reached back out to us and said yeah we would like to have a meeting. The auditor just forgot to, to include that information, forgot to include a lot of things. He wanted it in there to go down a road and and you know I'm a lawmaker and I'm a citizen but all my other partners are all private citizens. And the path that the auditors took on this is to me, is unbelievable. To me it's, it's to go after private citizens to put a report that one of the owners basically got paid for work, you know and couldn't verify the invoice and to drag them through the mud is totally different than going when he went after the commerce and the, aww, the state librarian. Those are state people that he went after but this he specifically went after private citizens without getting back, without asking them for any of the information the, to me it's so unacceptable and I can't even believe that private citizens would have to go through this. You know getting back to the entity – by law it's called L and go under LLCs so if you have twenty people you don't have to list everyone. We legally could say, we could have told the auditor nope we don't want to do this. What we

did is what they call in the business world piercing an LLC. We revealed who the owners were. We didn't have to, we could just say go ahead but I was, Chad, I was being as transparent as anything, we gave all the information. I'm as transparent and umm up you know, I'm as honest as I will tell you anything. We gave all of our emails up. We didn't have to give our emails up. I mean the, the whole issue was okay, they lost these emails with the AG so we said we'll give all our correspondence that we did have and so they could get, they could figure out what was going on. But in the end the auditor decided to pick and choose and do their own narrative then to actually come back and get all the facts.

**Rob Port:** The, the fact that the those two email accounts were, were, were deleted and you know, hopefully at some point we can get what was lost back unfortunately casts a shadow over all of this and that's, that's not your fault, Representative Dockter.

**Jason Dockter:** Right.

**Rob Port:** But it does, I mean it makes this whole thing for everybody trying to find the truth it makes it complicated because there's a blank spot on the map right in the middle of all of this. Umm, one question I had is you talked about the attorney general's office making, umm, I don't know what you want to call prepayments ,umm, but I'm reading here this is from page 7 of your attorney's report, umm, it's point 48, umm, and you refer to this a little. It said that the total project costs were lower the previously estimated. As a result, the attorney general has overpaid it's share of construction expenses by \$224,000. That's almost a quarter, is that typical where the taxpayers prepay like that and then end up, oh, you know, I mean I guess it's nice that the taxpayers will get a quarter of a million dollars

back but is it normal that the state would overpay or prepay and then get some much? That seems really odd to me.

**Jason Dockter:** Yeah, the, ha, again this, this was not the norm. We were given the, umm, by the AG's office that we had to have it as completes because they have money in their budget to complete by the 2021 Biennium. So, no this is not the norm and the \$224,000 so actually what, what happened once we come up and they said were going to be short by this amount. We added it to their, umm, to their, umm a lease rate cause the lease rate was \$950 and it went up to like eleven, I can't remember the amount and it would come back once this was paid off so really the attorney general, umm, his paid extra rent since July 1, 2021 until current and so that whole amount they haven't paid but we still owe them that amount, if that makes sense. Cause what we did, we just added on to the per-rate the \$950. We added a square foot what it would be paid off in 5 years and they've only paid a portion cause we are only a year and a half of the five years. So the total, yes, is two..., yes and that is not the norm but we again we were instructed that we need to have it so we can pay it for in the budget and they were moving in and so yes. And

**Rob Port:** Can you understand how people might look at that the wonder, wonder if we would be getting the money back if, if this hadn't blown up into the news media?

**Jason Dockter:** Oh yeah, we always had, they always had the AG always knew this was an estimate. We actually paid one of our last invoices in October 21<sup>st</sup>. We paid invoice. We had to get landscaping. We had to get everything with the supply chain and everything. We couldn't get some of the things done. The AG's office was fully aware this whole time it was an estimate. And so when they talk about cost overruns technically



in this instance it's not an overrun. They, they had changes to what they wanted and cut and then when the project was finished now we now what the final project is and what the final AG. The AG isn't, they're getting \$224,000 back and they had all the money in their budget for 2021 so really did they have an overrun. No, they had the money in the budget but people made that perception cause we tried to you know explain it's an estimate. We did not know what the costs were and thank goodness they didn't need a new generator. We could figure it out to use their current one. Trying to save the taxpayers money. I'm a conservative guy. I, you know, you go to, we're trying to do the best that you can do for the state to have a product that they can have. They have lower rent, like they got and they got everything they had because what, what BCI like I said they're very, umm, they're a very unique agency. They have bullet proof panels when you walked in. A lot of extra costs. They custom things that a normal place would not need. They needed special things for evidence room. They need, you know they need all these specialty items that's for law enforcement. It's no different than when our Burleigh County jail was built. They had all these, and people were wondering the costs. Well, when you're doing a jail, you're doing extra things that's just not like your building a house or regular office building.

**Chad Oban:** Representative Dockter I have one question, I know we're running short on time.

**Jason Dockter:** Okay.

**Chad Oban:** Umm, you, you've been critical of Josh Gallion's audit report here that it, it's somewhat incomplete. You guys weren't able to get your, you know positions in to this report before it was given to the, the committee. So Josh Gallion's the same party as you are, can you help the listeners understand what Gallion's motivation would be to

making you look bad because at the end of the day it's hard to put the toothpaste back in the tube after that initial story came out so what would the motivation be for the auditor to, to do this to make you look bad?

**Jason Dockter:** You know, haha, that's a great question. You know, um, I mean I'm not part of the you call them the bossyots? or the ultra- conservative. I'm not part of that, that group and like I mentioned before the auditors have a pattern, he wants these "gotcha audits." He wants to come out and make the news. I don't know why he does it. Yes, we are in the same party but it, it just to me, it doesn't matter Chad if were, if I'm a republican or if it's a democrat this should never, ever happen to any private citizen or lawmaker or state agency. The department of commerce and the state library, I, I can't even, I won't even go into that how disturbing that is. You know, I don't know it's almost like the auditor, he, he, he did a narrative to make headlines instead of trying to get all the facts. And then to come out in the paper and say well we were rushed to have enough time. Get a hold of us. Find out. Were not the only one. I mean we had the DHS this summer I think six million dollars. I know the person that's part of that was given information but they never, typically before, before Josh Gallion took over, the auditors would go to the individuals and say hey we have an issue can you help us out. I, I own a payroll company. We have sales talks at audits all the time for our client's and the first thing the auditors if they're missing something. Hey, I'm missing invoice, dadada. Can you get that back to me? We give it to em and they go and they file a report. That's how it should go but for some reason this auditor goes through these and then comes up with these "gotcha audits" and it creates a lot of anxiety for people and it, it, it doesn't need to happen. Yes, do your job be a watch dog, that's great, but make sure to get all your facts

and everything before you present a report that people are going to see. And I don't know if that answer to I, I, just, I, I, I you know to me there's just a pattern here. I'm not the first one. I'm the first lawmaker but there's been pattern. I mean you can go question so and you know all these different audits and to me it's just the pattern and you know they mention them, the committee Represent Kempenich we have trust issues. I think we have a trust issue with the state auditor's office on are they doing accurate, are they doing accurate, you know, you know so we these, audits. So if we get one in the future are we going to say okay was everything completed? Was everything done to you know the standards? I mean they're strict standards for auditors. Most CPAs now will not even want to, to be an auditor cause there are so many liability issues. Cause you have to have everything in line so things like what happened to us, happen to commerce and they state library. In the private sector there'd be lawsuits and everything all over because they didn't do their job.

**Rob Port:** Jason we are about five minutes over. I thank you so much for making, your time available. I did want to ask one last question, knowing what you know now going back to the beginning of this deal, would you do anything different?

**Jason Dockter:** Oh, Rob, great question, like, like with anything you would do, you would do, you would do things different. Should we, you know, you know after that conversation, should I just let it go and just go on my way? Should I you know, yeah there's a lot of things you'd do like the invoicing. That's a prime example. It should have been Frontier Contracting dba Parkway so people can you know, to, to figure that out. Yes, like I always and even with this audit report or anything. Every audit does have deficiencies. It's just getting the facts and everything out. Yes, could we have done, could we have done things

differently. Yes, I totally, and to Chad's point, you know the conflict, yes how it looks umm, in my eyes I, I, I know that at the end of the day cause my parents always you know taught me honest.

**Rob Port:** Well, Jason I appreciate your time in coming on and like I said we are over. Your very generous with your time today. I appreciate it. Thanks for talking with us.