

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

During a special board meeting last Monday night, Nov. 26, the Perkins County Health Services Board of Directors did not renew the contract of PCHS Administrator Pam Holm.

After having served the hospital for 40 years in nursing and administrative capacities, Holm's employment was terminated based on the board's decision that night to "make a change and go forward with taking the next step to grow," according to a member of the board.

According to an employee who wished to remain anonymous, the mood and atmosphere at the hospital during last week was disbelief, gloom and anger.

"I've never seen so many sad and angry employees about the loss of their leader who was always willing to stand behind them," said the employee who asked to remain anonymous due to fear of repercussion by the board. "The nurses just adore Pam. She is such a strong supporter of them. She had an open door policy—her door never closed."

Holm was hired as administrator in October 2006. Previously, she served as a registered nurse for many years and then as director of nursing for the next 15 years before filling the administrator position.

According to PCHS Attorney Richard H. Roberts, there was no wrong doing on the part of Holm. He said the board exercised their option not to renew her contract.

Members of the board include Bob Cummings, chair, Mike Mosel, Dick Thurin and Brenda Kiolbasa. A new member is currently being sought due to the vacancy left by Amanda McGreer who is moving to Kansas.

None of the board members would comment on the action they had taken. The decision was made behind closed doors in executive session.

A search will begin for the position of administrator at Perkins County Health Services. In the interim, the position will be filled jointly by Tiffany Weber, chief financial officer, and Dana McArtor, director of nursing.