

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-2710**

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO FILE A COMPLAINT FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL OF DAVID B. HOOTEN FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK**

**WHEREAS**, allegations of improper conduct by David B. Hooten, County Clerk, have recently come to the attention of the Board of County Commissioners;

**WHEREAS**, the allegations of improper conduct include the following:

1. In 2017, Hooten hired CJ Cavin to be the Digital Media Correspondent. The duties of the position of Digital Media Correspondent included responsibility for social media.
2. CJ Cavin was the former campaign manager for Hooten during his campaign for County Clerk.
3. On multiple occasions, Hooten requested Cavin to perform campaign functions while working in the County Clerk's Office and being paid with public funds. Cavin declined.
4. Garridy Hamilton was a campaign worker for Hooten during his second campaign for County Clerk.
5. On January 19, 2021, Hooten requested the Board of County Commissioners to approve a contract for social media services to be performed by Garridy Hamilton. By its terms, the contract expired June 30, 2021.
6. Despite the expiration of the contract and without lawful authority, Hooten extended the agreement with Garridy Hamilton and continued to pay him his contracted rate between July 1, 2021 and April 4, 2022. In each instance, payment was made by purchase order approved by the Board of County Commissioners as part of the claims list considered by the Board as a Recurring Agenda Item.
7. According to filings with the Oklahoma Ethics Commission, Garridy Hamilton is Hooten's campaign manager in his current run for State Treasurer.
8. On May 2, 2022, Hooten hired Garridy Hamilton to be a full-time employee of the Oklahoma County Clerk's Office.
9. Hooten has utilized public property and/or public funds to support his political campaign by allowing Garridy Hamilton to perform campaign-related work while working as an employee or contractor of the Oklahoma County Clerk's Office and being paid with public funds.
10. During his first term of office as Oklahoma County Clerk, Hooten hired a number of employees including his former golf caddie and a high school golf coach. During his first term of office and extending into his second term, Hooten has allowed these employees and possibly others to work from home or other remote locations without supervision or other evidence that duties have been performed by these employees in exchange for their salary payments with public funds.

11. In 2017, Hooten began joining, S.C., a female employee of the Clerk's Office, on her daily walks.
12. S.C. did not invite Hooten to join her in her walks but felt that she could not reject him because he was her employer.
13. S.C. describes Hooten as a powerful person who will not accept no as an answer. She describes that it is his way and that is the only way that it is.
14. S.C. believed Hooten to be watching her movements in the office on cameras that he had installed. When S.C. attempted to leave for a walk without detection, Hooten would appear and join her.
15. While walking on one occasion, Hooten asked S.C. to install an application on her smart phone that would allow him to track her movements. S.C. declined.
16. S.C. reported to other co-workers that she did not feel comfortable walking with Hooten.
17. During the same period in 2017, Hooten co-signed for a new vehicle for a female employee, M.H. After the vehicle had been purchased and they returned to the office, Hooten asked, "How many times do you think I can make you cum before we get back to the office?"
18. Hooten's sexual advances made M.H. uncomfortable.
19. Hooten stopped intruding on the daily walks of S.C. after it came to light that he had co-signed on the car loan for M.H., but only because he believed himself to be under investigation for improper conduct with M.H.
20. During working hours on multiple occasions, Hooten approached a female county employee, R.T. Hooten invited R.T. to lunch on multiple occasions.
21. Hooten offered to fund the opening of a hair salon for R.T., but she declined.
22. Hooten's conduct made R.T. uncomfortable and she requested him to stop.
23. On April 26, 2022, Hooten had a meeting with three female employees of the County Clerk's Office, R.C., S.C., and M.S.
24. During the meeting on April 26, 2022, Hooten told R.C., S.C., and M.S. that he was requiring them to attend a team building activity during the workday. Hooten would not disclose where he was taking them, but the women were told that alcohol and gambling would be involved. Hooten further advised that they should dress comfortably because strenuous physical activity was planned and they could be expected to be sore the next day.
25. During the meeting on April 26, 2022, Hooten told R.C., S.C., and M.S. that he had been genetically altered so that alcohol had no effect on him, but that he hoped the alcohol would affect them.
26. During the meeting on April 26, 2022, Hooten told R.C., S.C., and M.S. that attendance at the team building activity was mandatory and that a failure to attend would result in their termination.
27. Following the meeting on April 26, 2022, S.C. and M.S. reported to multiple persons that they were not comfortable with attending the team building event planned by Hooten.

28. On information and belief, other female county employees have been subjected to inappropriate and unwelcome comments and actions by Hooten.

**WHEREAS**, the allegations of improper conduct by David B. Hooten, County Clerk, if proven, are sufficient to establish that he has committed Oppression in Office, Corruption in Office, and/or Willful Maladministration such that he should be removed from office in accordance with Title 22, Section 1181, et seq. of the Oklahoma Statutes;

**WHEREAS**, the allegations of improper conduct by David B. Hooten, County Clerk, are sufficient to justify a request that the District Court suspend him from acting in his capacity as County Clerk until there is a final determination on his removal from office; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the District Attorney to file the attached Petition for Interim Suspension and Removal of David B. Hooten From the Office of County Clerk.

**APPROVED THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2022.**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioner, District 1

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Commissioner, District 2

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Commissioner, District 3

ATTEST:

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County Clerk