
In Novgorod Region subjects of criminal investigation over stealing of federal funds directed on road building charged in absentia and federally wanted



Novgorod Region investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee have charged in absentia Anatoly Petrov, deputy of Borovichsky municipal district Duma – founder of OOO Magistral (LLC) and Konstantin Bekchev, CEO of this company. They are charged with a crime under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Criminal Code (swindling committed by an organized group on an especially large scale). At present Petrov and Bekchev are federally wanted.

According to investigators, in 2011-2012, in Novgorod Region deputies Anatoly Petrov and Nikolai Zakaldayev, several businessmen – Georgy Vishnyakov, Oleg Orlov, Alexander Belov, Konstantin Bekchev, Alexey Tutykin and other unknown individuals set up an organized group to systematically

steal the large sums of money allocated to building, repair and maintenance of motorways in Novgorod Region. According to the plan developed by the members of the group, the enterprise controlled by them – state regional unitary enterprise Veche was to win a tender on a state contract on executing a set of works on maintaining motor ways of regional and inter-municipal importance and artificial constructions on them in the second half of 2012 in the territory of the most districts in Novgorod Region. The initial maximum price of the contract was 357 million 475 thousand rubles. According to the plan a part of that sum, no less than 10% from the overall price of the contract, equal to about 35 million rubles had to go to their pockets. To implement their criminal intention Orlov and Belov were appointed director and deputy director of Veche. In addition, in January-May 2012, members of the criminal group purchased OOO Magistral with which they wanted to steal the money.

Yesterday Arnold Shalmuyev, first deputy governor of Novgorod Region was charged with crimes under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Criminal Code, paragraph “c” of part 2 of article 179, part 1 of article 286 (swindling committed by an organized group on an especially large scale, forcing to refuse to conclude a transaction under a threat to spread information which could cause considerable harm to rights and legal interests of the victim or their family, exceeding official powers). During the questioning Shalmuyev did not confessed to the crimes and refused to give testimonies according to article 51 of the RF Constitution.

Under the investigators’ petition the court ruled to place Shalmuyev, Zakaldayev, Vishnyakov, Orlov, Belov and Tutykin into custody as a pretrial restraining measure.

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