Written by MARK JAEGER
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Town chairman says former clerk's experience served community well

Town of Saukville officials preceded last week's Town Board meeting with a bit of a social gathering — a farewell reception for Clerk Chris Lear, whose last day on the job was Wednesday, June 20.

Lear, 62, was named the full-time village manager and clerk/treasurer in the Village of River Hills. He started that job this week.

Lear came to the Town of Saukville as clerk in 2009, after Walter Clarke left the town to become business manager of the Northern Ozaukee School District.

A few months after Lear's arrival at Town Hall, Barb Jobs was elected town chairman.

Both have lengthy histories working in municipal government, and that shared background proved a good fit.

Prior to coming to the town, Lear had stints as the administrator in the villages of Saukville and Germantown.

Jobs has worked in the clerk's offices of the villages of Grafton, Thiensville and Bayside.

"Chris was here before I got here, and when he started there was no one to teach him how things were done. It was very much learn as you go, and finding things was a bit of a scavenger hunt," Jobs said.

"But he had a lot of experience and knew how to work with people. Once I took office, we worked out how town business should be done, and it worked pretty well."

Jobs said Lear had reached a high level of efficiency in his part-time town position.

"I always say whenever you start a new job, the first year you muddle through, the second year you fine tune and the third year things start running smoothly. Chris was in his third year here," she said.

Jobs said Lear was up front about looking for a full-time position, and she said she was happy for him when she learned he had been hired.

The town has placed a July 9 deadline for applicants to fill the vacated clerk's post.

To help that process along, Jobs said she has contacted municipal clerks in Ozaukee and Washington counties, checking to see if they know anyone who might be good for the job.

"I am hopeful we will find a good fit," Jobs said.

Image Information: SAUKVILLE TOWN CLERK Chris Lear was the center of attention last Tuesday, during a farewell reception held at Town Hall prior to the monthly Town Board meeting. Photo by Sam Arendt