

**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

File #:	Reporting /Incident Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID #:	Dictated/Lead #:
22-1011-SP-SIU	11/01/2022	Sgt. Windy Westfall	5210	TN:06

Title:	Case Agent: ID#	Office:	Typed by:	Date:
Christian A. Doenitz	Sgt. Windy Westfall #5210	DCI/SIU	WW	11/08/2022

Purpose:

Christian A. Doenitz interview

SYNOPSIS:

The Illinois State Police, Division of Criminal Investigation, Special Investigations Unit, was made aware of allegations of Official Misconduct, Fraud, and Theft by the Mahomet Township Road Commissioner, Christian A. Doenitz (M/ [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED]). Allegedly, Doenitz has used Mahomet Township funds for personal use to purchase culverts, drainage tiles, gravel, concrete blocks, guard rails, laptop computer, and to pay township employees while the employees were conducting work on Doenitz's personal farm, from 2008 – 2022.

DETAILS:

The purpose of this investigative report is to document the interview of Mahomet Township Road Commissioner, Christian A. Doenitz (M/ [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED]). The interview was conducted on November 1, 2022, at approximately 10:04 a.m., and took place at Doenitz's attorney's office, located at 201 W. Springfield, Champaign, Illinois. The interview was conducted by Special Agent Nate Baker #5488, and me, Sergeant Windy Westfall #5210, in a conference room on the 3rd floor. Also present for this interview was Doenitz's attorney, Kevin Nolan. At the start of the interview I asked Doenitz and Nolan for permission to audio record our conversation to which permission was granted.

I told Doenitz this is a criminal investigation, therefore, he did not have to talk with us, and he could end the interview at any time. Doenitz said he understood. Listen to the audio recording of this interview for full details. Doenitz related, in summary, the following information:

- Doenitz is the Mahomet Township Highway Commissioner and has been for almost 30 years. Doenitz has been elected to that position each time, and never appointed.
- As Highway Commissioner he's in charge of the roads, employees, and equipment in Mahomet Township, to include purchasing items and materials for the roads.
- Doenitz said the Mahomet Road District shares a common board with the Township. The Township board approves his budget/levee each year and makes sure his bills are in conjunction with his budget. Doenitz said there is no one who governs him/his position.
- Since Doenitz has been the Highway Commissioner, he has never gone over his yearly budget. Leftover budget money is carried over into the next fiscal year.

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- There are 4 full-time road district employees: Paul Christie (lead foreman), Greg Richardson (laborer and truck driver), Rob Harper (laborer and truck driver), and Shereth Doenitz (administrative assistant and Doenitz's wife). There up to 5 part-time/seasonal employees.
- Doenitz said his full-time employees are paid hourly, but guaranteed 40 hours a week, plus overtime. Doenitz determines if a road district employee is salary or hourly, and how much their wages are. That does not have to be approved by the board.
- Doenitz said his employees earn overtime mostly during the winter time, except Shereth (she never earns overtime). For such things as snow removal and salting roadways, tree clearing during storms, etc.
- The full-time employees work Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- All full-time employees earn 2-weeks' vacation every fiscal year, and if they don't use it, the employee loses it (it does not carry over into the next year). Their fiscal year runs from April 1 – March 31. There's not a set amount of sick days the employees earn; it's as needed. Doenitz said none of his employees abuse sick time. Doenitz does not document when an employee calls in sick.
- Doenitz's full-time employees get paid 6 major holidays if the holiday falls on a weekday: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, and Labor Day. If the holiday falls on a weekend, they do not get paid for it.
- Doenitz offers all full-time employees health benefits. Paul Christie is the only employee who has chosen to accept it.
- Doenitz said the pay period is every two weeks, so the full-time employees get paid for 80-hours a pay period plus any overtime. He has time cards for each employee. Each employee is responsible to document (hand write) their own time every day. At the end of each pay period Shereth writes down the hours each employee worked and any overtime. Then Doenitz turns the time sheets into the township supervisor (Aaron Wheeler) who then takes them to the accountant to be processed.
- Doenitz said there is not a detailed account as to what time employees arrive at work, leave work, or what duties they did during each day.
- Doenitz pays overtime (time and a half) to employees who work over eight hours.
- Shereth works remotely, from home, most of the time. She uses her personally owned cell phone and computer to conduct road district business. Shereth's duties are anything secretarial, filing, transporting things to and from the township office (located at 511 E. Main Street, Mahomet, IL) which is where the records are kept.
- Doenitz admitted Rob Harper works full-time for him on his farm, as well as at the road district. Doenitz also admitted that Harper has worked for him on his farm while getting paid by the township. Doenitz said Harper is paid full-time for both places at the same time. So, when Harper is getting paid to work at the road district Harper is also doing work on Doenitz's farm and getting paid by Doenitz. Doenitz believes it's legal and acceptable for Harper to be paid by both places at the same time (double dipping), because Doenitz pays Harper an hourly wage accordingly from both places: Harper is paid \$[REDACTED] an hour by the township and by Doenitz. Doenitz said Harper gets paid considerably less than Paul Christie and Greg Richardson. Plus, Harper is on-call all the time. Doenitz said this is done at his discretion.
- Greg Richardson also works for Doenitz on his farm, part-time (seasonally), after working at the road district hours.

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- I asked who owns Central Culvert and Tile (located at 704 W. Hickory St., Mahomet, IL), and Doenitz said he and Shereth both do, but Shereth is majority owner. They started the business 12 or 13 years ago.
- Doenitz said he had never used Township or Road District funds to purchase materials for Central Culvert and Tile.
- Doenitz admitted he has kept or housed Road District items that were paid for with Road District money at Central Culvert and Tile. For example, the Road District would order culverts from Metal Culverts, Inc. At or about the same time Central Culvert and Tile would also order items from Culverts, Inc. Both orders would be banded separately but hauled to Central Culvert and Tile together on the same load. Both orders would be unloaded at Central Culvert and Tile because they have the equipment to unload the items and the Road District does not. Therefore, the Road Districts culverts would be stored at Central Culvert and Tile until they are needed. Doenitz admitted there is room at the Road District facility to house, store, and keep the culverts.
- Even though the Road District and Central Culvert and Tile's orders are delivered on the same load, each business is billed separately. Doenitz said Central Culvert and Tile has never paid for Road District materials. Central Culvert and Tile owns a truck that usually picks up the orders (materials) from Metal Culverts Inc. Because Central Culvert and Tile picks up their own orders, they receive a 5% discount. So, when Central Culvert and Tile picks up the Road District's orders, they do not charge the Road District any kind of shipping or delivery fee. In essence, Central Culvert and Tile is saving the Road District money by not charging the Road District shipping and delivery fees.
- Rob Harper works at Central Culvert and Tile part-time, as needed.
- Doenitz denied ever using Township or Road District money to pay for anything that he uses for personal use.
- Reference the purchase of 80 large concrete blocks in 2015 from CSI Concrete Supply in Tolono, Illinois. Doenitz admitted the Road District purchased those blocks to make bins to hold cold patch (used for road repairs) and other things. Doenitz admitted not all of those blocks are at the Road District: Blue Ridge Township (in Mansfield, IL, Piatt County) and Newcomb Township (just north of Mahomet, in Champaign County) borrowed some of them. When Newcomb Township returned them, it was after hours and delivered them to Doenitz's residence/farm and used Doenitz's backhoe to unload the blocks. Doenitz admitted approximately 15 blocks are still sitting at his residence and have been for about 2 years just because he hasn't taken the time to move them to the Road District facility.
- Doenitz said Blue Ridge Township still has "several" of the blocks. Doenitz denied ever using the blocks for personal use. Doenitz said Blue Ridge Township may have used the concrete blocks for a tractor-pull track in Mansfield under the water tower.
- Doenitz did not have a written agreement as to how long the other townships would borrow the blocks for, what they would or could use them for, nor when they would return them. Doenitz has not charged the townships rent for the blocks, and neither township have offered to purchase any of the blocks from Mahomet Road District.
- Reference the Chris Engelbrecht invoice in 2018, for "mower parts" for \$2500.: Doenitz recognized the invoice and said it was for a boom-mower repair. Doenitz stated Chis is a friend of his and he's a welder, so Chris offered to fix the boom-mower. Doenitz said Chris owns and operates a grill business; they weld

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and make cooking grills. I asked Doenitz if the invoice was legitimate because Chris's last name is misspelled on it. Doenitz said it is legitimate and he doesn't know who created the invoice; Doenitz denied creating the invoice. He stated the Road District owns the boom-mower.

- I asked Doenitz about T.J. Miller's trucking company and he admitted they hauled rock (gravel) for the Road District. Doenitz said the rock has been hauled to the Road District facility. The rock is used for different road repairs and hauled to job locations by Road District trucks. Doenitz denied that Miller's company ever delivered rock to Doenitz's residence/farm. Doenitz stated Miller's company has hauled rock to Central Culvert and Tile before. Doenitz denied that the Road District or township ever paid for rock that was not used for Road District business.
- Doenitz denied ever having any Road District or township equipment, supplies or materials at his residence or property.
- Doenitz said it varies drastically each year as to how many culverts he uses. He said it depends on how many new entrances he installs and how many old, rusted out culverts he replaces.
- Doenitz installs and replaces (for driveways and field entrances) culverts for township citizens free of charge because they pay taxes; that's the Road Districts responsibility.
- Doenitz said he raises the Road District levee 4.9% every year, but Mahomet Township has over 10% growth every year. Even though he raises the levee, the tax rate actually falls each year because the township isn't capturing all the new growth. Doenitz said the people of Mahomet Township "get a hell of a bargain" for the amount of taxes they pay.
- Special Agent Baker asked Doenitz if there's anyone who has an axe to grind with him and he said Brian Anderson and Chad Coit, and Doenitz has had "run-ins" with both of them for a number of years. Doenitz said Anderson has challenged him for about 15 years on almost everything he (Doenitz) does.
- Doenitz said Coit dug a pond in the middle of a rain storm and had 10 trucks hauling dirt away from Coit's pond. The trucks had mud 2 inches deep all over the township road for about 1 mile. Doenitz stopped the trucks and told them to stop because of unsafe conditions; Coit didn't like that, so he's "been a thorn" in Doenitz's side ever since. Coit has an illegal mailbox; the posts are supposed to be break-away posts and Coit's is not. Doenitz said one of his snow plows inadvertently hit Coit's mailbox last winter. Because Coit's mailbox was not on a break-away post it did damage to the snow plow, and Doenitz billed Coit for the damages, to which Coit has not paid yet. Doenitz said Coit posted comments on social media about Doenitz. Doenitz said Coit wanted his mailbox fixed, but Doenitz said he doesn't fix illegal mailboxes because of liability to the Road District.
- Doenitz verified he has a son, Christopher Ryan Doenitz and he goes by Ryan. Ryan works at the Road District on a part-time, winter basis, but used to be full-time until this past March. The Road District has a laptop they use for diagnostic tests on their trucks that Ryan would use. Doenitz admitted Ryan would keep the laptop in his personal service truck and use it for personal use because Doenitz "didn't care."
- Doenitz admitted the Road District employees who have cell phones purchased by the Road District can use them for personal use. Ryan used to have a Road District cell phone but not anymore since he's not a full-time employee. Right now, just Doenitz and Paul Christie are the only two employees with Road District cell phones. Doenitz said he's the one who authorized the personal use of the cell phones.
- Doenitz said sometime in the early 2000's, he and Anderson did a 3-way trade of ground/property.

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Anderson owned property on the west side of the farm that Doenitz lives on. And Anderson wanted to make a square 80 acres out of his own property, so Anderson and Doenitz traded property. Doenitz said this all occurred prior to the two of them not getting along.

- I asked Doenitz about the physical altercation between he and Anderson in 2008. Doenitz was at a local grain elevator, and Anderson arrived there too. Anderson had his hands behind his back and went up to Doenitz and “got in his face.” Doenitz said he felt threatened so he “decked his ass.” Doenitz was charged with Battery and that’s all been settled. Doenitz said he really didn’t know what went wrong between him and Anderson.
- Doenitz said, when the Road District moved from Mahomet to its current location, the Road District bought 22 acres. They didn’t use all of the 22 acres at that time, so Doenitz and the then supervisor rented some of the acreage to a local farmer to get hay off of it. Doenitz said after about 2 or 3 years Anderson challenged him and the township because they weren’t paying taxes on the land, therefore, the township/Road District shouldn’t be getting any income off of it. Doenitz said they (he and the township supervisor) checked into it and said that was probably true. So, the Road District discontinued leasing the land to the farmer and they just mow it now. Doenitz said that was about the time he and Anderson started to not get along.

Doenitz nor his attorney had any questions. Doenitz had no further information at this time, and the interview concluded at approximately 11:03 a.m.

#1 IDENTIFIERS:

Name: Christian A. Doenitz (M [REDACTED]) DOB: [REDACTED]
Residence Address: [REDACTED]
Road District Facility Address: 2270 CR 0 E., Mahomet, IL
Cell: [REDACTED]

#2 IDENTIFIERS:

Name: Kevin P. Nolan (M [REDACTED]) – Attorney
Law Firm Address: 201 W. Springfield, Champaign, IL
Law Firm Phone: (217) 352-7661

END OF REPORT

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