But in late summer, 2013, Davidson’s high praise for Lasik vanished. Though Lasik had sensed something might be wrong as far back as June, Davidson first questioned Lasik’s job performance at an August 30 city council meeting. Two weeks later, Lasik received a long memorandum from her boss. (The Zephyr obtained copies of these emails via a freedom of Information Request to the City of Kemmerer.)

“Over the past several months,” Davidson complained, “I have become steadily more concerned with your performance and your frequent absences from the City for a variety of reasons,” which included, “taking out of town trips, you taking a multitude of periods of leave without notifying the City as you were in charge. I have noticed a marked change in your ability to manage your department and the responsibilities given to you as a department head.

“When observing your work habits,” Davidson continued, “I note that on a regular basis you do not come to work before 9 a.m., you take a lunch period and generally leave at or before 5 p.m. Additionally, I do not see you at work in the evenings...”

“...at or before 5 p.m. Additionally, I do not see you at work in the evenings, which I have been monitoring lately because of the concerns I describe above. This causes me to have an additional concern or question of how you accure the Executive Leave that the City policy clearly provides with these kinds of hours.”

Davidson concluded, “As you can clearly discern from this letter, I have serious concerns that you are not adequately or properly managing your job and its responsibilities. I am unclear why this may be and welcome any response you may have to the concerns I have specifically described above.”

Two weeks later, Lasik responded at length, with a five page memorandum of her own, noting her surprise that Davidson believed the quality of her work had declined since April—and that she was just now telling her. “I was surprised by this and asked for examples,” Lasik wrote. “You said that you couldn’t give me details, it was more of an impression, although if you thought about it, you could probably give examples. When I asked why you hadn’t expressed that or talked to me before August 30th, you stated that you were ‘waiting for me to come to you.’ When I pointed out that I had approached you twice, you said that this isn’t like kindergarten, it’s more like college, that I needed to figure some things out for myself.”

Lasik added, “At that meeting I asked you to watch my performance the next few weeks and told you that I would check in with you again. You agreed. I left feeling that things would improve between us from that point since you had been able to express your concerns and I had agreed to pay attention to my time and productivity. Our interaction did not seem to improve much since then. I feel that there is some kind of personal element involved, but I do not know what that would be.”

Lasik’s long letter then attempted to address specifically to Davidson’s criticisms. She wrote, “I dropped off a binder to your office that contains a detailed response to your email... In addition to my responses, wherever possible I attached documentation to inform her, for the first time, that based on allegations by Kemmerer city manager Rebecca Davidson, his department was pursuing evidence in a case, regarding possible theft and misuse of government funds and property. The DCI report stated:

**On Tuesday, October 29, 2013, Special Agent (SA) Jack Killey of the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, (DCI), received a FAX copy of a request for DCI assistance from the City of Kemmerer, Wyoming, Police Chief, Stacy Buck (Enclosure #9).** The request stated that Chief Buck had been contacted by the Kemmerer City Manager, Rebecca Davidson, in regard to a former city employee who had possibly, fraudulently used city funds.

There is no evidence, however, that Davidson ever accused Lasik of criminal activity while she was employed in Kemmerer. Now, in an October 29, 2013 interview with DCI, Davidson provided a laundry list of allegations, including, “unusual credit card charges” and “irregularities” on her travel expenses, and claimed that at one point, Lasik “could only produce $10 of the $100 petty cash fund” Later, Davidson conceded, Lasik found the missing $90 in another drawer in her desk.

According to the DCI report, Davidson claimed that, “During LASIK’s employment with the City of Kemmerer, there were multiple occasions where LASIK would claim to have mistakenly used the city credit card for personal use. LASIK would then note an IOU for the transaction and repay the city at a later date.”

Davidson also suggested that Lasik’s husband, a computer technician who occasionally worked on the City’s computers, had acted illegally. According to the report, “(Davidson) believed that A. Lasik had access to all Events Center computers and deleted information from them when Lasik ended her employment.” And Davidson complained that “invoices were not detailed and did not itemize revenues generated from events and training.”

According to the DCI report, Davidson claimed to have, “conducted an internet search of LASIK and discovered she had worked for a church in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and possibly left that job due to irregularities with church funds” In a phone interview with a DCI investigator, on March 4, 2014, Jennifer Lasik responded to the allegations by Davidson. According to the DCI report:

*She (Lasik) adamantly denied stealing any money from the Events Center or the City of Kemmerer.*

But on March 4, 2014, almost five months after her last working day in Kemmerer, Lasik received a call from an agent at the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, informing her, for the first time, that based on allegations by Kemmerer city manager Rebecca Davidson, his department was pursuing evidence in a case, regarding possible theft and misuse of government funds and property.
and the main Police Department computer. The investigation report doesn’t explain why TeamViewer was on a number of computers, including the computer of the Police Chief involved in the FBI.

"She was contacted by a former Event Center co-worker and was told that Rebecca Davidson had advised all Event Center employees that contact with her (LASIK) about any city computer business would result in termination of their employment."

One Davidson allegation was especially painful to Lasik. In the DCI interview, Davidsen inferred that Lasik, in a previous job, may have abscissed “with church funds.” Davidsen based her allegations on an unaltered “internet search.” As noted earlier, Lasik worked privately at a church in school at the time she was a周围的 teacher. She did have a long history with the institution. The principal of the school was the wife of her first cousin. Her grandfather founded the church and was also the co-pastor, with her uncle, at the time she worked for the school.

Lasik explained that she wasn’t remotely involved in the accounting or finances of either institution and noted, her “record-keeping was limited to attendance-taking and grading tests.”

DCI turned over its report to the Lincoln County Attorney to review. On October 3, 2014, DCI received word that, “The Lincoln County Attorney’s Office has reviewed the information received from DCI regarding the investigation and determined that DCI has made the decision to decline prosecution in this matter.” It was signed by Deputy County Attorney Scott Sargent.

Almost a year after Davidson first made the allegations, the status of the case was listed as: “closed.”

Lasik still works for the City of Evanston, Illinois as its Cultural Arts Coordinator. And enjoys the full confidence and support of her supervisors.

**TARA SMELT & DARWIN PARKER**

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The Zephyr recently sent a Freedom of Information Act request for documents related to the following part of the story, and at post time, we are just now receiving those documents. We will expand on the computer hacking incident that occurred in Kemmerer in mid-November 2014 as information reaches us...JS)

In March 2014, Davidson hired Tara Lasik to replace Lasik and gave Smelt the title, South Lincoln Training and Event Center, director. According to the Kemmerer Gazette, Smelt, from Rochester, NY, found the job announcement online and applied for the job. Six months later, Davidson promoted Smelt to be the Director of Communications and Events.

http://www.kemmerergazette.com/v2_news_articles.php?heading=0&story_id=37338&epage=72&story_tidy=4361

Darwin Parker was hired by Lincoln County, Wyoming as an IT Support Technician in August, 2012. In March, 2014, he signed a contract with the city of Kemmerer to oversee their IT needs as well. Parker worked on the city’s computers until the end of October, returning once to the City offices on November 15th, 2014 to explain the systems and their IT needs as well. Parker worked on the city’s computers until the end of October, returning once to the City offices on November 15th, 2014 to explain the systems and their IT needs as well.

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