Written by Carol Pomeday
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Move comes as Howells prepares to take over leadership of the village

Village of Belgium Clerk-Deputy Treasurer Jamie Cecil has submitted her resignation effective Tuesday, April 26.

Trustee Vickie Boehnlein, chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee, called an emergency closed-session meeting for 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, to evaluate staff and discuss how the vacancy should be filled.

Newly elected village president Richard Howells, who won't take office until April 19, will attend the meeting.

In her letter of resignation to Village President Kevin Kowalkowski, Cecil said it was with "very deep sadness" she decided to resign and accept an office manager job.

"It was a difficult decision, but I have full confidence in the staff," Cecil said Wednesday.

Boehnlein said the committee will discuss how the vacancy will be filled in open session, then adjourn to closed session to evaluate the current staff.

"I expect we will be making a recommendation to the Village Board for next week's re-organization meeting, and that will be done in open session," she said.

"I was shocked and disappointed (by Cecil's resignation). I understand why she did it. She's had a rough couple of years and she has a good opportunity, but the timing couldn't be more atrocious."

Kowalkowski said he will not be at the meeting, but recommended Howells, who defeated him in the April 5 election, be there.

"It makes no sense to make a decision, then have him veto it the next week. Rich has to be brought up to speed, and they have to make a decision that everyone will agree to," Kowalkowski said.

"I was disappointed she (Cecil) resigned, but I guess I wasn't surprised with all the crap she's been through. I think she foresaw nothing but more problems.

"It's going to hurt the village. She's going to be hard to replace."

Cecil was appointed to her job for a two-year term in January, succeeding Lila Mueller, who was the clerk for 29 years. In September, Mueller accepted a severance package worth $55,000 payable over three years.

Mueller hired Cecil for a part-time office position in 2005. Cecil later became the full-time deputy clerk and was appointed treasurer-deputy clerk in January 2010.

Treasurer-Deputy Clerk Kelly Romanini was selected from a field of 17 candidates in February for a three-year term after Cecil accepted the clerk job.

Howells said he was shocked by Cecil's resignation and wishes her well. He said he's been meeting with staff members, trustees, officials of other municipalities, village organizations and former staff and
trustees as he prepares for next week's reorganization meeting.