



**Peggy Taphorn,
Temple Theatre
Producing Artistic Director
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In March 2017, Tom Reeder was hired as the new part-time business manager. He came highly recommended by his full-time employer, Boon Edam, Inc. His experience and credentials were more than sufficient for the position. He was to continue working full-time at Boon Edam, and work 20 hours a week for the Temple, or as needed to fulfill his responsibilities.

In December 2017, Tom Reeder submitted his resignation via email to the Temple's Producing Artistic Director, Peggy Taphorn. From that day on, no one affiliated with the Temple Theatre Company has had any contact with him, despite numerous attempts to reach him.

Mr. Reeder's responsibilities were to manage all of the fundamental accounting tasks at the Temple, including coordinating payroll, reconciling and depositing box office receipts, and paying bills. Mr. Reeder, worked under the supervision of the The Temple Theatre's Producing Artistic Director, Peggy Taphorn, and the Temple Theatre Board of Directors. Additionally, the Temple Theatre is subject to an annual audit conducted each spring. On January 13, during preparation for the Temple annual non-profit audit, it was determined that there were some serious accounting regularities. Upon closer examination, it appeared that the Temple had been the victim of theft.

On January 14, Peggy Taphorn and the Temple Board President filed a criminal complaint against Tom Reeder with the Sanford Police Department. On January 15, the Temple Theatre began a full internal investigation to determine the extent of the improprieties, and the entire organization continues to assist Sanford Police Department with their investigation of this as a criminal matter.

The original complaint filed by the Temple identified \$132,000 as being missing. As time has progressed, it appears that amount is closer to \$150,000. The Temple is a relatively small non-profit, and this is a significant amount of money. However, it will not have any immediate negative impact on the Temple's operations. The Temple has already been able to recoup more than half of the missing funds, and will continue pursuing every possible avenue to obtain the rest.

The Temple Theatre Company has been, and will continue to be, the centerpiece of Lee County arts and tourism. That would not have been possible without the financial support that has come from every corner of the community. The entire organization is thankful for that support, and hopes that this incident does not erode the public's confidence in the Temple's stewardship and fiscal prudence. The Temple Theatre has already put additional financial safeguards in place, and will continue to evaluate its operations to ensure that nothing like this ever occurs again.

Peggy Taphorn: "The irony is that up until a couple years ago, we really had not been able to set any funds aside as a prudent reserve. It was only because we were operating on such a tight budget and being fiscally responsible, that we were finally able to build up some savings with hope of tackling some much needed capital improvements to our buildings. People have asked me, 'How did you not



miss that much money?'. The funds that were stolen were reported as having been used to pay operating expenses. This guy was really good. Maybe the best actor I've ever seen. From June to October pretty much every report he provided was bogus, and no one caught on because it wasn't impacting our overall balances. Without getting too far into the details, there really was no legitimate 'paper trail'. Most of what occurred was done electronically."