

Q&A Regarding Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

What are we doing now that Mr. Malatesta has been arrested?

- We continue to cooperate with the State's Attorney's office.
- We are filing a civil suit against Mr. Malatesta and all other participating parties to recoup our losses
- We are in the process of hiring a permanent replacement for Mr. Malatesta (Mr. Bill Fetzner has been serving as interim Director of Buildings and Grounds since Mr. Malatesta's termination.)

Is anyone else in the district involved?

No.

How do you know that?

We've conducted extensive internal interviews with staff in the warehouse and in the buildings. Additional investigations have been conducted by the State's Attorney's office. Those investigations have been closed.

Don Robinson? Why is he on administrative leave?

- Mr. Robinson's leave has absolutely nothing to do with the Malatesta case. In fact, Mr. Robinson was instrumental in bringing this matter to light. This matter was going on before Mr. Robinson arrived in the district, and was halted during his tenure.
- Privacy laws prohibit public discussion of personnel matters.

How could this happen in Oak Park?

- Unfortunately, whenever large amounts of money are being collected and disseminated, the opportunity for crime exists.
- The protection of anyone's dollars is predicated on people not breaking the law.
- In our attempt to slow the depletion of the district's reserves, we made cuts in the business/maintenance offices several years ago. We trusted the wrong person to oversee the buildings and grounds

Don't you have procedures in place to prevent this?/ What are we doing to ensure this doesn't happen again?

- Yes, there have been procedures in place, and we have been tightening those procedures based on the Crowe Chizek procedural review of the business and human resources office report of 2006.
- We also have a policy committee in place, examining each policy and creating new policies as deemed appropriate.
- We have been cross/training staff in those departments, strengthening checks and balances between employees.
- We have a Finance Oversight and Review Committee of community members and staff.

- We are continuing to look at every aspect of operations and making adjustments to prevent this from happening in the future

How is this good stewardship of taxpayers' dollars?

- The discrepancies were discovered as the district was seeking ways to save taxpayers' dollars. We're always looking at ways to do things better, more efficiently, and because of that we discovered the discrepancies.
- Once the discrepancies were discovered, we determined that the cost impact of a thorough investigation would be minimized if we turned the evidence over to the State's Attorney's office.
- We have cooperated with the State's Attorney's office to protect the completion of the investigation.
- We have filed a civil law suit to recoup our losses

Will heads roll?

Mr. Malatesta was terminated September 25, 2007. We believe Mr. Malatesta was acting independently.

Could incriminating documents have been destroyed?

Technology for the B&G Supervisor was suspended immediately, and relevant documents were removed from the premises as soon as discrepancies were noted.

How much loss has the district suffered?

We are told that the district has been defrauded in excess of \$700,000.

What happens now?

- We will continue to cooperate with the State's Attorney in this matter.
- A plan for managing the O&M function during the administrative leave of the supervisor was developed in April 2007 and has been in place since that time.
- An interim director has been overseeing the department since Mr. Malatesta's termination in September, 2007, and he will continue for several more weeks.
- A plan for reorganizing the O&M function has been approved by the board and is in the process of being implemented
- Dr. Collins is in the process of interviewing a Director of Buildings and Grounds.