

NORFOLK DAILY NEWS

Former clerk found not guilty of theft from city

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PIERCE — A jury found that a former Plainview city employee accused of theft was not guilty following a three-day jury trial in Pierce County District Court that concluded Wednesday.

Carolyn Jacobsen, 44, had been charged with a Class III felony — theft by deception of more than \$1,500. The case stemmed from an investigation and audits that discovered about \$50,000 in missing funds.

A Pierce County District Court spokeswoman said the third day of the trial ended Wednesday morning, with the jury beginning deliberations at 11:10 a.m. At 12:56 p.m., the jury returned the not guilty verdict, she said.

Judge James Kube presided over the case.

Jacobsen was known as Carolyn Conner when she worked as a clerk for the City of Plainview. She began working for the city in June 2008.

According to online court records, the city's accounting firm, Dana F. Cole, noticed material changes in the city's finances when it conducted its October 2008 audit.

The city also has the utility fund for electricity, water and sewer billing. From October 2008 to February 2010, it detected discrepancies in the utility fund in amounts deposited and amounts reported to be in excess of \$20,000, according to online records.

Jacobsen was absent from work in March 2010 and quit her employment with the city.

Jacobsen, who now lives in Creighton, was represented by attorney [David Domina](#) of Omaha. She had been free on bond since posting 10 percent or \$2,500 of \$25,000 in December 2012 following her arrest.

The case was investigated by the Nebraska State Patrol. Jacobsen was arraigned on Jan. 9, 2013.