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Oconee County administrator job piques interest

Applications for position are arriving daily

By CARLOS GALARZA
carlos@dailyjm.com

WALHALLA — Oconee County officials will be wading through a large pool of candidates when the application period officially closes a week from today in the region-wide search for a new County Administrator.

Kay Olbon, Oconee's Human Resources director, said Tuesday that the county is getting "a good response" for the vacant position.

Olbon said her office has been receiving applications on a daily basis. She said a formal count and review will not take place until after the closing date of July 15.

Oconee County began advertising the vacant position June 8. With submissions coming in daily according to Olbon, Oconee could end up with more than two-dozen applications to peruse.

The interest in the job should not come as a surprise given the weak economy and the large number of unemployed professionals looking for work.

Oconee is targeting qualified applicants from the Carolinas, Georgia and other areas in the Southeast. The top three candidates will be brought in for interviews.

The ad is circulating on Oconee County's home page online, county and municipal association Web sites in South Carolina, college and university job placement offices and other places.

The ad lists the County Administrator's current salary of $105,000 because county officials would like to have the flexibility of negotiating up or down depending on the candidates' qualifications. At a minimum, candidates should have a bachelor's degree in Public or Business administration, but county officials would prefer someone with a master's degree in those areas and significant related experience.

Additionally, the qualified candidate is required to demonstrate people skills by "inspiring performance." The person should also be able "to coach, delegate to others, participate in decision making with others, develop solutions and resolve conflicts."

The job opened up when County Council fired Dale Surrett, who had been administrator since the summer of 2007.

County Council would like to make an offer by Aug. 20.