

What's Happening

Inman from front



Nadean Inman

It is a violation of the state constitution for elected officials to reside outside of the jurisdiction where they were elected, and Inman, in her affidavit of candidacy, swore she would live in the Benton County at least 30 days prior to election day.

The issue of Inman's residency was briefly discussed at a June 15, 2021, board meeting when a Benton County resident voiced concerns in the open forum section of the meeting. The issue was reintroduced when Commissioner Jared Gapinski asked for a public discussion on the matter.

According to packet information, an anonymous email was sent in April 2020 to Benton County Attorney Philip Miller, detailing concerns regarding Inman's residency. The case was forwarded to Sherburne County due to a conflict of interest. That same month, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office launched an investigation regarding Inman's residency, and the investigator assigned to the case, Sgt. Luke McLean, forwarded his findings to the Sherburne County Attorney's Office for possible perjury charges against Inman.

McLean's investigative report relating to Inman's cell phone data said that, although she paid \$100 in rent per month to a Sauk Rapids property owner (who was also a former, temporary county employee who worked under Inman in the auditor-treasurer's office), there was "little to no" cell phone usage at the Sauk Rapids address from July 17, 2019, through April 30, 2020. Data indicated significant cell phone usage at an address in Becker, the same location where Inman and her husband have three vehicles registered and their names listed on property tax documents, according to McLean.

"By going through the cell tower records and usage, it appears that Nadean Inman was not residing in the Sauk Rapids residence, according to data provided by Verizon Wireless," McLean filed in a supplemental report in April 2020 after receiving phone records. ... "According to Minnesota State Statute 200.031, under determination of residence, I do not believe that Nadean Inman follows any of the criteria of residing in Benton County when Nadean Inman completed her affidavit of candidacy."

In an April 2020, conversation between McLean and Inman's Sauk Rapids landlord, McLean asked if Inman was living at the residence. McLean said the landlord would not commit to affirming that Inman lived at the residence full time. The landlord also confirmed that Inman's husband never visited the Sauk Rapids residence to her knowledge.

"Due to these circumstances, I will forward this case to the Sherburne County Attorney's Office for the possible charge of perjury against (Inman)," McLean wrote.

In October 2020, the Sherburne County Attorney's Office declined to prosecute because, according to Chief Deputy Sherburne County Attorney Samuel Wertheimer II, he did not "believe (Sherburne County) could prove the elements of perjury or any other criminal charge."

In a December 2021 memo from Miller to commissioners, Miller informed the board that

Sherburne County was not going to be pursuing criminal charges against Inman.

He wrote that Sherburne County officials were aware of the following facts: Inman established residency at a home in Sauk Rapids, an investigator spoke with Inman's Sauk Rapids landlord to confirm she paid rent at the location from October 2018 through April 2020, Inman is not registered to vote in Sherburne County, and Inman's driver's license reflected the Sauk Rapids location as her home address.

The facts detailed by Miller excluded cell phone record information obtained in the investigation, details about the conversation between McLean and Inman's landlord, property tax documents, vehicle registration documents, and Benton County payroll documentation that lists Inman's home address in Becker. It is unclear whether Miller was privy to the excluded information.

Also included in the memo was an explanation as to why Inman was living with her husband in Becker. In late April 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic, Inman's Sauk Rapids landlord asked Inman to immediately vacate the premises due to her frequent contact with the public and the landlord's concerns with her own health.

At that time, Inman moved in with her husband in Becker, according to the memo, and in June 2020, Inman retained a realtor to find a home in Benton County. The realtor was unsuccessful in finding suitable housing for Inman. At that point, Inman decided to find a place to rent, and since the investigation concluded in October 2020, Inman found housing at an apartment complex in Sauk Rapids. She signed a lease in January 2021, according to Miller.

Because Sherburne County declined to pursue criminal charges for perjury, the case has been dropped. However, the Benton County Board can choose to pursue civil action against Inman, according to Michelle Meyer, assistant county attorney. Article 6 of the Minnesota Constitution states that an elected county official must reside in the county where they are seeking election. If they fail to maintain residency, the position will be considered vacant. If an individual fails to resign, civil action may be initiated, which means the county board could take Inman to court to force a vacation of the auditor-treasurer's office.

Miller said Minnesota statute 200.031 is the determination of residence law that applies to Inman's situation.

Inman did not respond to correspondence with the Benton County News.

To find publicly-available documents pertaining to the case, visit <https://www.co.benton.mn.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/468?fileID=2484>. Documents are located on pages 216-300.

Monday, Feb. 28, 6 p.m. – **Sauk Rapids City Council Meeting.** Sauk Rapids Government Center, 250 Summit Ave. N., Sauk Rapids.

Monday, Feb. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – **Marble Run Madness.** Explore gravity and kinetic energy. Great River Regional Library-St. Cloud, 1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud.

Tuesday, March 1, 9 a.m. – **Benton County Board of Commissioners Meeting.** Benton County Administration Building, 531 Dewey St., Foley.

Tuesday, March 1, 11 a.m. to noon – **Living Waters Lutheran Church Food Shelf Distribution.** Living Waters Lutheran Church, 1911 Fourth Ave. N., Sauk Rapids. If in need of emergency food assistance, call 320-255-1135.

Tuesday, March 1, 1:30 p.m. – **"Church Basement Ladies."** A performance surrounding a church basement kitchen and four ladies who work there. Requires proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of event. For tickets, visit paramountarts.org or call 320-259-5463. Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud.

Tuesday, March 1, 7 p.m. – **"Church Basement Ladies."** A performance surrounding a church basement kitchen and four ladies who work there. Requires proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of event. For tickets, visit paramountarts.org or call 320-259-5463. Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud.

Tuesday, March 1, 7 p.m. – **Free Grace Recovery Meeting.** Hosted by Free Grace United. All are welcome; everyone struggles with something. Food and fellowship beginning at 6:30 p.m. The ROC, 141 Fourth Ave. N., Foley. For more information or support, call 612-512-4745.

Friday, March 4, 11 a.m. to noon – **Living Waters Lutheran Church Food Shelf Distribution.** Living Waters Lutheran Church, 1911 Fourth Ave. N., Sauk Rapids. If in need of emergency food assistance, call 320-255-1135.

Friday, March 4, 4:30-7 p.m. – **Lenten Fish Fry.** Free will offering. Fish, potato, sides and dessert. Handicap accessible. Dine-in or take-out orders. St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, 16454 125th Ave. NE, Foley.

Sunday, March 6, 1 p.m. – **St. Joseph Catholic Church Quilt Bingo.** Lunch provided after bingo and drawing. Handicap accessible. St. Joseph Parish Hall in Morrill, 33018 Nature Road, Foley.

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