



Newton County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Matt Stewart

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Date: March 19, 2026

Ref: Former Fairview Mayor Charges

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In May 2024 the Newton County Sheriff's Office began an investigation into allegations of possible theft involving the former Fairview Mayor, Peter Janis. The Missouri State Auditor's Office also began an investigation and conducted an audit of the City of Fairview. In January 2026, the Newton County Sheriff's Office received information from the State Auditor's Office concerning the results of their audit. The audit determined that \$10,314.23 worth of cash that had been paid to the City of Fairview was missing and had not been deposited into the bank. The records indicated that the missing funds occurred between June 2023 and April 2024. Peter Janis was the Mayor of Fairview between April 2023 and April 2024. The Newton County Sheriff's Office interviewed Mr. Janis about the results of the Auditor's report and he confessed to taking money that was paid to the City of Fairview for water utility payments.

As a result of the findings from the Missouri State Auditor's Office and the investigation completed by the Newton County Sheriff's Office, the following charges were submitted to the Newton County Prosecutor's Office:

- Felony Stealing
- Felony Forgery
- Misdemeanor Official Misconduct

The Newton County Prosecutor's Office filed these charges, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of Peter Janis. Janis was taken into custody on these warrants and was transported to the Newton County Jail.

The Newton County Sheriff's Office remains committed to ensuring that government officials that commit crimes and erode the public's trust are held accountable for these actions.

We want to thank the City of Fairview for their cooperation in this investigation as well as the Missouri State Auditor's Office for their assistance with this case.

Sheriff Matt Stewart