



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2015

**City of Steamboat Springs hires Special Public Information Officer
and contracts for Interim Police Chief**

Steamboat Springs, Colorado—

City Manager Deb Hinsvark announced the hiring of Karl Gills, retired CEO of Yampa Valley Medical Center, as a Special Public Information Officer during the investigation of accusations against Police Chief Joel Rae and Deputy Police Chief Bob DeValle. Gills has been hired as a temporary employee during the course of the investigation, expected to be two to three months. “The investigation will necessarily involve many of those who generally speak for the city which puts them in a conflicted position. Mr. Gills has no conflicting history with any of those involved with the investigation and can be an objective contact point and disseminator of information,” Hinsvark stated. “He will not be directly involved in the investigation, but will have access to those involved.”

“I appreciate the effort the city manager is making in the investigating of accusations that have been made and the recognition of the need for the community to know how the process is evolving as well as the confidentiality that must be maintained as the investigation goes forward” Gills said. Gills is currently out of town caring for family matters, but will return to Steamboat during next week.

Hinsvark also announced that Commander Jerry DeLong of the Craig Police Department will serve as Interim Chief of Police. DeLong has been with the Craig Police Department since 1985 serving in various capacities including the Division Commander role for the past 8 years. In the position of Operations Division Commander, he serves as the 2nd highest ranking officer in the department. He has completed additional training through the FBI and is a graduate of the Leadership in Police Organizations Program sponsored by the Colorado Associations of Chiefs of Police.

DeLong is able to fill this important role through an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Craig and the cooperation of Craig Chief of Police Walt Vanatta. He fills this position beginning today and throughout the term of the investigation.

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