



Some clouds
Partly cloudy,
slight chance of
showers. High
today, Thursday
mid to upper 80s.
Low tonight mid to
upper 60s. E winds
15 m.p.h., Data, 2-A.

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Wednesday, April 23, 1975

And Hernando, Citrus, Levy And Southern Marion Counties.

Commission fires Cashion on second vote; charging vendetta, he says he'll fight it

By CHARLES PATTON
Pasco Times Staff Writer

PASCO
county
commission

NEWPORT RICHEY—By a 5-0 vote, the Pasco County Commission Tuesday fired Acting County Administrator and Building Department Director John W. Cashion. Commission Chairman Mike Olson cited lack of confidence in Cashion and Cashion's resignation last week for the job of fulltime administrator. Olson said he does not believe that it would be fair to the incoming administrator to have a man on his staff who has been a competitor for the job. Cashion said he will fight the commission action.

The board named Rose Lana, secretary to the administrator for the past two years, as acting administrator to serve until the new administrator assumes his duties about June 1.

Assistant Building Director Sherman Williams will head the building department until the new administrator decides on a permanent successor.

CASHION HAS BEEN acting administrator for more than five months, and building director since October 1973.

He said he plans first to go to Pasco-Pinellas State Atty. James T. Russell with charges of malfeasance and misfea-

sance in office by Olson and Circuit Clerk Miller Newton.

He said he believes there also has been a violation of the Government - in - the - Sunshine Law by other commissioners as a result of the change in the vote dismissing him.

Earlier in the day, the commission turned back Olson's call for Cashion's dismissal by a 3-2 vote. But after a short break, the matter was brought back to the floor as an emergency action, and the unanimous vote was cast against Cashion.

Cashion said it appears that someone lobbied during the break.

ON THE CHARGES against Olson and Newton, Cashion said he believes that both men had a "personal vendetta" against him.

He said he believes Newton has overstepped the bounds of the clerk's office and has been "running the board."

He said Olson sought election on the basis that he would be a fulltime commissioner, but has not lived up to that promise.

Cashion said he also feels it is improper for Olson, as chairman, to suggest motions while presiding over the meetings.

Cashion said he is not fighting because of his job but be-

cause he is "concerned about straightening out" some of the problems in county government that he feels exist.

He said he also is fighting for his own "personal satisfaction" because he believes his civil rights were violated in his dismissal as building department head.

CASHION SAID that, after consulting with the state attorney, he then will consult with his private attorney regarding the civil rights problem.

Olson denied the allegation that he had done any lobbying

during the short recess after the first vote.

He said he is not concerned about Cashion's threat to go to the state attorney.

"That's up to him," Olson said. "I've been investigated before and I probably will again."

Newton said Cashion's charge came as a complete surprise to him.

"I'm just the clerk to the board," Newton said. "I don't know what I have to do with all this (the action taken by the commission Tuesday.)"

(See CASHION, Page 3)



JOHN CASHION
... will seek charges.

Cashion (Continued from Page 1)

Cashion said the action took him by surprise.

He said he would have been glad to step down from the administrator's job if asked.

"I OFFERED to step down after the first 90 days on the job," he said.

"But now they have an open fight on their hands, let the chips fall where they may."

He said he feels that the County Commission made a good decision in offering the fulltime administrator's post to Richard M. Kelton, assistant manager of Volusia County.

He said he had personally told Kelton that he would be willing to work with him in any way possible for the benefit of the county.

ON THE FIRST vote to oust Cashion, Commissioners Curtis Law, Robert K. Rees and Mathew Prahasky Jr. voted to retain Cashion.

They did not explain why they changed their minds and

made the formal vote a unanimous decision just a short time later.

Cashion's firing is the latest in a series of top-level reshuffling in the county during the past few weeks.

The firings started with the commission's termination of county engineer John Sampson. Lack of confidence also was cited in that decision.

After Sampson's dismissal, Cashion fired or laid off road and bridge superintendent George Goodchild, his brother, Ron, who was a construction crew foreman, 11 members of the building department, and Rex Brinkerhoff, management systems analyst.

Ron Goodchild appealed his case to the County Commission, and was reinstated. George Goodchild and Robert Maren, a longtime building department inspector, also appealed, but Cashion's decision to fire them was upheld by the commission.

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