

May 20, 2019

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board:

My name is Lorie Koertner. I am the duly elected and qualified Treasurer of Lincoln County Nebraska. At the General election in November, 2018 the people of Lincoln County chose me as their Treasurer. I took office on January 3, 2019.

Since then, not one dollar belonging to the County or its political subdivisions has ever been unaccounted for; not one report or account required by law has not been rendered timely except that you forced me out of the office last week, preventing me from meeting the End of month deadline for balancing and paying accounts. If that was a failure, it is on you, not me. I have not committed one act that even remotely justifies discipline. I have not been warned or cautioned.

You voted, on May 13, 2019, after an executive session concealed from me, to order me excluded from my office. You issued instructions to me not to return to the building except as a member of the public, and to stay away from the Treasurer's office. Your order was delivered by the Sheriff and his Deputy. They were very respectful and I thank them for that.

I received a letter on May 15, 2019 saying you would hold a hearing of some *kind* today. I have been given no charges, told of no proposed action, given no information identifying grounds for action asserted against me, and no chance to know who the witnesses are or what the evidence would be to support any charges that might be lodged. I have not been given the right to know what the evidence will be and therefore cannot present a defense, intelligently cross-examine adverse witnesses, or otherwise participate in a meaningful hearing.

Furthermore, if action is to be taken against me I am entitled to an unbiased tribunal. You already met in private session with witnesses against me. You did not include me in your session or give me notice. You heard things that led you to take action when you came out of executive session. You took a vote and were unanimous to direct the Sheriff to throw me out.

You are not unbiased. You prejudged this case. You haven't even articulated charges, but you prejudged me. The notice purportedly given me was not signed by one of you or any elected official and was not assigned by anyone occupying a statutory office. I object to your notice.

The manner in which you handled this has prevented the ability to engage counsel to assist me. I can't even tell a lawyer what you're talking about.

I am here only to object to the notice you have given me and to the entire propriety of this proceeding based on that lack of notice. I have now made my point. I will not waive my objection to notice by remaining in this meeting. In leaving, I underscore it my objection. If you proceed today it will be at your peril, not mine.

Lorie Koertner, Treasurer

