

**MID-MICHIGAN**

# Board seeks replacement after chair resigns

**By Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis**

*ljonaitis@michigannewspapers.com*  
*@lisayj\_msun on Twitter*

The Gratiot County Board of Commissioners is searching for a replacement for the district 3 seat after a residency issue forced the chairperson's resignation Tuesday night.

Laura McCollum tendered her resignation at the beginning of Tuesday's meeting, after a legal

**CHAIR » PAGE 2**

# Chair

FROM PAGE 1

opinion regarding her new home address, which said that not living in the district she represented was an issue.

“Laura has been up-front and honest about her address as soon as she moved into a temporary rental outside her district,” said Jeff Huff, the county administrator. “We got the legal opinion (on residency) this week, and she resigned at the very next meeting.”

Vice Chair Jan Bunting became the new chair, while Commissioner Tim Lambrecht stepped into the vice chair position during the meeting.

In January the board will

elect a new chair and vice chair from among the commissioners, per their normal yearly process, Huff said.

The more pressing issue is filling McCollum's empty District 3 seat, which must be done within 30 days of it being vacated, Huff said.

The board is currently accepting resumes and letters of intent through the county clerk's office through noon on Dec. 21 for those interested in applying for the seat.

At 4:30 p.m. the next day, the board has scheduled a special meeting to discuss applicants, and hopefully meet and interview those interested, Huff said. The board will vote on appointment sometime following that meeting.

Applicants must live

in Gratiot County's District 3 and be registered to vote; they will hold the seat through its term, which ends Dec. 31, 2016.

The seat is up for election in November of next year.

“It's a great opportunity for someone who is interested in participating in county government to get their hands dirty, to test it out, to see if it's for them,” Huff said.

An ideal candidate would have an open mind and be willing to learn, he said.

The ability to understand the changing tax base in Gratiot County including agriculture and declining wind turbine taxes, along with ideas on how to create competitive job opportunities for county employees would be helpful skills, Huff said.