

SWITZERLAND CIRCUIT COURT

Switzerland County, Indiana, Clerk

78C01-2009-F5-000372
IN THE SWITZERLAND CIRCUIT

STATE OF INDIANA)
 COURT)

COUNTY OF SWITZERLAND)
 IN THE MATTER OF)
 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION IN)
 SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA)

GENERAL TERM 2020

CAUSE NO. 78C01-

PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT

Comes now Detective Tim Denby, Indiana State Police and hereby swears or affirms as follow:

That at all times pertinent to the matters discussed herein, your affiant has been employed as a Detective with the Indiana State Police.

That on or about the March 25, 2020, your affiant came to investigate Jeff-Craig Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief, Christopher Samuel See who resides at 4302 Smith Ridge Road Vevay, Indiana 47043 (DOB:4-3-83) for allegedly committing the crimes of: Theft, IC 35-43-4-2 Level 6 Felony, Perjury IC 35-44.1-2-1, and Official Misconduct, IC 35-44.1-1-1 Level 6 Felony

On March 25, 2020, I received information that Christopher See made a business filings for the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department Inc. In particular a Business Entity Report and a Change of Officer filing on March 16, 2020 with the Indiana Secretary of State's Office. I contacted the Indiana Secretary of State's Office and received the two filings. In the Business Entity Report, See listed Joseph Fisk as the "Registered Agent", Christopher See as the President with an address of 610 Ferry Street in Vevay, Indiana, he listed Christopher Miller as the Fire Chief with an address of 349 Third Street in Patriot, Indiana, and he changes the address of the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department to 610 Ferry Street in Vevay, Indiana. On April 7, 2020, I interviewed See and he admitted that he never contacted Joseph Fisk about being the "Registered Agent" and admitted that he filed the reports with the Indiana Secretary of State's Office. On May 8, 2020, I spoke with Joseph Fisk. Mr. Fisk told me that See never contacted him to list him as the "Registered Agent" nor does he want to be in that position or have anything to do with the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department. The other facts that were misrepresented in the filings were the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department's address, Miller's address, See's address, and their positions in the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department. See made these filings knowing prior to their illegal meeting and with no "Public Meeting" with the members of the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department and the General Public was held using established "By Laws" for the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department. These two filings made by See to the Indiana Secretary of State were made under the penalties of perjury.

On April 6, 2020, I met Teresa Winter, Brian Winter and Johnny Turner, members of the PVFD, at the PVFD in Patriot, Indiana. Johnny Turner used his key and all of us went inside the PVFD. I photographed the Fire Trucks, the expensive equipment and the items in the back building. There were two places that we did not have access being the garage that had an antique Fire Truck and the Chief's Office that I was told that had all the financial records. After photographing the PVFD and PVFD equipment the PVFD Station was secured and locked up. After looking at the contents of the PVFD buildings, land, Fire Trucks, and all the equipment, I estimated value at over \$250,000.00.

On April 6, 2020, I served a subpoena at First Financial Bank in Vevay, Indiana. I spoke with the Bank Officials at the branch. I was advised that on March 20, 2020, Chris See used a PVFD letter and the Business filings with the Indiana Secretary of State's Office, to have the Bank Officials change the signature cards for the PVFD accounts and took control of all monies for the PVFD. The names added to the PVFD accounts were Christopher Miller 3498 Braytown Road Vevay, Indiana 47043 (DOB:03/23/88), Christopher See 4302 Smith Ridge Road Vevay, Indiana 47043 (DOB: 04/03/83) and Caitlyn Staat 18544 State Road 250 Patriot, Indiana 47038 (DOB: 11/01/00). Bank Officials told me that Chris See provided them with a PVFD Letter which stated to the bank that effective March 19, 2020 that the PVFD would like to update the signer's on the PVFD accounts. The names provided were Miller Fire Chief, See President, and Staat as the Treasurer. They further requested a debit card for

the checking account Bank Officials stated that they verified PVFD by looking online at the Indiana Secretary of State's records. I was provided with the updated signature cards and received the balances for the following PVFD accounts: checking account balance of \$38,456.77, savings account balance of \$9,925.22 and savings account balance of \$127,035.76. According to Bank Officials, See, Miller and Staat had access and control of all Patriot Volunteer Fire Department funds and monies.

On April 7, 2020, I met Christopher See and interviewed him. See agreed to speak to me. I asked See to tell me what was going on with the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department. See told me that WCPO Channel 9 ran a story on the Patriot Volunteer Fire Department. See stated that he and Christopher Miller were interested in starting the PVFD again since the story aired. See stated that he told Miller that Miller was still considered a PVFD Fireman and was still on the roster according to the Indiana Volunteer Fire Association. Due to this fact, he and Miller decided to go forward and start the PVFD. See stated that he reached out to Jason Turner and Johnny Turner who were members of the PVFD. See stated they were unable to reach Jason Turner and Turner never returned his text messages. See stated that they spoke to Johnny Turner and Johnny Turner advised him that he was not interested. See admitted that he never reached out to Wayne Turner. See told me that he and Miller decided to have a meeting on March 19, 2020 at noon at the JCVFD Fire Station. See stated that Caitlyn Staat, Jacob Parker and Lewis Fritter also attended and participated in the meeting start the PVFD. See told me at the meeting the following actions were taken: 1) they elected officers and a Fire Chief, 2) getting quotes for insurance, 3) discussing ways to prevent theft and embezzlement, 4) establishing a C.P.A. to do the books and tax filings, 5) changing the locks on the PVFD Fire Station, 6) installing security systems, 7) a letter was authored and signed to First Financial Bank requesting the bank to change signers on all PVFD accounts and 8) purchasing fire equipment for Parker. See stated that Miller was elected Fire Chief, he was ejected President, Caitlyn Staat was elected Secretary/Treasurer, and Jacob Parker was emplaced as the Assistant Chief for PVFD. See admitted that the established PVFD "By Laws" were not followed. See, Miller, Staat, Parker and Fritter all attended, participated, voted and took positions in the PVFD as a result of the illegal March 19, 2020 meeting.

See admitted that on March 24, 2020 that he, Miller, and Parker went to the PVFD to meet an insurance agent and to see what was inside. According to See, the insurance agent for JCVFD is the same agent that met them at the PVFD. See stated that Miller had a key to the PVFD so Miller used it and made entry into PVFD with he, Parker, and the insurance agent. See stated that Miller and Parker took the hinges off a fire door bay which contained an antique Fire Engine because the electronic key pad was dead and no longer functioning. See stated that the insurance agent took photographs of the Fire Station and station's contents. See told me that they checked some of the trucks fluids and to see if they started. See stated they secured the PVFD Fire Station and left.

I asked some more questions and presented See with some documents. I showed See two Indiana Secretary of State filings. The first filing was a Business Entity filing dated March 16, 2020 and was filed at 10:49 am. See admitted that he submitted this filing via his computer in the JCVFD Office and paid for it with his personal credit card. I asked him to look over the filing and asked him if the report was accurate. See stated that it was. The second filing he reviewed was a change of officer filing done on the same date. I asked him how they could file with the Indiana Secretary of State prior to their March 19, 2020 meeting and tell the State who the officers were prior to the meeting being held. See did not answer my question. I asked See if he contacted Joseph Fisk and if Joseph Fisk agreed to be the Registered Agent. See stated that he did not. I asked him why Christopher Miller's address was incorrect in the filing and he did not reply. I asked See to direct me to the "Public Notice" of the meeting which is required by the Indiana "Open Door" Law for the meeting they held on March 19, 2020. See admitted no public notice was given. See admitted that he was responsible for getting everyone together. I showed See the letter he presented to First Financial Bank dated March 19, 2020 requesting the following: 1) requesting the signers on all PVFD accounts be changed, 2) adding Christopher Miller 3498 Braytown Road Vevay, Indiana 47043, Christopher See 4302 Smith Ridge Road Vevay, Indiana 47043 and Caitlyn Staat 18544 State Road 250 Patriot, Indiana as the new signers, 3) requiring two signatures on all checks, and 4) requesting a debit card for the checking account to be issued. See verified that he signed this letter and it was true and accurate and that he presented this letter to First Financial Bank. I showed See the First Financial Account Agreement papers. The documents showed that now, he, Miller, and Staat were now in control of all PVFD accounts. I asked See if he was aware that PVFD was established in 1980 and if that entity had "By Laws"? See stated he did and acknowledged the "By Laws" that PVFD probably had "By Laws" but he was just trying to establish new "By Laws".

During this entire period, Christopher See was the Fire Chief for the Jeff-Craig Volunteer Fire Department.

That based on the facts contained in the attached case report, your affiant believes that probable cause exists to believe that Christopher Samuel See has committed the following crimes: Conspiracy to commit Fraud on a Financial Institution, IC 35-43-5-8 Level 5 Felony, Conspiracy to commit Theft, IC 35-43-4-2(B) Level 5 Felony, Conspiracy to commit Theft, IC 35-43-4-2(A) Level 6 Felony, Perjury, IC 35-44.1-2-1 Level 6 Felony, and Official Misconduct, IC 35-44.1-1-1 Level 6 Felony.

"I AFFIRM, UNDER THE PENALTIES FOR PERJURY, THAT THE FOREGOING REPRESENTATIONS ARE TRUE.



Detective Tim Denby
Indiana State Police

STATE OF INDIANA

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SS:

COUNTY OF SWITZERLAND

The foregoing having been examined by me this _____ day of _____, 2020, at _____, _____M., this court now finds that it contains facts sufficient to establish probable cause for the arrest and detention of _____, for the crime of _____

W. Gregory Coy, Judge
Switzerland Circuit Court