



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin

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CONTACT: JOHN W. VAUDREUIL
PHONE: (608) 264-5158
TTY: (608) 264-5006

FORMER VILLAGE CLERK PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Shea Ann Howard, 35, North Freedom, Wis., pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to a charge that she embezzled approximately \$9,250 from the Village of Rock Springs, Wis., while she was the Village Clerk. Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb accepted the plea and scheduled sentencing for May 21, 2010, at 1:20 p.m.

The government's proof at the guilty plea hearing established that Howard was employed as the Village Clerk for the Village of Rock Springs. As Clerk, she was responsible for printing and sending out water bills, issuing building permits, paying general bills, and taking minutes of village council meetings. From approximately August 2008 to February 2009, Howard wrote unauthorized checks to herself on the Village bank account. Each check was for approximately \$750. After cashing the checks, she voided the checks from the villages' system so they would not show in the account statement report run for the village board of trustees.

United States Attorney Sinnott stated that today's guilty plea was the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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