

City names Public Works director finalists



Thomas Gounley, News-Leader 6:52 a.m. CDT October 15, 2014



The city of Springfield has named three finalists for its Director of Public Works position.

The public is invited to meet finalists Becky Baltz, Jonathan Gano and Dan Smith at a reception today; it will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the fourth floor conference room of the Busch Municipal Building at 840 N. Boonville Ave.

The city advertised nationwide for a replacement for Public Works director Phil Broyles, who died earlier this year. A selection committee reviewed applications and selected the three finalists out of approximately 23 applicants.

Finalists will participate in a daylong interview process that includes meeting with the Public Works Department staff and the city's leadership team, including City Manager Greg Burris. The following information on the applicants was released by the city.

- Becky Baltz is the district engineer for the Southwest District of the Missouri Department of Transportation. Baltz is a graduate of the Missouri University of Science and Technology, where she earned degrees in both civil engineering and engineering management.

During college, Baltz worked as a co-op student at City Utilities. she began working for MoDOT after graduation. She has served in various positions, including design, traffic, planning and leadership.

- As interim co-director of Public Works, Jonathan Gano oversees the care, maintenance and construction of Springfield's infrastructure, including streets, traffic control, sidewalks, facilities, vehicles and a cemetery.

Gano has been with Public Works for 10 years. He became assistant director in 2010 after serving as the superintendent of streets and working in the Street Maintenance Division.

In addition to numerous local recognitions, Gano was selected from 29,000 American Public Works Association members as Young Leader of the Year for 2010. Gano is president of the board of directors for the Springfield Regional Arts Council. He also serves on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Springfield and the Springfield Community Land Trust.

Gano holds a degree from the United States Military Academy in civil engineering and a master's degree in engineering management from the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He is a registered professional engineer in Missouri.

- Dan Smith is the highway administrator for Greene County and is responsible for all operations of the Greene County Highway Department. The department maintains 1,250 miles of roadway — including 200 bridges — with an annual budget of \$25 million.

Smith began his career in MoDOT's Springfield District in 1993 and worked in both the design and traffic engineering departments. In 2002, he began working for the Greene County Highway Department as a project manager before being promoted to assistant highway administrator in 2003 and ultimately highway administrator in 2005. Smith received a degree in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in 1992, and is a licensed professional engineer.