

The Fort Morgan Times

www.fortmorgantimes.com

Print Page

Hearing set in embezzlement cases

By DAN BARKER

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 6:07 PM MST

Time Staff Writer

All of the charges against accountant Kathy Samples will be a part of an embezzlement prosecution by the district attorney's office.

After a status hearing Friday in Morgan County District Court, charges of theft, forgery and unauthorized use of a financial instrument were set. A final charge of eavesdropping was not, but will in the future, said Deputy District Attorney Paul Wiese.

The charges allege Samples siphoned off \$46,000 from water lateral companies associated with the Bijou Irrigation District and \$15,292 from the Morgan-Prewitt Reservoir Ditch Co. over a seven-year period.

The Bijou Board of Directors also filed charges in a separate case, Wiese said.

The first charges were filed after the Fort Morgan Police Department was called in by Bijou in January to investigate a suspected embezzlement and went through bank records to uncover the alleged thefts. There are also allegations Samples altered some checks to cover her tracks.

FMPD officers later met with Morgan-Prewitt board members about similar transactions.

The status hearing was for the Bijou charges, but Wiese said he would try to put the charges from all three cases on the same date from now on.

The next step is a pre-trial hearing March 16 at 3:30 p.m. This meeting is set to determine if the DA's office can come to a resolution with Samples and her representation. If not, a trial would be scheduled, Wiese said.

— Contact Dan Barker at business@fmtimes.com or 970-324-1254.