

***By Jan Schultz***

***The Imperial Republican***

From an original group of 11 applicants, there are two still in the running for Imperial's community development director job.

The finalists include Tim Strand of Lincoln and Jason Tuller of Curtis.

The person hired will replace Leslie Carlholm, who held the job for eight years before moving to Kansas last month.

At Monday night's meeting, the city council met in closed session for 45 minutes, after which a motion was passed appointing Mayor Dwight Coleman, and council members Sue Moore and John Arterburn to a committee to interview the two finalists.

Strand, a graduate of Chase County High School, works for Fiserv in Lincoln as a senior conversion analyst and has worked for the firm since 2006. He is the son of Wayne and Agnes Strand of Imperial.

Fiserv, Inc. is a leading global provider of information management and electronic commerce systems for the financial services industry. It has 16,000 clients worldwide, including banks, credit unions and thrifts, billers, mortgage lenders and leasing companies, brokerage and investment firms and other business clients.

Strand has a B.S. Degree from Nebraska Wesleyan in business administration with a minor in communication.

Since 2005, Tuller has been director of the Nebraska Business Development Center headquartered in North Platte.

In that role, he works with clients to create business plans and financial statements in an 18-county area that includes Imperial. His job also entails marketing the Center, completing SBA loan applications and training clients.

He holds B.A. Degrees from Doane College in business administration and French, and a Master's Degree in business administration from the University of New Brunswick in Canada.

City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland initially interviewed seven of the applicants in person or by phone. The council chose the two finalists from that group.

She indicated the committee may try to interview one of the finalists as early as next week.

Carlholm now resides in Syracuse, Kan., with husband Randy, where she was recently hired as the Hamilton County Community Development Director.

She said the position is a partnership between the city of Syracuse, the county and the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce.