



## Chief Problem

February 26, 2009

by Jay Henry

Unless you attend Alsip Village board meetings on a regular basis – you may have missed this one.

Alsip Police Chief Robert Troy resigned a couple of weeks ago. I didn't post it at the time – but there's apparently some news blackout involving our town – so I felt the need to keep everyone informed.

Troy has been on the job for about 2 years – appointed by the current administration (Mayor Pat Kitching). Recalling the circumstances of Troy's hiring, he replaced former Chief Rick Dalzell - under somewhat stormy circumstances related to Kitching's desire (demand) to promote Officer Jim McGreal to Deputy Chief.

McGreal's subsequent promotion to Lieutenant appeared to be a quid pro quo at the time – seeing as McGreal had never successfully passed the sergeant's exam. McGreal passed over several sergeants and lieutenants when receiving his promotion.

Troy got the job – and is now resigning – under somewhat suspiciously cloudy circumstances. Kitching's folly? Probably – seeing as it will be tough to defend why his selection of 2 short years ago is now leaving the job.

McGreal – also a candidate for mayor – resigned from the police department last year amid accusations within the police department. Kitching's folly? Probably – seeing as it will be tough to defend promoting McGreal only to have him forced to resign shortly after.

I wonder when the mudslinging during the upcoming election will start between these two.

Kitching obviously has a problem within the police department. Command and control doesn't appear to be his strong suit.

Speaking of suits ... stay tuned for information regarding the latest lawsuit to hit the village.