

Council offers job to Spiczka

Negotiations underway for administrator position

By Nancy Vogt
Editor

A local man was offered the job as Pequot Lakes' next city administrator.

Richard Spiczka, Pequot Lakes Community Education director for the past four years, hadn't officially accepted the offer as of Tuesday, Nov. 3, according to City Clerk/Treasurer Angie Duus, who said in an email that negotiations were taking



Spiczka

place.

The council unanimously agreed to offer the job to Spiczka at a starting annual wage of \$73,028 in a meeting Thursday morning, Oct. 29, Duus said.

Spiczka is also the Pequot Lakes High School boys basketball coach. Before coming to Pequot Lakes, he served as the activities director/program coordinator/coach for Sauk Rapids-Rice Schools for approximately five years; as a community program director for the YMCA of Greater St. Paul in Mounds View for six months; and as the recreation supervisor for Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools in Buffalo for approximately five years.

Spiczka has a degree in business management from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah, and a

degree in elementary education from St. Cloud State University.

He would become the city's second city administrator after Nancy Malecha resigned in July to work for the Crow Wing County Highway Department. Malecha served as city administrator for nearly five years, and worked for the city for a total of 18 years, including as finance administrator/deputy city clerk.

The council voted in May 2015 to add a city administrator to the staff after longtime clerk/treasurer Sandy Peine retired.

Last week, the council interviewed four finalists for the city administrator position: Spiczka; Richard Baker, executive director of the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation in Luxemburg, Wisconsin; Kyle Box, city clerk in Marshall, Minnesota; and Mary Lein, a deputy city clerk in Jordan, Minnesota.

Two other finalists - Robert Barnes, of Casper, Wyoming; and Joan Macik, of Kandiyohi, Minnesota - withdrew from consideration before being interviewed.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, candidates each had a panel interview with the city council followed by a community meet and greet event at the Cole Memorial Building. They were encouraged to contact and meet with key community leaders during down time. Written invitations to the meet and greet were extended to city board members; nonprofits; organizations and committees; school, county and chamber officials; and others. Consultants with David Drown Associates, the consultant hired to help the city in the city administrator search, gathered feedback from attending commu-

nity members to share with the council at its Thursday, Oct. 29, meeting, according to a written agenda for the day.

Staff planned for social distancing in designated spaces.

It was learned in a Monday, Nov. 2, email from Duus to people who attended the meet and greet that the city had two employees test positive for COVID-19 over the weekend and a third who was to be tested due to symptoms.

"These employees were at the meet and greet last Wednesday therefore we wanted to make you aware of the potential exposure," Duus wrote.

At its Oct. 29 meeting, the council received feedback from the meet and greet and had discussion and deliberation, according to the agenda.

The council will approve final terms of employment for Spiczka, which are being negotiated, at a future council meeting. The council's next scheduled meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, a week later than usual because of the Nov. 3 general election.

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