

A Response to the Edgar County Watchdogs – Carol Penning, Bolingbrook Village Clerk – Saturday, April 13, 2019

#### YELLOW JOURNALISM VS. WELL RESEARCHED INFORMATION

I was very disappointed to see your recent post about me in your Edgar County Watchdogs blog. You published before verifying your facts. I must now set the record straight. As the duly elected Municipal Clerk of the Village of Bolingbrook, I have not hired myself as an assistant, contrary to what you said. I would not, and could not do any such thing. I have no authority to hire or fire.

As the elected part-time Village Clerk, I perform such duties as take the minutes at of Village Board proceedings, record the votes, make sure they and a great many other documents are entered into the official public record as it relates to Illinois State Statute requirements. I am also, separately, an employee of the Village in the Executive Department. In fact, I was an employee of the village long before I was ever elected to the position of clerk.

It was in 1979 when I first started working for the Village. I was originally hired part-time in the Finance Department, then promoted to a full-time clerk/typist position in the clerk's office. In 1980, when both the elected Village Clerk and the appointed Deputy Clerk suddenly retired, I was given the responsibilities of both the interim Clerk and Deputy Clerk until the next election. That was during the administration of former Mayor Bob Bailey.

It was during the administration of the next mayor, Ed Rosenthal, when I was transferred to the Executive Department, where I worked as an Executive Secretary to the mayor and manager, and as well as the appointed Deputy Village Clerk. Currently, my employee position continues to be in the Executive Department, as an Administrative Assistant/Aide. I was hired in that capacity by former Village Administrator Bill Charnisky.

So you see, you misunderstood the situation and drew the wrong conclusions. This much is true, I am a part-time elected official for which I am paid a part-time salary. I also continue to be a full-time employee, for which I am paid a full-time salary. Two separate positions, for which salary levels are set by the Village Board of Trustees, as they are for all Village positions. The statute you indicated that is being violated is incorrect, since I do not vote on any Village contracts or employment. The Village Board ratifies my position each year in the passing of the annual budget. The bill that was introduced in Springfield has nothing to do with me.