



Village of Alexandria
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 28, 2016

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Former Village Fiscal Officer Indicted on Corruption Charges

ALEXANDRIA, Ohio – The Licking County Grand Jury has charged Laura Jane VANSKOY ANDREWS (nee Wood, fka Anders), age 48, of Utica, Ohio with theft in office, tampering with records and dereliction of duty, in an indictment returned today in Newark. Alexandria Village Solicitor Michael R. Moran announced the three-count indictment was obtained by the Licking County Prosecutor.

This case stems from a joint investigation conducted by the Licking County Sheriff's Office, and the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, after referral from the Village of Alexandria Solicitor's Office to the Licking County Prosecutor. This indictment alleges that VanScoy, a former appointed Fiscal Officer for the Village of Alexandria in Licking County until her firing by Village Council in 2015, stole over \$7,500.00 in Village property or services while serving in that position. Further, the Grand Jury alleged that VanScoy tampered with records pertaining to the Village's finances in records held in the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) system, and that she recklessly failed to perform her lawful duties as Fiscal Officer.

VanScoy was charged with one (1) count of felony three theft in office, one (1) count of felony three tampering with records, and one (1) misdemeanor two count of dereliction of duty. Theft in office and tampering with records are both punishable by up to three years in prison. Dereliction of duty is a misdemeanor two and is punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days. VanScoy will be issued a summons to appear in

Licking County Common Pleas Court on August 16, 2016 for an initial bond hearing before Magistrate Klein.

Alexandria Council President Andrew D. Hallam sponsored an ordinance on October 1, 2015 which Council unanimously enacted, calling for the Village Solicitor to investigate the Village's Fiscal Office following Council's termination of VanScoy in August 2015. The Solicitor then contacted the County Prosecutor on October 4th and made a formal written request for assistance on October 6, 2015. Hallam said: "On behalf of the Alexandria Village Council, I would like to thank the offices of Prosecutor Oswald and Sheriff Thorp, and Solicitor Moran for their swift and astute handling of this case. Without their professionalism, expertise and guidance, we would not have been able to see this to fruition. It is my hope that the residents of the Village of Alexandria can move on knowing that justice will be served and corruption will not be tolerated. As we prepare for the future we will be enacting sweeping legislation to reform our financial protocols to insure that this will not happen again."

Village Solicitor Moran commended the investigation of this case by Detective Shenan Day of Sheriff Randy Thorp's Office, and County Prosecutor Kenneth W. Oswald, who is prosecuting the case. If anyone has information concerning this ongoing investigation, that person can contact the Sheriff's Office at (740) 670-5533. Moran is also investigating other legal remedies to help make the taxpayers whole in this situation.

An indictment by a grand jury merely contains allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law beyond a reasonable doubt. The Licking County Common Pleas Court will be the trial court in this case and the Honorable Thomas M. Marcelain is assigned as presiding judge (Case No. 16CR-443-TMM). Case details can be found on the official docket at the Clerk of Court's Web site: <http://www.lcounty.com/clerkofcourts/>.