

Hills council choose 5 finalist for city manager

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
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The Farmington Hills City Council will interview five men in June 9 to find the next city manager.

The new city manager will succeed popular former City Manager Bill Costick, who left in February to take a job in the private sector.

Bennett Isaacson Associates of Boston was hired to screen applicants for the job and City Clerk Kathy Dornan was appointed as interim city manager.

Of the 60 candidates who either applied or were recruited, 35 were considered by the recruiting firm and nine of them were recommended to city council members in a study session last month. Of those, six were selected as candidates. One of those candidates opted out of the process.

Daniel Hobbs, city manager of Greenbelt, Md., is one of the finalists. Hobbs has managed the Washington, D.C. suburb of 32,000 residents since 1991 and managed Killen, Texas, a city of 64,000 for a year and a half before that.

He also has experience as a director of

management and budget in Corpus Christi, Texas; an assistant city manager in Rockville, Maryland as well as municipal experience in Cleveland and Dayton, Ohio.

Hobbs is a University of Dayton graduate with advanced degrees from that university and the University of Wisconsin. He's married with three children.

Richard King, 44, has been city manager of Upper Arlington, Ohio, a city of 36,000, since August of 1984. The married father of three also worked as an assistant city manager in the Columbus suburb and Batavia, N.Y., as well as in other capacities in Florence, Ky., and Youngstown, Ohio.

King is a Youngstown State University

graduate with a master's degree in public administration from Kent State University.

James Prosser, has been the city manager of Richfield, Minn. since 1986. Richfield is a Minneapolis suburb of 37,851.

Prosser was Village Manager of Hazel Crest, Ill., director of management services in Glen Ellyn, Ill., and administrative assistant in Wood Dale, Ill. as well.

He has a bachelor's in political science from the University of Illinois and a master's in public administration from Syracuse University.

Steven Sarkozy, the city manager of another Minneapolis suburb, also has a master's in public administration from Syracuse University.

Sarkozy manages Roseville, a city of 34,485. The Miami of Ohio University graduate has Michigan connections as an assistant city manager in Wyoming (a Grand Rapids suburb), an assistant city manager in Beverly Hills, and a mayoral appointee in Southfield as well as municipal experience in Syracuse, N.Y., Moraine, Ohio.

Mark Wollenweber won't have far to travel when he visits Farmington Hills. The married father of two has been city manager of St. Clair shores since 1990. Before that, he managed Huntington Woods for 12 years and worked in Plymouth and Westland.

Wollenweber, 47, is a University of Detroit graduate with a master's from the Detroit school in urban affairs.

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