

Walkertown is working to fill town manager's post Mayor wants someone with grant-writing skills

**By Wesley Young
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WALKERTOWN

The town council may take the first steps tonight toward selecting a town manager to replace Toby Linville.

Linville's last day as town manager was May 20. Mayor Doc Davis said that the council might consider hiring someone to serve as interim town manager until a full-time replacement can be hired.

Davis said he doesn't think that the board will pick anyone tonight to do that job.

"We will try to discuss our game plan unless we locate a candidate beforehand," Davis said, adding that several people have shown interest in the job.

Linville served as town manager for more than two years and left to accept a job with the county government in Henderson County.

Town managers typically have short terms in Walkertown.

Recent managers include Gary Looper, who worked two years before leaving for the manager's post in Clemmons in 1998; H. Lee Rollins, an interim manager who stayed on the job one week; Scott Shelton, who worked 10 months; and Jake Gray, who left after six weeks on the job in 2000.

Other managers include Stephen Hamilton, who lasted almost a year before resigning in 2001, and John Hattle, who lasted from 2001 to 2002. Most managers left the town for positions elsewhere.

Town Clerk Lynn McKinnie has filled in as interim town manager during some vacancies. Bill Roberts, the former director of the Forsyth County Public Library, filled the slot as interim manager before Linville was hired.

Davis said that Walkertown's new manager should be someone with experience in writing grants.

"We don't need someone with a lot of experience with employees because we only have two employees," Davis said. "We do need someone who knows the ropes and has the experience with grant writing.

"It seems that every town is competing for grant money," Davis said. "I would love to see someone with a little more experience, but we will have to take what we can find on a permanent basis."

Before leaving his job, Linville said the town needs unity. The last municipal

election left the town council divided between factions.

"They need to get a direction among the council, however they want to proceed," Linville said.

"They need a unified direction because they are so divided. They need to change the election back to a four-year system so that there is some continuity with four-year staggered terms."

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