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City Trims Town Manager Field

By Kelly Carr, Staff Writer

Buckeye's search for a new town manager is down to 10 candidates. Guiding the search is a national municipal consulting firm, **Colin Baenziger & Associates**, based in West Palm Beach, Fla., and Colorado Springs, Colo.

The firm's search drew 77 candidates from across the nation to fill the position left vacant after Carroll Reynolds resigned in July. The Town Council called for Reynolds' resignation after an executive session and made no public comment on why he was asked to leave.

The consulting firm has searched through databases of about 8,000 people, called potential candidates and posted the position in national publications.

Baenziger said he is confident that the pool of 10 will produce the final candidate. The applicants come from several states, including Arizona, Texas, Florida, Wisconsin, Oregon and Utah.

The firm looked for candidates who have overseen a city with 100,000 people or more and have experience managing a fast-growing area. Buckeye has about 30,000 people, up from 8,400 in 2000. By 2025, the population is projected to reach 1 million, then 2 million at build-out.

"We are excited about it and I think the candidates are. You don't get an opportunity very often to manage a town like this," **Baenziger** said. "It's a challenge, but also a good selling point. How many times in your life do you have the opportunity to take a city of about 32,000 and grow it about 1.5 million?"

Next, the firm will begin intensive background searches on the top 10, then meet with the council October 17.

The group will narrow the pool to the five who will come to Buckeye for interviews October 27-28.

Reynolds resigned a month after Mayor Bobby Bryant took office.

"I want someone who is a real people person and a dynamic leader who has dealt with growth like this," Bryant said. "This will be a decision made by the entire council, and that person will report directly to us."

The council plans to have a town manager selected by the end of October.

Until then, Jeanine Guy has been elevated from community services director to interim town manager. Guy, who has worked for the town for 14 years, also is helping with the search.