

By MELINDA KRICK • Progress Editor

PAULDING – Paulding County dog warden Georgia Dyson’s final day on the job will be June 30 and assistant dog warden Ken Huckabaa’s last day will be May 31. As of July 1, the dog warden’s office duties and dog shelter operations will be under the authority of the sheriff’s office.

The change is the result of a vote by county Commissioners Fred Pieper, Tony Zartman and Roy Klopfenstein on May 1.

A press release issued by the commissioners later that morning stated, “The commissioners are confident this change will promote efficiency and provide 24/7 service to the county residents.”

Dyson, Huckabaa and several supporters attended a press conference on Monday morning, May 6, which also was attended by Sheriff Jason Landers, media representatives and the commissioners.



SIDEBAR:

Dog warden loses job

By NANCY WHITAKER • Progress Staff Writer

PAULDING – Paulding County Commissioners held a news conference on Monday to explain their decision to shift the dog wardens duties to the sheriff's office. This is to become effective on July 1.

Paulding County dog warden Georgia Dyson, found out last Wednesday, May 1, about the transfer of duties and the subsequent loss of her position. She was told that it was for safety reasons.

This did not make any sense to her as she is a certified peace officer and a member of the sheriff's office reserve as well. She is also an Afghan veteran and received extensive hand to hand combat training. So, it was quite puzzling to her as to why her safety was a big enough concern to warrant them to replace her with the sheriff's office.

Dyson, who assumed the role of dog warden in December 2010 said, "I have worked endless hours to ensure that I didn't have to put dogs down. I haven't euthanized a dog since Aug. 21, 2012.

"Also since I took over I haven't had to use any money from the general fund. I have had a carryover balance each year since I have been the chief dog warden.

"The dog shelter is funded by tags and license fees and by donations."

Dyson said, "My job does not end at 4 p.m. I have the dog warden's number forwarded to my cell phone after hours and I know they are getting round-the clock assistance."

Dyson said that she would not be eligible to apply for the dog deputy duties as she is married to a deputy and they do not hire relatives.

However, it was disclosed that Dyson could apply for a part-time position that will be created by the sheriff's office and it would cover weekends.

Meanwhile, assistant dog warden Ken Huckabaa, who was hired Jan. 1, will be losing his position as well.