

## **Cass department heads achieved their requirements**

### **Brainerd Dispatch**

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WALKER — Cass County commissioners decided Tuesday all county appointed department heads have achieved the requirements of their positions.

This follows a closed meeting Oct. 22 to meet with and review each department head's performance during the last year.

The board voted Tuesday to appoint Robert Yochum to his sixth term as county administrator. He first was appointed to a five year term 1996. Five more appointments for four years each followed.

The county will solicit applications from now through Nov. 26 for persons seeking appointment or reappointment to county commissions and committees to fill vacancies and terms that expire the end of this year.

The board expects to name appointments during the Dec. 17 regular meeting.

Copies of applications and notice of vacancies are available on the county's website, [www.co.cass.mn.us](http://www.co.cass.mn.us), or from the administrator's office in the courthouse in Walker.

Cass Health, Human and Veterans Services expended 62.51 percent of the 2013 budget after 75 percent of the year. Out-of-home placement costs ran significantly under budget projections the first nine months this year, with only 51 percent spent.

The board authorized Sheriff Tom Burch to remodel a former records storage area into a larger space for preserving evidence from crimes. The remodeling will cost up to \$4,700.

Cass will receive a \$43,000 state grant to provide crime victim services through September 2014.

South Country Health Alliance has made its final \$429,978.58 payment to Cass County. The amount represents the final portion of money the county had invested in a joint county program to provide medical assistance services. Cass withdrew from that program about five years ago and has provided medical assistance to local clients through a state program instead.

South Country paid back in installments the money the county had invested in the joint venture that had not been spent on its clients while the county was a part of the program.

Kurt and Connie Harris donated \$100 to the sheriff's boat and water safety program.

**Cass County Economic Development (EDC) Director Gail Levenson reported she worked with 22 businesses on their proposed plans during September.**

**Levenson recently completed a three-and-a-half year term as president of the Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers.**

**Businesses recently completing projects for their firms with help from the EDC include Northern Peace Funeral Home, where owners made a \$25,000 investment in new equipment and added a half-time employee, and Cass Lake Family Dollar selected a site and worked with the city and land developers toward opening a business that will hire seven to 10 people.**