

STATE OF MAINE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0135

To: Commissioners

Cc: Joshua A. Tardy, Esq.

Hon. Harold "Trey" Stewart

From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

Date: September 29, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

Re: Additional Information – Agenda Item #3

In response to the request from the Commission Chair, Rep. Harold Stewart provided the attached two invoices from Percy's Auto Sales (8/3/2018) and VIP Tires and Service (7/15/2019) that provides the details of the services reimbursed by Star City PAC. Rep. Stewart did not keep records of miles traveled when volunteering for the PAC, but in the attached email he provided a list of events and meetings from his political calendar.

As additional context for the PAC's July 2019 reimbursement for tires and vehicle services, please be aware that Rep. Stewart (like many State Representatives) conducted extensive travel for *legislative* purposes for which he was reimbursed by the Maine Legislature. The reimbursement assists members in covering the costs of fuel and potentially other costs such as wear and tear on their vehicle or insurance.

The Legislature's vehicle travel reimbursement is calculated according to the number of round trips made by a member from their district to Augusta during a week. (See attached policy.) In 2018-2019, the Legislature reimbursed each member for one round trip at the rate of \$0.44 per mile, as part of a legislative allowance that also covered meals and accommodations. If the member made more than one round trip during a week, those additional trips would be reimbursed at the same rate, but only up to a maximum of \$38 per round trip. Legislators who travel to Augusta between sessions for leadership or committee responsibilities may also be reimbursed at \$0.44 per mile.

PHONE: (207) 287-4179 FAX: (207) 287-6775

Yesterday, I obtained from the Legislature the specific reimbursement amounts received by Rep. Stewart in 2018-2019. During the 2018 and 2019 sessions, Rep. Stewart regularly received reimbursement from the Legislature for one round trip per week from Presque Isle to Augusta (466 miles of travel). Generally, this amounted to roughly \$205 per week, or \$820 for four weeks (although there are some variations). For your information, the reimbursements add up to the following totals for time periods relevant to Rommy Haines' complaint:

Total	Payment Dates
\$3,500.64	January 10 - May 4, 2018 (roughly the Second Regular Session,
	128 th Legislature)
\$2,263.63	June 27 - December 21, 2018 (interim between sessions)
\$6,364.16	January 9 - July 18, 2019 (roughly the First Regular Session of 129 th Legislature, plus a couple weeks after session)

Since Mr. Haines is asking you to consider whether Star City PAC's 7/14/2019 reimbursement of \$1,051.92 to Rep. Stewart for tires and vehicle services amounted to "personal financial enrichment," you should be aware that:

- A large portion of travel conducted by Rep. Stewart in 2019 was for legislative purposes, rather than PAC activities.
- Rep. Stewart received reimbursement from a source other than his PAC for that 2019 travel.

The rate of \$0.44 is the same rate of reimbursement received by some state employees when driving their own vehicle for their state employment. The conventional thinking is that the rate covers not just the employee's fuel, but potentially other costs of travel, such as vehicle wear-and-tear and insurance. That will depend on a number of factors, including the fuel efficiency of the employee's vehicle. I have heard some Legislators comment that the state-employee reimbursement rate does not begin to cover their actual travel expenses.

Thank you for your consideration of this additional information.



PERCY'S AUTO SALES, INC. 40 HOULTON ROAD PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769 PH: (207) 764-4493 FX: (207) 764-8473 www.percysautosales.com

HAROLD L. STEWART III		VEHICLE ID		MILES IN	MILES OUT	DATE/TIME IN		DATE OUT	INVOICE NO.	
305 STATE ST		1C6RR7GG4	GS199374	71117	71117	08/02	/18 07:14	08/03/18	95069	
PRESQUE ISLE, N	ME 04769		VEHICLE DE	SCRIPTION			TAG NO. STATUS			
stewartforpresquei	sle@gmail.com	2016 RAM 1500	2016 RAM 1500 SLT (BLUE)						OMPLETE-P	
CONTROL NO.	LICENSE PLATE NO.	CUST. LABOR RATE	PROD. DATE	IN-SERV DATE	N-SERV DATE DELIV. DATE DELIV. MILES		DELIV. MILES	LES TERMS		
24339		88.95			11/16/	16	13608	3 Charge		
HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	CELL PHONE	STOCK	10.	O. SERV. ADV.				MMENT 1	
(207) 227-0569			UC458	BRADLEY KINNEY (BK)						

MAINE INSPECTION STATION #3916
YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR #1 PRIORITY!

BRAD, SERVICE ADVISOR: BKINNEY@PERCYS.BIZ
JAY, WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR: JAMERO@PERCYS.BIZ

Line	Op-Code	Fail Code	Tech	Hours	Type			Amount	
Α	01		A01		Customer			\$22.95	
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6805	55890AA	OIL	5W20			6	\$2.79	\$16.74	
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Y157	7042620	TIRE	265/7			4	\$168.36	\$673.44	

Part Number	Description		Qty.	Unit Price	Ext. Price
Y157042620	TIRE 265/7		4	\$168.36	\$673.44
T,TAX	BATTERY OR TIRE TAX		4	\$1.00	\$4.00
			Pa	rts Total	\$677.44
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	VIP	INSTALLATION			\$92.95

08/03/18 07:54

INVOICE

CUSTOMER COPY

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User: STEVE SALES HISTORY INQUIRY 9/28/20 **PPR016-3** Trans No.:: 1050802 SA Name...: ADVERTISING-BARTER 0020020770

Tran Date.: 7/15/19 CW Address: 12 LEXINGTON ST

Tran Time.: 12:02:39 City, St: LEWISTON ME 4240-0000

Tran Total: 1,101.93 Phone..: 207-784-5423 PO No:

Cashier...: 0000013103 BC Slmn: 0000015692 Display Line No. Store: **017** 2016 RAM TRUCK 1500 V6-3604cc 3.6L FLEX/FI Vin G ID#44443 LN O-TY Item No.... Description...... SUP Qty Price Extend PU 39399 SHOP SUPPLIES/ENV FEES 1 9.11 9.11
302 MULTIPOINT VEH INSPECTI 1 .00
314 ALIGNMENT - FREE CHECK 1 .00
377 STATE INSPECT - ME 090 1 12.50 12.50
927 VALVOLINE FULL SYN 1 .00
927 OIL CHANGE - SYNPWR 090 1 20.77 20.77
MGL10010 MICROGARD OIL FILTER 001 1 6.28 6.28
COMMENT 5.91 QUARTS 1 .00
584861095 VV SYN. MAXLIFE 5W20 DR 090 5 6.99 34.95
584861095 VV SYN. MAXLIFE 5W20 DR 090 1 6.99 6.99
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F5=Trans/Date F6=Dates/Tran F8=Switch Cost F9=Trans This Vehicle F12=Return

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F5=Trans/Date F6=Dates/Tran F8=Switch Cost F9=Trans This Vehicle F12=Return

Wayne, Jonathan

From: Joshua A. Tardy <jtardy@rudmanwinchell.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:45 AM

To: Wayne, Jonathan

Subject: Fwd: Request by Chair for Documents **Attachments:** Stewart Tire Receipts.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Categories: Red Category

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As we discussed.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Trey Stewart <trey@treystewart.com> **Date:** September 28, 2020 at 4:12:26 PM EDT

To: "Joshua A. Tardy" < jtardy@rudmanwinchell.com>

Subject: Re: Request by Chair for Documents

Josh,

Attached are the receipts from Percy's and VIP in Presque Isle for the two tire expenses.

While it would be irresponsible to recreate a mileage log at this point in time, I can provide a list of some of the travel incurred in my duties as a principal officer of Star City PAC during the time frame in question and since the PAC's inception. I can, however, provide a list of some events that required travel when reviewing my political calendar. For example, I attended the following events/meetings:

- -2/11/20 travel to Gorham for recruitment meeting
- -2/6/20 travel to Scarborough for recruitment meeting
- -1/24/20 travel to Madawaska for tour of Twin Rivers
- -1/17/20 travel to PWM for flight to conference
- -12/9/19 fundraising event at Armory in Portland
- -12/7/19 Maine GOP Christmas party event
- -11/13/19 dinner meeting with Dana Connors in Lewiston
- -10/30/19 Maine State Chamber Annual Dinner in Augusta
- -10/18/19 Maine GOP fundraiser at Quarry Tap Room in Hallowell
- -10/7/19 travel to Hilton Inn in Freeport for event
- -10/3/19 travel to Rivalries in Portland for fundraiser
- -10/1/19 travel to Martindale in Auburn for fundraiser
- -9/25/19 travel to PWM for flight to conference
- -9/18/19 travel to Tree Street Youth Center in Lewiston for meeting
- -9/10/19 travel to Scarborough from Maine Law for dinner meeting
- -9/5/19 travel to Samoset for State Chamber event
- -8/19/19 travel to Turner Highland's Golf Course for fundraiser
- -7/29/19 travel to Profenno's Pizzeria in Westbrook for recruitment meeting

- -5/11/19 travel to Sable Oaks in Portland for MHPC event, then to YCRC meeting for speaking event
- -5/7/19 travel to DiMillo's for fundraising event for special election
- -5/2/19 travel to PWM for flight to meeting
- -4/27/19 travel to BIW for ship christening ceremony
- -3/29/19 travel to UMO for presidential inauguration
- -3/2/19 travel to Bangor for fundraiser
- -3/28/19 travel to Bangor for BDN speaking event, then back to Augusta for MEGC meeting following morning
- -2/13/19 travel to Bangor from Augusta for fundraising event for special election
- -2/9/19 travel to Bangor for door-knocking for special election
- -2/7/19 Maine State Chamber Summit at Sunday River
- -1/9/19 following MDF bus tour
- -11/14/18 leadership election in Augusta
- -11/9/18 campaign meeting in Augusta
- -11/1/18 campaign meeting in Newport
- -10/1/18 attending fundraiser in Brunswick
- -9/26 travel to BGR for political event (same trip at 9/25 below)
- -9/25/18 attending FOR/Maine event at UMO
- -9/14/18 attending MHPC event in Portland
- -9/7/18 attending fundraiser at Patriot Insurance in Yarmouth from Portland,
- -9/6/18 attending NCSL reception at Easy Day in Portland,
- -7/14/18 attending Moxie Day Parade,
- -7/9/18 attending event in Bangor at Cross Point Church,
- -6/7/18 attending fundraiser at Portland Pat's Pizza,
- -5/10/18 meeting at Maple Hill Farm Inn in Hallowell,
- -5/4/18 GOP State Convention in Augusta
- -4/15/18 travel to UMF for conference,
- -4/7/18 campaign meeting with Penobscot R's at Dysart's in Bangor,
- -2/3/18 attending Maine State Chamber Summit at Sunday River,
- -1/30/18 attending conference in Portland from Augusta,
- -12/19/17 attending fundraiser at Pat's Pizza in Portland,
- -12/6/17 travel to PWM for conference,
- -11/15/17 travel to PWM for conference,
- -11/7/17 travel to Augusta Civic Center for State Chamber Annual Dinner,
- -11/2/17, travel to Portland to tour Fairpoint Communications, then Augusta for GOP campaign meeting,
- -11/19/17 travel to Augusta for fundraiser at Governor Hill Mansion,
- -10/6/17 Biomaine event at UNE in Portland,
- -10/3/17 fundraiser at Easy Day in Portland
- -10/26/17 GOP Platform Committee Meeting at GOP HQ in Augusta,
- -9/21/17 fundraiser at Martindale Golf Course in Auburn,
- -9/9/17 SAM Annual Banquet,
- -9/7/17 attending fundraiser at Sable Oaks Golf Course,
- -9/4/17 attending fundraiser at Port Hole in Portland,
- -8/29/17 GOP Platform Committee Meeting at GOP HQ in Augusta,
- -8/28/17 campaign meeting at GOP HQ in Augusta,

This list is in no way meant to be exhaustive and in fact does not include a multitude of local campaign/political meetings through Aroostook County, which I have not included. Nor does it include the multitude of political meetings and other events attended in the Augusta area when the legislature is in session. However, if those meetings were to be included, they would add up to thousands more in miles traveled.

Best, Trey

On Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 12:19 PM Joshua A. Tardy jtardy@rudmanwinchell.com wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wayne, Jonathan" <Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov<mailto:Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov>> Date: September 28, 2020 at 11:24:10 AM EDT

To: "Joshua A. Tardy" <jtardy@rudmanwinchell.com<mailto:jtardy@rudmanwinchell.com>> Cc: Trey Stewart <trey@treystewart.com<mailto:trey@treystewart.com>>, Trey Stewart <stewartforpresqueisle@gmail.com<mailto:stewartforpresqueisle@gmail.com>>, "Lavin, Paul" <Paul.Lavin@maine.gov<mailto:Paul.Lavin@maine.gov>>, Shawn Roderick <roderickshawn@gmail.com<mailto:roderickshawn@gmail.com>> Subject: Request by Chair for Documents

Josh,

After reading the written materials that the Commission staff prepared and sent to the Commission members, the Commission Chair, Bill Lee, asked me whether it would be possible to receive some additional documents before the Sept. 30 meeting (attached letter). I told him I was not sure if Rep. Stewart had these documents, but I would ask on his behalf.

Thank you.

Jonathan Wayne
Executive Director
Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333
287-4179

Rudman Winchell is continually monitoring COVID-19 news and guidance to help ensure the health and well-being of our clients, staff and their families.

As we welcome clients/visitors back into the office we are taking necessary precautions in order to keep our employees and visitors as safe as possible, including following the CDC's recommended guidelines. We are requesting that clients and other visitors wear masks or facial coverings while in the office, utilize hand sanitizer and/or wash hands either before or upon arrival in the office, and that visitors refrain from coming into the office if feeling sick. - Clients are encouraged to contact their attorney directly if they have specific questions about their matters.

We thank you for your patience as we work through this unprecedented situation. As always, our

clients, communities, and staff are our priority. If you have any questions, please contact us at 207-947-4501.

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Rep. Harold "Trey" Stewart III
Assistant House Minority Leader
Candidate for State Senate District #2
(Southern Aroostook and Northern Penobscot)

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129th Maine Legislature

Overview of Legislators' Compensation and Benefits



Prepared by Office of the Executive Director

115 State House Station
Rooms 103 and 120, State House
Augusta, ME 04333-0115
(207) 287-1615
http://legislature.maine.gov/execdir/

ALLOWANCES & REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

(Authorized by 3 MRSA § 2)

Allowances During Regular Legislative Sessions

In addition to their legislative salary, legislators receive allowances during the session for their transportation, lodging and meal expenses. Payments are not necessarily reimbursement of actual expenses and, therefore, are subject to income taxes as provided by law. Allowances are as follows:

A. Meals and Lodging: \$70/day (\$32 for meals plus \$38 for lodging)

or

B. Meals at \$32/day and mileage at \$0.44/mile not to exceed \$38/day plus actual tolls. However, the \$38 maximum does not apply to mileage incurred for <u>one</u> round trip per week which is calculated at \$0.44 per mile.

Note: Legislator Request for Session Allowance forms must be submitted to the Executive Director's Office, Room 103, by 12 noon each Friday for payment the following week.

Session Allowance Guidelines

In accordance with 3 MRSA §2, each Legislator is entitled to be paid for travel once each week during the session to and from the Legislator's home at the rate provided for State employees (currently \$0.44 per mile). There is no maximum limit for one round trip during the week; the amount paid is based on the actual number of miles reported. For all other travel that week, the amount paid is based on actual cost or a maximum of \$38 per day (the statutory limit), whichever is less. Actual toll expenses are reimbursed.

For example, a Legislator whose round trip mileage from home to the State House is 80 miles will receive \$35.20 each day for travel to and from Augusta (80 miles X \$0.44). It is based on actual cost, since the amount is less than the limit of \$38.

Using another example, a Legislator whose round trip mileage from home to the State House is 200 miles will receive \$88 (200 miles at \$0.44 per mile). In addition, for each day the member uses overnight accommodations in Augusta, he or she is entitled to a lodging allowance of \$38 each day. In this example, if the member stayed at a motel for 3 nights, the total received would be \$202 (\$88 for one round trip plus 3 days lodging at \$38 per day). On the other hand, if that Legislator chose to travel to and from Augusta for 3 days, he or she would still receive \$202 (\$88 for one round trip plus other mileage of \$114 (3 days X \$38). In this instance, the daily

limit of \$38 applies since a reimbursement amount for travel to and from Augusta would exceed the statutory limit.

In addition to the lodging and mileage allowance, each Legislator is entitled to a daily meal allowance of \$32 for each day he or she is in attendance at sessions of the Legislature and for each day the member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either immediately preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the Legislature. The daily meal allowance will be adjusted for meals that are provided. The presiding officers may establish reasonable policies regarding allowances for meals and overnight accommodations for the day immediately preceding the session, which may include policies regarding whether an allowance is paid, whether the full amount or a portion of the statutory allowance is paid and whether receipts are required.

Special Legislative Session Per Diem and Allowances

The allowances received by legislators during a Special Legislative Session are the same as those received during a Regular Legislative Session. In addition to the allowances, legislators receive \$100 per diem for their attendance at a Special Legislative Session. The special session per diem is included on IRS form W-2.

Reimbursement of Expenses and Legislative Per Diem During the Interim

During the legislative interim, legislators receive reimbursement of actual expenses for authorized travel or attendance at meetings. Legislators must submit a properly completed **Travel and Expense Account Voucher** form in order to receive reimbursement.

Lodging: Actual (receipt required)

Up to the limit authorized by the Presiding

Officers, currently \$55

Meals: Up to \$32/day based on the following limits:

Breakfast \$4.00; Lunch \$8.00; and Dinner \$20.00 (a detailed receipt is required for meals over \$12)

Mileage: \$0.44/mile

Tolls: Actual

In addition, legislative leadership and approved members of committees receive \$55 per diem for their attendance at authorized meetings or daily sessions.