

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT
MEETING DATE: January 7, 2003**

SUBJECT: Award of Contract for the Town Manager Search Firm

DEPARTMENT: Board of Aldermen	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ____ NO <u>x</u> __
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Nelson, Mayor

PURPOSE

The Town Manager Search Steering Committee is recommending that The Mercer Group, Inc. be awarded the contract to assist the Town of Carrboro in the recruitment and selection process for the position of Town Manager.

INFORMATION

On Thursday, December 19, the Town Manager Search Steering Committee, consisting of Mayor Mike Nelson, Alderman Joal Hall-Broun, and Alderman Jackie Gist, interviewed four search firms to assess their qualifications and experience in conducting Carrboro's search for Town Manager. The committee interviewed Maximus, Springsted Inc., Slavin Management Group, and The Mercer Group, Inc. These firms had much experience in local government manager searches, had competitive costs, and the committee found that several would be able to meet the expectations of the Board.

Upon completion of the interviews, the committee agreed that the contract for search firm services be awarded to The Mercer Group, Inc., a firm based in Atlanta with offices and resources in North Carolina and throughout the country. The firm has worked with university towns and seems to understand the special needs of a university community. In addition, the staff has worked extensively in North Carolina, and has the depth and breadth of experience that some of the other firms lacked. The committee believes that The Mercer Group is small enough to focus on the Town's needs, yet has tremendous resources to bring to the Town's disposal. Finally, the subcommittee found Jim Mercer, who will serve as the lead staff person in Carrboro's search, to be knowledgeable, easy-going, and felt that his personality will mesh well with the Board. The Mercer Group will provide search services for \$12,500, plus expenses, which should not exceed \$7,500. This cost is comparable to the amount quoted by the other firms interviewed.

STEERING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

The Town Manager Search Steering Committee recommends that the Board award the contract to provide search services for the position of Town Manager to The Mercer Group, Inc. for a cost of \$12,500 plus expenses that will not exceed \$7,500.