



## DICKINSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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Photo by Kathy Hageman/Dickinson County Public Information Coordinator

Dickinson County Commission Chairman Lynn Peterson, left, shakes Herington City Commission candidate Steve Lewis' hand following a coin toss Thursday that awarded an open city commission seat to Eric Gares, right, as Gares moves to shake hands with Commissioner Ron Roller.

### **Jones attends final commission meeting; coin toss decides race**

*By Kathy Hageman/  
Dickinson County Public Information*

Dickinson County Clerk Barbara Jones attended her final Dickinson County Commission meeting as clerk Thursday, Nov. 18. She will retire Tuesday, Nov. 30.

The commission will not meet Thursday, Nov. 25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Commission Chairman Lynn Peterson told Jones he appreciated all she had done, for keeping the commission in line and all her hard work.

Jones thanked the commission for being great to work with.

Jones' position also includes serving as the county's election officer so it was somewhat ironic that her final meeting would involve a coin toss to decide the winner of a tie race.

### **Coin toss decides race**

A coin toss resulted in Eric Gares being named to the Herington City Commission.

Gares and fellow candidate Steve Lewis both received 136 votes in the Nov. 2 General Election.

The county commission, in its role as the board of canvassers, broke the tie between Gares and Steve Lewis with a coin flip during Thursday's meeting.

County Clerk Barb Jones said Kansas law states the board of canvassers must determine the winner by lot.

"After counting and tallying all the votes — provisionals, the hand tallies and machine count — the race resulted in a tie between Eric and Steve at 136 votes. By statute the canvassers break the tie. It doesn't say who calls heads or tails. It just says a coin flip or putting names in a hat," Jones explained.

Peterson thanked both men for their interest in public service.

"It's just a reminder that every vote counts," Peterson said.

Peterson selected Gares to make the call because Gares was the first to arrive and sign in for the meeting. County Counselor Doug Thompson asked if either man had an objection to Peterson's plan. Neither did.

Peterson tossed the coin into the air as Gares called heads. The coin landed heads up and Gares was named the winner of the race.