



Sauk Village's Original Community Newspaper

THE SAUK VILLAGER

A Community News Service for the 21st Century

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011



SANTA ARRIVES IN SAUK VILLAGE

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | Santa's State Representative Anthony sleigh touched down in Sauk DeLuca (D-Chicago Heights) Village shortly after 9am on and State Senator Toi Hutchin-Saturday and he received a po- son (D-IL 40th) stopped by lice and fire escort through the along with School Superinten- streets of Sauk Village bringing dent Al Travaligni, Fire Chief with him his holiday Cheer to Al Stoffregen and many other one and all. volunteers.

Santa and his entourage arrived Mayor Lewis Towers rode with at the Edward Paesel Commu- his new Police Chief appointee nity Center at about 5pm to Robert Fox in the Village's light the Christmas Tree and greet the kids and their parents. (Continued on page 7- **SANTA**)



*Santa arrives in Sauk Village
photo Courtesy of Jeff Morden*

MAYOR'S VETO OVERRIDDEN TOWERS PLANS LAWSUIT

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | Mayor Lewis Towers made good on at least one promise, he vetoed Ordinance #11-024 which was an ordinance limiting the temporary appointment authority of the Mayor.

Under Illinois law, the mayor of any community can make a temporary appointment if a vacancy occurs. What the law is silent on is that without a term limitation, a "temporary appointment" could become permanent.

The Village Board of Trustees passed the ordinance November 22nd before Lewis Towers made his controversial "temporary appointment" of Robert Fox as "temporary" police chief. Towers announced that night that he would veto the ordinance.

The vote for the ordinance was



5 to 0 with Trustee Enoch Benson voting present.

Towers claims that the Village Board is stripping him, as mayor, of his power, however, the board made no changes in the mayor's authority to appoint

only limiting the time temporary appointees can serve. Under the ordinance the temporary appointee would only be eligible to no more than two 30 day appointments in any fiscal year. The village's fiscal year began November 1st.

Village Trustee David Hanks cited a legal opinion from a former Illinois Attorney General which stated that while the Mayor has the legal right to make appointments, the Village (Continued on page 8 see-**VETO**)

Standards may be included In Community Development Plan

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | The design guidelines and standards are part of the Committee's Community Development Plan which the Village has never had. "There are some limited design standards stated in the Village's Zoning ordinance, but this is a guide that will help commercial developers and businesses which we really haven't had in the past" Burgess said.

Village Trustee Derrick Burgess, Chairman of the Committee believes the standards and guidelines will enhance the overall appearance of the Village's commercial areas.

According to Burgess the commercial areas, particularly Sauk Plaza and Surreybrook Plaza are in need of updating and the Village needs to work closely with these owners to make improvements.

Shannon Armstrong, a Community Planner is working with the Committee to establish Commercial Design Guidelines for new and existing businesses.

The design guidelines and standards are part of the Committee's Community Development Plan which the Village has never had. "There are some limited design standards stated in the Village's Zoning ordinance, but this is a guide that will help commercial developers and businesses which we really haven't had in the past" Burgess said.

Burgess expects the design guidelines and standards to be ready for the Village Board's consideration by the 1st Quarter of 2012.

Also during the meeting Burgess said that the Sauk Plaza tax increment financing district will be expiring in 2012. We will be trying to work with the plaza owners to get them to make some necessary improvements before it expires.

Apprentice Applications are now being accepted – The Plumber's Joint Apprenticeship Committee, Local 130 U.A. will be accepting applications for apprenticeship.

Where: 1400 W. Washington Blvd. Chicago, IL. 60607-1821 312-421-1028 2114 S. I-80 Frontage Rd. Joliet, IL. 60436
Date: Every Thursday, December 1, 2011 thru January 2012

Time: Every Thursday 9am – 11am and 1pm – 3pm Extended hours will be available on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday, 6pm – 8pm

Registration \$25.00 Fee (Cashier's check or Money order, NO CASH, NO PERSONAL CHECK, NO CREDIT CARDS). Make payable to Plumbers J.A.C. Local 130 \$10.00 optional test taking tip book (Cash only)

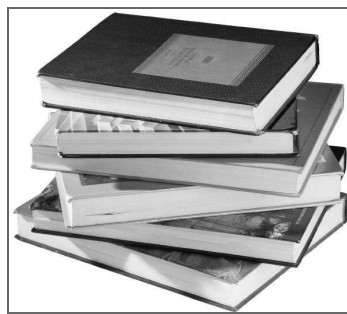
Requirements: 1. 18 years of age or older, 17 years of age for senior high school students

(must provide student I.D.)
2. Two forms of I.D. including one photo I.D. 3. Must provide a valid driver's license 4. Photo copy of birth certificate 5. Photo copy of diploma or GED. A water sealed letter from your High School will be accepted. Water sealed transcripts with the graduation date will be accepted.



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Chief Wade— 20 Years Later



Former Sauk Village Police Chief

James Wade 20 years after leaving Sauk Village His legacy lives on

By Joseph Wiszowaty
SAUK VILLAGE | Former Police Chief Richard Rhodes was leaving Sauk Village, pension in hand, and the new Police Chief James Wade was coming into office in the wake of a scandal in which 5 police officers were terminated following a criminal indictment and trial in Federal court. Wade retired from the La-

grange Police Department as a Lieutenant after 21 years of service. After an extensive search for a new Police Chief,

Wade was brought to Sauk Village to do a job, "clean up" the department that was impacted by negative press and low morale within the department all of which contributed to a nega-

tive perception by the residents. Not an easy task for anyone, but you had to know Jim Wade. Wade, a professional police administrator brought up through the ranks of the police service, brought his "public relations" touch that was needed during those difficult rebuilding years. Then Fire Chief Leroy Hawkins and Wade developed a close friendship while Wade was serving as Chief. Hawkins one day was sitting in Wade's office and referred to Wade's wall where he had all of his awards and accolades as Wade's "I love me wall" and telling Wade "I don't need to hang my sheep skin on the wall to make me important". Wade would comment during budget hearings "I need to learn how he (Hawkins) does it. He gets everything he wants".

Wade began his days coffee cup in hand ready to talk to the staff, not about work or the Village but about their families or what his kids and his wife Janet were doing. Wade treasured his children and spoke of them often with great fondness and pride with friends and the men and women of the Sauk Village Police Department. Wade's family became members of the Sauk Village community, in spite of his wife Janet's affinity for the Green Bay Packers.

Wade was active during his tenure as Police Chief with the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run serving as Assistant Chairman and Chairman and was also actively involved with the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police. In June, 1991, Jim Wade applied for the position of Police Chief of Beloit, Wisconsin and was a finalist in for the position. Wade said at the time "I'm not sitting on pins and needles waiting to hear (the decisions for the Beloit position). I'm perfectly happy here". Wade commanded the respect of the men and women who served under him and some may not have liked him, but they certainly respected Jim Wade as the Chief of Police.

Hawkins told Wade during one of the last meetings the three of us had before Wade left Sauk Village "you better go in there (as Tinley Park's new Chief) and get whatever you want within your first year. They'll eventually figure you out" Hawkins said. Wade chuckled in his unique laugh he had that would leave a smile on anyone's face and said "Leroy I've never met someone who could walk into a meeting and get whatever

(Continued on page 7- see WADE)

SAUK POLICE BEGIN CRACKDOWN

SAUK VILLAGE | Sauk Village Police Department today announced its late-night plans for the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" impaired driving and late-night safety belt enforcement crackdown during the holiday period. The intensified enforcement effort to combat late-night impaired driving and safety belt violations underscores the disproportionate number of traffic deaths occurring during late-night hours.

According to data from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration (NHTSA), the midnight to 3 a.m. timeframe is the deadliest time on Illinois roadways. The data also shows this time of day has the highest percentage of driving under the influence and the lowest safety belt usage rate.

"The numbers do not lie. We will be stepping up our late-night enforcement efforts, making sure impaired drivers are off the road and motorists are buckled up," Rebecca Sailsbery, Sergeant of the Sauk Village Police Department said.

As just two of several simple steps to avoid a tragic crash or

an arrest for impaired driving, **Sauk Village Police Department** recommends designating a sober driver and not letting friends and family drive impaired. Other important tips include:

Plan ahead. Designate a sober driver before going out and give that person your keys;

If you are impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely;

Use your community's designated driver program;

Promptly report impaired drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement;

Always wear your safety belt and make sure all passengers are buckled up. It is your best defense against an impaired driver.

The law enforcement crackdown runs concurrently with a media campaign that will remind motorists, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket."

The Sauk Villager—Editorial Page

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Editorials welcome 200 words or less subject to editorial review.

News, photos and stories may be shared with the Southland Voice Newspapers

Towers's Republic of Sauk Village

OPINION EDITORIAL:

**By Steve LaRock, Freelance
Writer/Journalist**

As Americans who cast our votes, and sign petitions in a Democratic process, we expect those we elect to office by a majority of votes as elected officials to keep their promises they made when they actively campaigned their way to office, and expect them to represent the people's best interests and to ensure their safety, well being, and general common good while at the same time hopefully improve their quality of life in the community they live in.

But rarely it at all does it work that way in Sauk Village. Sauk Village Mayor Lewis Towers promised us no layoffs or reductions in Village services, improvements and corrections to the water issues in town, and to keep an "Open And Transparent" Government for the community to see how much he was going to accomplish for Sauk Village.

Which of these has yet to be seen, or even has turned out to be an outright falsehood, such as laying off most every member of Code Enforcement, and half of Streets and Public Works. And "Transparent" must have some different meaning as Towers yet again has appointed temporary Chief Of Police Robert Fox, the Ex-Chief Of Police from Dolton, Illinois and has abandon the petitions signed by 600 plus Sauk Village residents and calls to formally appoint Acting Chief Holevis as Chief of Police.

Holevis has advanced through the ranks of Sauk Village Police through 20 plus years of service in the community.

Prior to this appointment, Mayor Towers appointed 74 year old retired Law Enforcement member Frank Martin as Chief Of Police in Sauk Village over the preferred choice of Acting Chief Tim

Holevis. This and other mitigating factors prompted Holevis along with records clerk Lisa Gibbons whom was relieved of her duties without just cause, and Sergeant Rebecca Salisbury to file an EEOC Lawsuit which named Mayor Towers, former Chief Of Staff Brunetta Hill-Corley, and Chief Martin in what is best defined as a discrimination lawsuit. Apparently, the EEOC found merit in the case and issued a letter of recommended suit which prompted Sauk Village Administration and Legal representatives to quietly settle the case with the three in the past 2 months.

Hill-Corley and Martin were dismissed from their duties by the Village Board prior to the suit being officially filed, for just cause reasons not specifically defined by the Village Board. Hill-Corley has a pending lawsuit against the Village for unjust termination in the amount of \$50,000.00

Now Towers once again is cramming his brand of Politics down the throats of Sauk Village residents, by deciding to appoint former Dolton Chief Of Police Robert Fox as Chief in Sauk Village, and Towers plans to pay Fox approximately \$90,000.00 annually to be full time Chief Of Police in Sauk Village. Village Of Dolton Mayor Ronnie C. Lewis asked Fox in June of 2010 before he resigned from his Chief Of Police position in Dolton about having two full time jobs at that time. Mayor Lewis stated "You have two full time jobs and unless you are dedicated to one, you won't be effective in either one".

Mayor Lewis accepted Fox's resignation, amidst other controversy of a pending EEOC lawsuit, and fox went back to his full time position at the Cook County Medical Examiner's office. Fox was appointed to his County position by former Cook County Board President Todd Stroger, Jr. Another News agency contacted Fox at his County job, in 2010 and

Fox directed them to contact the County press office, whom did not return phone calls related to the questions concerning Fox's County position. The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office also failed to return numerous calls. Though Fox reportedly no longer works in the Medical Examiner's Office.

Towers did not answer calls asking about Fox's appointment. Sauk Village Mayor Towers was once again unavailable for comment, and did not return phone calls or emails questioning his reasons for appointing Fox as Chief Of Police.

So much for a Democracy. Even though the community group People Looking for Answers Now (P.L.A.N.) led by longtime Sauk Village resident Judy Cast presented Towers with petitions with over 600 signatures of Sauk Village residents asking to install Acting Chief Tim Holevis officially as Chief Of Police, Towers once again ignored the will of the people, and hired another Political refugee of Cook County Politics to a high paying position that Sauk Village simply cannot afford with a balanced budget of only 15 dollars in the plus column.

That my friends, is a Republic, not a Democracy. Welcome to the Lewis Towers Republic of Sauk Village. Where the people don't matter, their voices don't matter, his Campaign promises don't matter, and the will of the people just doesn't matter. Apparently, Sauk Village Mayor Lewis Towers doesn't think Democracy and the Democratic process matters either.

VILLAGE CLERK WILLIAMS

This is a fourth in a series of articles which will feature officials from Sauk Village. We continue the series with the Sauk Village Clerk

Sauk Village Economic Development Committee;
McConathy Public Library District -Treasurer



Village Clerk
Debbie Williams

DEBBIE WILLIAMS

Current Elected Office– Clerk
Previous elective office– Trustee Nancy L. McConathy Library

Year first elected– 2009

Term expires– 2013

Where were you born?

Chicago

What year did you graduate HS and from where: **1975 Lane Technical HS.**

College and degree (if any)?
None

Current Employer (or job title and years there if you prefer):
Pammer Research, Administrative Assistant/ Market Research Interviewer- 25 years. Pampered Chef Consultant- 1 ½ years

Spouse: **Frank Williams**
Years Married: **33 years**

Children/Grandchildren:
2 children; one grandchild and a host of step children and step grandchildren

Memberships and affiliations
Offices Held:

Girl Scouts of America 1986-1998; Girl Scout Leader / Association Co- Chair- 2 terms
Concerned Citizens of Sauk Village 2006-2009; Secretary Sauk Village 50th Anniversary Committee 2006- 2007- Co-Organizer of the 50th Anniversary Festival

Currently:
Sauk Village Public Relations and Website Committee

“To remain unbiased and neutral in a very divisive and tumultuous environment has always been challenging.”

By Joseph Wiszowaty- Williams had been thinking about running for office several times but it was when former Village Clerk Liz Selvy resigned that she had requested appointment from Former Mayor Roger Peckham. Peckham chose Beth Zupon instead.

Williams says that her and Zupon are friends and have been friends for many years. “Beth did a great job as Clerk during the brief time she was here” Williams said.

Williams election as Village Clerk was historic as she beat an incumbent Village Clerk, albeit overshadowed by the election of the first African-American Mayor.

There have been several comparisons with Williams and the late Village Clerk Nancy McConathy (1985-1985) who beat out a 25 year incumbent. McConathy served on the library board as does Williams. “I wish I could have met Nancy, I’ve hear often the similarities between her and I” Williams said.

“When I ran for Village Clerk, I did not focus on who was in the seat before me, but what I wanted to do once I was elected” Williams said. “It was not until I actually took the seat that I really knew what all was involved in that position. I have accomplished most of what I set out to do and will continue to work to move the Clerk’s office forward” Williams said.

Williams has been attending Village Board meetings for over 25 years and says she’s never witnessed anything like she see today. “To remain unbiased and neutral in a very divisive and tumultuous environment has always been challenging.” Williams



said.

One of the biggest challenges that Williams says she faces is the transcription of the meeting minutes. “It’s very difficult to report on the business of the meeting when the focus is often misdirected during the meeting” Williams said.

Williams address what are the challenges facing Sauk Village. “Sauk Village is no different than any other community when it comes to the economic struggles that we face. We have old, ailing infrastructure that will continue to deteriorate as time goes by. We have a rash of foreclosed homes which causes a lack of revenue and curb appeal. Local businesses are struggling to survive and new businesses are few and far between. Residents are more transient than ever before. We need to encourage economic growth and home ownership. Taking more pride in our community is bound to bring progress.” Williams said.

Williams has worked to expand the village’s communication with the residents as well. The Village has not updated the Municipal Code Book since

2003 but Williams is currently working on an update that will bring the village’s code book current and her goal is to continue updates throughout the years. “Village officials, employees and residents must have a clear and concise code of ordinances to refer” Williams said.

Long term, Williams plans to continue to work with all officials, department heads, employees and residents to provide whatever assistance she can in her capacity as clerk and as a fellow resident. Williams also wants to begin the process of preserving village records and documents in a more appropriate fashion than what is currently in use today. “Sauk Village has a rich history. Maintaining this history and all documentation must be a top priority” Williams said.

“After volunteering for over 20 years it was great to get to be able to become a more integral part of the mechanics of the village. I look forward to serving in this position for many years to come” Williams said.

Stay tuned to next week...

BENSON RISKS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

by Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | The Village's intergovernmental agreement with neighboring Ford Heights is set to expire by the end of the month. The original agreement was entered into with administration of former Mayor Roger Peckham. An enterprise zone is designed to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas. Chicago Heights and Ford Heights are both designated as "Enterprise Zones" and communities must be contiguous to each other in order for communities like Sauk Village to get the benefits of the zone.

Business located or those locating in an enterprise zone can become eligible to obtain special state sales tax rates and utility tax incentives, regulatory relief which provides economic stimulus to the area.

The Village's two tax increment financing districts known as TIF 2 and TIF 3 which are the Sauk Pointe Industrial Park and the LogistiCenter have been the biggest beneficiary of the Enterprise Zone. According to statistical data from the US Census Sauk Village has

more wholesale and retail sales than the Villages of Steger and Crete combined a direct benefit attributed to the enterprise zone.

"I needs more time to research what's in the intergovernmental agreements" Trustee Enoch Benson said. "These intergovernmental agreements have been in place longer than this Trustee (Benson) has been a resident If he needs to research then he needs to stay up late at night and research" Trustee David Hanks said. "We're trying to get TIF 3 (LogistiCenter) to expand. This is government 101" Hanks said chiding Benson for his lack of concern with the matter.

Later in the meeting Hanks took Benson to task again challenging Benson to bring to the board meeting in two weeks any evidence or proof against the Village Board that Benson has alleged over several months now. "Not what he thinks or feels but facts and statutes" Hanks said. "Mr. Mayor I'm not going to address Trustee Hanks unless he has a court order. I'm not going to do anything" Benson retorted.

HOLIDAY TRADITION SAUK VILLAGE PARKS & REC ARRIVAL OF SANTA

Support Your Hometown FIRST!



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Fairway



(**WADE** Continued from page 3)

he wanted". "Well I hope you learned something while you've been here" Hawkins said.

Wade left Sauk Village later in 1991 and was hired by the Village of Tinley Park to serve as Police Chief and would make an unexpected return in early fall of 1992 to pay his respects to his fallen friend Leroy Hawkins who had died after his battle with cancer. It was a friend saying goodbye, but more important it was Jim Wade who didn't forget about Sauk Village and his friends here.

Wade died after suffering a heart attack while he was at his home for lunch on December 23, 1994 at the very young age of 52 leaving behind his wife Janet and four children James, Patrick, Cynthia and Molly.

The South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police established a scholarship in Jim Wade's memory in order to aid qualified individuals who are

furthering their education and anticipating the possibility of entering law enforcement profession. Chief Wade was president of SSACOP from 1991 to 1992 and was a strong proponent of training and general education for police officers.

The South Suburban Association Chiefs of Police is comprised of police chiefs and police command officers from federal, state, county, and local law enforcement agencies from throughout the south and southwestern suburbs of Chicago.

I want to thank Molly Wade for getting me a picture of her father. I know that she already knows that her father was a great man but I wanted her to know a little bit more about her dad, a story and a different perspective. He was a great guy and I speak of him often with many of my friends from Sauk Village and at our Breakfast meetings every month. So thank you and your family for sharing him with us.

ACE WAS THE PLACE NOW- DO IT BEST



By Joseph Wiszowaty
SAUK VILLAGE | Ace was the place where Sauk Villages would by their hardware when they needed something fast. Some folks would even have their lawn mowers worked on, and then again, that's an entirely different story.

The Ace Hardware will be transitioning over to Sauk Village Hardware under the Do It Best name. "Do It Best is just as big as Ace Hardware" according to Vince Youngs manager of the store.

"All we're changing is the name, everything is staying the same and we're committed to Sauk Village" Youngs said.

"Our sales are down slightly from last year but we're confident that we'll get our sales back up.

The move was a logical one for Youngs who said his franchise with Ace Hardware was up and that it just made more sense to him to go with the Do It Best Hardware franchise.

Youngs was quick to point out that nothing in his store will change in fact he also pointed out that many stores fly the Do It Best name such as Von Tobels, Schilling Lumber and Crete, so now Sauk Village Hardware will fly the Do It Best logo and name.

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SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS

(**SANTA** Continued from page 1)

newest police Unit the 2011 Ford Excursion.

Trustee Robert Chavez and his assistant and wife Ida Chavez were on hand to help out with all the other elves including Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Jeff Morden and his wife AnnMarie Morden among others.

The lighting of the Village's Christmas Tree took place outside at the Edward W. Paesel Community Center shortly after the Santa parade stopped.

The Sauk Village Parks and Recreation Committee has long sponsored the arrival of Santa and Christmas Tree lighting.



Robert Chavez, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee thanked all of those who came out and helped with this years event. Chavez wants to continue the time honored traditions that the Village has enjoyed in spite of a tight budget and economic downturn that the Village has been going through.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

The meeting for the Human Relations Commission will convene Thursday, December 15, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at the Sauk Village Municipal Center.

LEISURE TIMERS—
Wednesday, December 14 beginning at 6pm @ Sauk Village Senior Center

VILLAGE CLERK DEBBIE WILLIAMS announced that the Village Board will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month as the Committee-of-the-Whole and 2nd and 4th Tuesdays as the Regular Village Board meeting in 2012.

(VETO) *Continued from page 1)*

Board can specify reasonable term limits to the temporary appointments without infringing on the mayor's powers.

"Temporary appointments should be temporary. Lewis shouldn't try to circumvent the approval of or the legal authority of the village board by making temporary appointments until his term is up. That's not fair to the people of Sauk Village. We don't have the money to pay an outside police chief without firing police officers and I'm not going to do that" Village Trustee Derrick Burgess said.

Village Attorney Michael McGrath of Odelsen and Sterk advised the Village Board that there is very limited case law on the matter and that the attorney general's opinion may be dated. The trustees contend that since the authority of the mayor is not changed what-so-ever the action is appropriate.

With the override of the veto, the appointment of the tempo-

rary Chief of Police Robert Fox would come to an end on or about January 22, 2012. Towers has advised the Village Board that he will file suit tomorrow against the Village Board and taxpayers of Sauk Village to throw out the ordinance which limits the term of office for temporary appointments.

Village Board members Derrick Burgess, Rosie Williams, Ed Myers, David Hanks and Robert Chavez all stated publicly to Fox that there is no money in the budget to pay an outside police chief. The Board has told Towers that if he wants to appoint a Chief of Police that he'd have to consider looking at an officer from within the department or he'd have to find the money to pay and come up with a plan since there was no money budgeted for the Chief of Police and there was only a \$15. surplus.

Towers issued an executive order contrary to the Village Board of Trustees actions stating that Fox would be provided with a village vehicle, cell

phone, uniform allowance, business cards etc at the Village's expense. Trustees have argued that this is a violation of the law and possible misappropriation of funds since the Mayor cannot spend money or approve employment agreements without the approval of the Village Board.

The Village Board has overridden Towers's veto and the ordinance has become the law in Sauk Village.

This is not likely the end of the matter and the action may end up in the courts and the taxpayers will pay for the legal bills as well.

The ordinance does not only apply to the temporary police chief Fox, but to any future temporary appointments that Towers or any other future mayor of Sauk Village may make.

Also Tuesday night, Trustee Burgess asked the mayor to rescind his executive order issued on December 7th stating that Robert Fox should get village

paid vehicle, cell phone, uniform allowance, business cards; however, the Village Board has not approved any agreement with Fox, nor has the Village Board approved his appointment as Police Chief.

Burgess accuses the mayor of misappropriation of village funds since the Village Board has not allocated village assets for the temporary appointment and the Village owes about \$35,000 for police officers uniform allowance. "How can you tell our rank and file officer we're not going to pay for yours but we're going to pay his (Fox's) before we get to theirs.

Burgess said that since the Village Board has not authorized the funds to be expended the mayor may have misappropriated Village funds and overstepped his legal bounds.

Burgess had no comment about what course of action the Village Board would have against Towers and his threat to sue the Village.

BENSON NAMED IN FEDERAL ACTION

By Joseph Wiszowaty
SAUK VILLAGE | Sergeants Tim Holevis, Rebecca Sailsbery and an administrative employee Lisa Gibbons, all long-time employees of Sauk Village settled a Federal lawsuit that they had filed in August, 2010.

Holevis, Sailsbery and Gibbons alleged that the former Police Chief Frank Martin and former Chief of Staff Brunetta Hill-Corly and that Mayor Lewis Towers, Trustee Enoch Benson and former Trustee Francine Anderson, who lost re-election in April by a nearly 3 to 1 margin, violated their civil rights and that they were racially discriminated against.

An estimated settlement figure of around \$400,000 is said to have been paid out to settle the matter, however, the actual amount is "undisclosed".

On December 7th, Holevis filed an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission claim that he was racially harassed after the settlement. The complaint states that Village Trustee Enoch Benson, who is black, "vilified" Holevis's job performance while he served as interim Chief of Police and remained a sergeant on the police force.

Benson sent an email on November 19th claiming Holevis was "raping the taxpayers at

will" by illegally collecting more than \$30,000 in overtime pay while he served as interim chief.

Holevis was put into the position of interim Chief only because there was no deputy chief of police following the termination of former Chief of Police Frank Martin.

Towers has refused to give Holevis an official appointment and a contract, consequently, Holevis was legally entitled to any and all overtime pay according to the collective bargaining agreement.

The complaint also stated that Towers made Holevis pay out-

of-pocket for a second set of business cards because the ones he had ordered said "police chief" and not "interim police chief".

Holevis states in his complaint that "I was demoted because of my race, Caucasian, and in retaliation for filing a discrimination lawsuit".

Anyone wanting to file an employment action in Federal Court must first obtain the approval of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission before moving forward