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Routt County Commissioners Announce Finalists for County Manager Position

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS – In the Board of Commissioners meeting today, the Routt County Commissioners announced the two finalists for the permanent county manager position, Joe Kerby and Paul Fetherston. The finalists will go to the next round of the interview process which will include a virtual meeting with the County Department Heads, a public meeting with community stakeholders, as well as interviews with the County Commissioners. Based on statutory regulations, an offer for the county manager position cannot be made until 14 days have passed since announcement of finalists. The start date of the permanent county manager will be part of the contract negotiation process. Mark Collins, the interim county manager, will stay in his position until the new manager is in place.

“We hired SGR to do the county management recruitment effort for us. We received a large number of applications and narrowed it down to fourteen individuals as semi-finalists. With the help of SGR, we narrowed down the list to five, we watched their video presentations, read their questionnaires and had Zoom interviews with the five candidates last week. And today, we will narrow it down to two or three people,” said Board of Commissioners Chair, Tim Corrigan during the meeting today.

In order to protect their privacy, the Commissioners did not name the five semifinalist candidates and referred to them by number. Commissioner Melton made a motion to advance candidate three and number four which Commissioner Monger seconded.

Commissioner Monger acknowledged that the pool of candidates may have been deeper if we were not in the middle of a pandemic, “SGR has done a good job. They created an overview of the position, advertised it in a number of locations including the Colorado City and County Management Association (CCCMA) and the International City and County Management Association (ICMA). We were advised that COVID-19 might affect the number of applications, but were lucky to get over 74 qualified applications, before we narrowed down the list.”

Commissioner Corrigan announced the finalists' names of Joe Kerby and Paul Fetherston. Joe Kerby is the county administrator in Corvallis, Oregon and prior to that was the county manager for La Plata County, Colorado; the city manager in Delta, Colorado; the deputy county manager in Douglas County; the county manager in Montrose County and other city and county managerial roles in Kansas and Colorado. Paul Fetherston is the Assistant City Manager in Greeley, Colorado. Prior to that he was the Assistant County Manager in Lake County, Illinois; Assistant City Manager in Asheville, North Carolina; Deputy City Manager in Boulder, Colorado and other managerial roles in Connecticut.

The next step in the decision-making process is a virtual meeting of the Routt County Department Heads with the two finalists, as well as a public stakeholder meeting with key groups such as the Routt County municipalities, the Steamboat Chamber, the Steamboat Resort, the school districts and other community stakeholders.

"I am satisfied with the two final candidates and look forward to having more discussions to move this process forward and find a permanent county manager," said Commissioner Beth Melton.

Commissioner Corrigan closed the meeting by thanking Mark Collins, the interim county manager, and appreciating his willingness to stay on board until the process of hiring the permanent county manager is complete.

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