



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

4B
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: January 26, 2016

Title of Item: Requesting a Leave of Absence

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>
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Submitted by: Amy M. Wyant	Department: Public Health
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Presenter (Name and Title): Amy M. Wyant, Health Educator	Estimated Time Needed:
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Summary of Issue:
Please refer to submitted letter.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
Approve or deny request.

Financial Impact:
 Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No
 What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$
 Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*
 This is new business for the county, so I am unsure of how to answer the Financial Impact section.

January 19, 2016

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to work at Aitkin County Health & Human Services in the Public Health Unit. I appreciate the trust you have placed in me to represent our county through the various programs including Healthy Northland SHIP [Statewide Health Improvement Program], public health initiatives and serving on the Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching CHIP [Community Health Improvement Plan] and QI [Quality Improvement] Leadership Teams. These are but a few of the many reasons why I enjoy working here. Most importantly, I value the relationships with my colleagues and the ability through my position to contribute positively to Aitkin County. I hope to remain part of the Health & Human Services team during this brief absence.

My husband, Jake Jaskowiak, and I have been offered the opportunity of a lifetime to work for 2 years at the International School Group [ISG] in Dammam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. ISG Dammam is a not-for-profit institution structured for the education of the expatriate population and offers Preschool to High School with over 1,300 students representing 35 different nationalities. Jake has been offered a position in the high school English department and I have been offered a position as the Middle School writing specialist and teaching English as a second language. It's highly likely that we will also have the opportunity to accompany students on educational trips to Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and Thailand.

We will be the only American teachers at the school, however, our principal is originally from Minnesota and he and his wife have lived there for five years. As an ambassador of Aitkin County, Minnesota of the United States of America, I'm looking forward to learning how the school incorporates health and wellness into students' lives and how public health and human service programs are handled.

We are moving in early August to begin the school year. After this brief experience, we will be returning to Aitkin County and pursue another dream of ours, that of building onto our cabin in Waukenabo Township for our permanent residence.

After we shared the news with our family, I met with my supervisor, Erin Melz. This was a difficult and emotional conversation as I enjoy working with her and appreciate the incredible rapport I have with her and my colleagues. My projects are also very important to me and I value the programs we support in Public Health for our communities.

When we return home, I will continue my professional career. I would really like to return to my position at the county and continue working on the initiatives and programs in our unit. I look forward to incorporating the new set of skills and enhanced perspective from the Saudi Arabian experience in my work .

Therefore, I am requesting a leave of absence from my current position from July 18th, 2016 to August 27th, 2018 to pursue this unique opportunity. I suspect this request is a long shot, but one must try when passionate about something and I feel passionate about working for Aitkin County. Should you not be able to grant this leave, please know how much I have enjoyed working with my supervisor, my director, Tom Burke, my fellow colleagues at Health & Human Services and with you, my commissioners. Keep up the great work for Aitkin County.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy M. Wyant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy M. Wyant