
Criminal investigation against first deputy head of Novgorod Region administration finished



The investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee for the Novgorod Region have finished investigating a criminal case against first deputy head of the Novgorod Region administration Arnold Shalmuyev, head of state institution Novgorodavtodor Nikolai Zakaldayev, deputy director of Veche state enterprise Alexander Belov and a number of businessmen. Depending on the role of each one, they are charged with crimes under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Penal Code, paragraph "c" of part 2 of article 179, paragraph "a" of part 2 of article 174.1, parts 1 and 2 of article 286 (fraud, forcing to refuse concluding a deal, money laundering, exceeding official authority).

According to investigators, in 2012, Shalmuyev set up an organized criminal group to regularly steal the large sums of money allocated to building, repair and maintenance of motorways in Novgorod

Region. The group also included cofounder of OOO Magistral Anatoly Petrov, head of Novgorodavtodor Nikolai Zakaldayev, his deputy Georgy Vishnyakov and expert Vyacheslav Samoylov, director of Veche, a state regional unitary enterprise, Oleg Orlov, his deputy Alexander Blov and a number of businessmen - Konstantin Bekchev, Alexey Tutykin, Nato Natanov. 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 almost 395 million rubles. According to the plan a part of that sum, no less than 50 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 May 2012, members of the criminal group purchased OOO Magistral, through which they wanted to steal the money.

Contrary to their plans in June 2012 another organization won the open electronic tender offering the minimal price. After that the CEO of the company started receiving threats of material damage and spreading information discrediting his business reputation. As the result, the businessman realizing the reality of the threats of the members of the group, who occupied top positions, had to reject the contract and it was signed with Veche, after which 22 million rubles were transferred to the settlement account of OOO Magistral under forged accounting documents.

The investigators have gathered enough evidence, therefore the criminal case has been sent for the indictment to be approved and then to court to be tried on the merits.

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