

County needs emergency dispatchers

 wiscassetnewspaper.com/article/county-needs-emergency-dispatchers/165637



Lincoln County Communications Director Tara Doe, right, meets with commissioners Sept. 20. Also pictured, County Administrator Carrie Kipfer. BILL PEARSON/Boothbay Register

Lincoln County Communications has only nine of 16 jobs filled. On Sept. 20, Director Tara Doe reported the addition of one new emergency dispatcher and the departure of another. Doe reported Kristi Krause will begin her six months of training as she has arrived from Texas. Krause, recently moved to Boothbay, has no experience as a dispatcher, but has worked in emergency services. Departing the center is Robert Collins. He previously worked for 35 years in New York as a dispatcher. “He moved here thinking a change of scenery would help him escape burnout,” Doe said. “He was an asset to the department, but he has decided to leave.”

Doe later met in executive session to discuss creative ways to staff the communications center. The department is staffing eight shifts with six dispatchers along with Doe and the deputy director. Following the executive session, County Administrator Carrie Kipfer reported “Commissioners voted to make a temporary change to the overtime pay rates for emergency communications officers, pending communication with the union representatives. Effective Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, all overtime eligible shifts worked by non-probationary, full-time emergency dispatch communicators will be paid at the force-in rate of pay. Effective Oct. 1, reserve emergency communications officer pay rate will be increased to \$30 per hour.”