

Call for Tichava's resignation

Sexual harassment claims costing Kendall thousands

By Steve Lord

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YORKVILLE — The Kendall County Board chairman is calling for the resignation of Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Terry Tichava.

Anne Vickery, a Minooka Republican, said this week Tichava should resign because of the sexual harassment charges against him contained in a lawsuit filed by his former assistant, Lisa Easi. The County Board two weeks ago settled the lawsuit for \$188,000, paying another \$193,000 in legal fees to defend Tichava in court.

"There are many citizens along with myself and most of the board members that are appalled by this whole thing but are afraid of retribution," Vickery wrote in

a letter to the editor of The Beacon-News. "That being said I am also calling for the resignation of Tichava and I also think the Sheriff should tone it down a bit!"

Vickery wrote the letter after a recent County Board meeting in which a Yorkville resident, Todd Miliron, requested the County Board release the recordings of the 55-minute, May 18 closed session in which the board discussed the lawsuit. It was after that session that the board voted to approve the settlement with little comment.

Recordings of closed sessions are kept, by law, but usually not released. They are mainly kept in case a judge or the state's attorney has to review them for possible Open Meetings Act violations. Minutes of closed sessions are released eventually.

In her letter, Vickery wrote that she has been asked by county employees and members of the public, as well as the media, about what was said in the closed session. She wrote that most of what was discussed already has been reported.

Much of the discussion in the closed session centered on the lawsuit itself, the motion to dismiss the lawsuit and a motion contesting the motion to dismiss. The Beacon-News has reported details from all those documents.

"What I will tell you are the things that did not get said when, with a very brief and uncanny amount of bravado, Sheriff Randall stepped up to speak," she wrote. "The Sheriff did not say that he was sorry and disappointed in the fact that the citizens and taxpayers of Kendall County will pay

tens of thousands of dollars more in insurance liability cost to cover this settlement for years to come; the Sheriff did not say that he would immediately take charge of his office and promise that any type of behavior alluded to in the lawsuit will never be tolerated and will never happen again under his watch; the Sheriff did not say when we could expect to attend Chief Tichava's retirement party when asked about a date."

Almost all of the settlement costs will be paid by the county's insurance company, with the county paying a \$10,000 deductible. But the settlement will increase insurance rates for the county, possibly by as much as 10 percent, Vickery has said. That would be about an additional \$5,000 a year.