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Pierzina becomes First HR Director for City of Williston

The City of Williston's first human resources director is officially on board. Chery Pierzina started working on Monday, May 8.

The human resources position was created to accommodate the City of Williston's unprecedented employment growth. The City currently employs close to 300 employees compared to 150 employees just 5 years ago.

Pierzina, comes to the City of Williston with a vast background in human resources with another public entity. She has spent her entire career working for public school districts, most recently the Williston Public School District #1. She wasn't necessarily looking for a career change when the fortuitous opportunity with the City came about.

"She comes to us with good experience and training in HR, as well as a strong background in the various challenges facing public organizations today," said David Tuan, City Administrator.

Pierzina, age 50, has more than 15 years of human resources experience in the public sector with extensive knowledge of governmental and administrative practices including labor relations, contract interpretation, and wage and salary administration. She is certified through Society for Human Resource Management as a Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP).

"What appealed to me was starting a new position that I could build and grow," said Pierzina. "It wasn't an easy decision. I have worked for school districts since 1990, so when I left, I was feeling nostalgic."

During the transition process, the City of Williston's department heads will transfer the administration of employee-related matters to Pierzina.

"We plan to discuss responsibilities and work priorities in more detail in the coming weeks with our department heads," added Tuan.

“I have an idea of the things I would like to do, and David and the commissioners have ideas, and together I think we will meet the needs of the employees and get some consistency across the departments,” Pierzina added.

Pierzina’s office is located on the second floor of City Hall. She and her husband, Jim, have 3 grown children and 3 live-in dogs. She may be contacted at (701) 713-3800 or email cheryp@ci.williston.nd.us.