

**Town manager in Walkertown leaving position
Linville takes job with Henderson County, returning to a government
structure he prefers over working for city**

By Wesley Young

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WALKERTOWN

Town Manager Toby Linville is leaving his job to accept a position as the director of development services for Henderson County.

Linville, who has worked as the town manager in Walkertown since March 3, 2003, will leave his job May 20.

"It is an opportunity I couldn't pass up," Linville said. "It was sort of like the same deal that brought me here: I wasn't really looking and it just unfolded."

In his new job, he will supervise 25 people and be involved with permitting in the planning and inspection departments, Linville said. His annual salary will be \$58,000.

He will work with planning, inspections, property addressing, solid-waste enforcement and code enforcement.

Linville has a staff of two employees in Walkertown. His salary is \$44,000 a year.

Linville, 28, said he started his career working for Rockingham County and looks forward to returning to working in a county.

"I like county I think more than city," Linville said. "You are not constantly worried about your boundaries and streets and garbage and some of those other municipal problems.

"It is a much larger organization," Linville said. "With this position, I will be separated a little bit from the front line. I will be able to do my job and not have to worry about every citizen complaint."

Linville graduated from Appalachian State University in 2000 with a master's degree in public administration, after getting a bachelor's degree in political science in 1998.

He was the town clerk in Oak Ridge before he became the town manager in Walkertown.

Linville said he has enjoyed being a part of Walkertown, where he served on the fire squad as well as in the manager's office.

"Any of the community-type events that we had were always a blast," Linville said. "The fish fry and the day in the park were successful, and everyone enjoyed them. Part of what I liked about Walkertown is what I didn't like: That there was always a new challenge. There were so many things going on that you can't focus on one project."

Linville's term as manager coincided with an election upheaval on the Walkertown Town Council that left control with a faction that had been critical of town management.

Council Member Horace Warner, who has criticized Linville from time to time, didn't say much about his departure.

"I wish him well," Warner said.

Council Member Dot Duggins praised Linville. "I am very disappointed," she said. "I really hoped to have him several years. I knew he would move on. Good people move on. They get better opportunities."

Duggins and Warner said that the council must find a good replacement.

"Walkertown is a training ground for the young guys and the older guys who would like a place to slow down," Duggins said. "We don't need anyone to slow down because when a town is growing the way we are, it is very important who you have in the managing spot."

- Wesley Young can be reached at 992-0067 or at wyoung@wsjournal.com

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