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### **Village Board Narrows Manager Search to Six Candidates**

The Village Board has identified six candidates to consider for the Village Manager's post, as the national search selection process moves closer to filling Oak Park's chief municipal administrative position.

Executive search firm Bennett Yarger Associates presented the credentials of what its recruiters considered the top nine candidates to the Village Board for consideration Thursday night. After careful consideration, the Board decided to bring the six candidates they felt best suited for the job to Oak Park for face-to-face interviews.

Some 50 candidates applied for the job, according to consultant Richard T. Bennett, who described the response rate as strong for a position as demanding and exacting as manager of a community like Oak Park.

The six candidates are expected to be interviewed in person by the Village Board within the next few weeks to determine which, if any, have the skills and experience deemed necessary to manage Oak Park's comprehensive roster of municipal services.

At Bennett's urging, the Village Board is not identifying the candidates at this point in the process to protect the individuals' privacy. The number of interested candidates for a position of this level can decline by 60 percent or more when their identity is not kept confidential, according to the consultant.

Bennett Yarger Associates, specialists in executive searches for local, regional and state governments, first worked with the Village Board to develop a position profile. The firm then advertised for candidates, screened and reviewed applicants and conducted initial interviews before recommending the nine candidates whose credentials were presented to the Board Thursday night.

Village President David Pope said the board is keeping to the schedule established when the process began shortly after the resignation of former Village Manager Carl Swenson, who, after 10 years in Oak Park, accepted a management position in an Arizona community.

For more information on the search, call 358.5784 or email [board@oak-park.us](mailto:board@oak-park.us).

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