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Former Chamber Treasurer Sentenced

(KNZA)--A former Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce treasurer convicted of embezzling funds from the organization has been placed on 12-months supervised probation.

Beth Makita was given a suspended 16-month prison sentence Monday on charges of felony criminal use of a financial card and felony theft.

Makita was also ordered to pay restitution, with the amount to be determined during a July 25th hearing.

Brown County Attorney Kevin Hill requested that Makita be ordered to serve 60 days in jail as part of the terms of her probation, saying she had breached a position of public trust. District Judge Jim Patton opted not to impose any jail time, but warned Makita he could if she doesn't follow the conditions of her probation.

Makita pleaded no contest to the charges in April. As part of a plea agreement, a charge of identity fraud was dismissed.

She was charged with the theft of more than \$9,100 between August 2014 and April 2015 while serving as Chamber treasurer.

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