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City hires human resources director

Staff report

David Bain, Methuen's veterans agent and former human resources director, will be taking a job at Gloucester City Hall.

Bain, who will become Gloucester's human resources director, submitted his resignation to Methuen Mayor William Manzi last week, said Matt Kraunelis, the mayor's chief of staff. His last day is today.

Bain, who was hired as human resources director by former Mayor Sharon Pollard, lost his job in June when the Methuen City Council decided to eliminate the position from the budget.

Despite the job cut, Bain continued to work at City Hall for the last eight weeks and continued to collect his \$67,710 salary when the mayor named him head of the Veterans Office.

Bain's appointment as temporary veterans agent stirred some controversy because he continued to earn the same salary in the traditionally lower-paying position. He was being paid about \$11,000 more than Edward "Hoppy" Curran, the popular veterans agent who retired in June after nine years on the job.

Manzi said the salary was justified because Bain was continuing to do human resources work, including contract negotiations.

Methuen councilors were critical of the mayor's decision to let Bain continue to earn the higher salary and many said they hoped the appointment was only for a short time.

Manzi has named a search committee, to be led by Curran, to review resumes and conduct interviews to hire a new veterans agent. He said he hopes to fill the position in a few weeks.