

## Toole charges dismissed

WILKES-BARRE — Theft and tampering with records charges against former Pittston City Clerk Wil Toole have been dismissed.

Luzerne County Judge Michael Conahan dismissed the charges a week after Mr. Toole reached an agreement with the city to end a lawsuit over Mr. Toole's pension.

Prosecutors alleged Mr. Toole, upon retiring from the city in 1997, received approximately \$19,000 improperly for unused sick time he accumulated during his 13 years of employment.

The prosecution alleged Mr. Toole could not accumulate that much time in the period he was employed by the city.

He allegedly changed the rules for the city without council approval to buy back sick time, allowing him to be paid for 1,362 days.

His lawyer, Michael Butera, argued his client made a mistake and thought he had council's approval to change the policy.

The agreement that ends the lawsuits requires Mr. Toole to reimburse the city for \$19,000 he supposedly received improperly and for the city to begin paying him his \$30,000 a year pension.

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