

MAYOR DISSOLVES SEARCH COMMITTEE

By **Vicki Vass**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

AUGUST 14, 1995 | ROMEOVILLE

After receiving complaints by several village trustees, Mayor Sandra Gulden has decided to dissolve the committee she organized to review village administrator applications.

According to a letter recently sent to committee members by Gulden, a number of trustees took "exception to the makeup of the committee in part." Therefore, she said, she was dissolving the entire committee.

"I apologize to all of you for the unprofessional demeanor of elected officials of this village," Gulden said in her letter, referring to trustees who criticized the committee.

Previous administrator Frank Lauro resigned in June to move to St. Petersburg, Fla. Since then, Gulden said, the village has received 64 applications for the job.

Currently, Public Works Director Bill Taylor is serving as village administrator.

In her letter, Gulden said Trustee Fred Dewald Jr. was among those who objected to one person on the committee. However, Dewald said although he objected to that committee member, whom he declined to name, he is saddened that Gulden has dissolved the group.

"If there's one thing this town needs more than anything, it's a village manager," he said. "There was one person the majority of the board took exception to, but it didn't mean she had to demolish the whole thing."

He is hoping that another committee comprised of professionals from the village and surrounding area can be selected to review the candidates. If not, village attorneys have agreed to review the applications.

"I want to look into this and see if we can get the group back together," Dewald said.

Gulden said last week she will leave the decision about forming a new committee up to trustees. "I'm out of it now," she said.

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