

A 12-day investigation that began March 5 resulted in former Washington County Commissioner Michael Goering being arrested and charged with five counts of sexual misconduct with a minor. Goering, who is currently a county employee, is also facing a sixth charge of attempted sexual misconduct with a minor.

Washington County Sheriff's Department Captain Roger Newlon confirmed Goering's employment, but said he is not sure of what his exact title is.

According to the Solid Waste Management's website, Goering is listed as the manager/engineer.

A press release issued Friday afternoon stated that the investigation began on March 5 after the Washington County Sheriff's Department received a call from a juvenile and her family alleging sexual misconduct.

Newlon did not release the exact age of the alleged victim, but said the fact that the charges are Class B felonies confirms the victim is under the age of 16.

Newlon said the alleged victim and her family knew Goering.

Goering was arrested Friday, March 22 and is being held on a \$120,000 full cash bond.

There was a special prosecutor assigned to the case.

"The State's case against Michael Goering is being handled by a special prosecutor, Sonia Leerkamp from Hamilton County," said Washington County Prosecutor Dustin Houchin. "To this point, I actively participated in the investigation because it was rapidly evolving. However, I turned the matter over to a special prosecutor for filing because Goering is a current county employee, a former county commissioner, and has been politically active in the community.

"I have no actual conflict, but I thought it prudent to request a special prosecutor to avoid even the appearance of a potential conflict."

Newlon said the investigation is on-going.