

Tollefson Grievance Hearing Confirmed

Among the earliest matters of business, when the Hiawatha City Commission meets Monday, will be a grievance hearing regarding the termination of longtime Police Sergeant Laura Tollefson.

Following an extended period of near silence, after rumors began to swirl regarding the fate of Tollefson, Hiawatha City Administrator Lynne Ladner, on Tuesday, finally confirmed that the 20-year-veteran was no longer with the police force.

Ladner then confirmed that a grievance hearing, requested by Tollefson, could be held at the May 21st Commission meeting if schedules allowed.

Now, the date is definitely set, with Tollefson to make her case, during a closed door executive session, as to why the City Administrator's decision to terminate was wrong. The Commission, after hearing the case, would have the opportunity to overturn Ladner's decision, if they find reason to do so.

On Wednesday, the Attorney General's Office, following a review of the related investigation conducted solely by the Hiawatha Police Department, declined to prosecute Tollefson for the apparent violation leading to her termination.

While the A.G.'s office states that the statute, pertaining to domestic violence procedures, has no criminal provision attached, civil remedies, including those by the City, could still proceed.

The case has since been forwarded by the A.G.'s office to the Kansas Commission on Peace Officer's Standards and Training.

The Grievance hearing will happen as part of Monday's Commission meeting, beginning that evening at 5:35, at Hiawatha City Hall.

Many Signals Communications