

Turley excited to be back home in White Mountains

Tweet 1

Posted: Monday, January 20, 2014 5:00 am

Sean Dieterich - The Independent |

SHOW LOW — Tony Turley’s career in accounting and finance had kept him in Nevada for quite a long while. But when the opportunity came to come to work in the White Mountains, he could not say ‘no.’

That is because Turley, 51, grew up in the White Mountains. And while he left his home to pursue his career, home never really left him.

“I’ve always had a desire to live in the White Mountains,” he said. “Back home.”

Turley started as the city’s new Administrative Services director Jan. 6, replacing Doug Sandstrom, who took the position of finance director in the city of Casa Grande. Turley said he was offered the Administrative Services director job in late November, just before Thanksgiving. It did not take him long to accept.

Turley was born in Holbrook in 1962, but his family lived in Snowflake. He graduated from Snowflake High School in 1980 and lived in the community until 1981, when he went on a mission in Virginia for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Turley has three brothers and one sister. He said his parents and his brothers still live in Snowflake.

Upon finishing his mission in 1983, Turley went to school at Mesa Community College, starting in 1984. It was there, he said, that he knew he wanted to be an accountant.

“When I was at Mesa Community College just taking general business courses, I took Accounting 101 and 102,” he said. “It fit like a glove. It was logical to me. I understood all the basic accounting principles.”

Turley added it just made sense to get a job in that field.

From Mesa Community College, Turley attended the University of Arizona. In 1991, he received his Bachelor of Science in accounting from that school.

In total, Turley has been in the accounting business since 1991. He has been a plant controller in private industry, performing all the financial responsibilities for manufacturing companies Stone Container Corp. in San Jose, Calif., and later Renaissance Mark in Sparks, Nev. After over a decade in private industry, Turley became the senior accountant for the city of Sparks, a position he held for nearly six years.

While he was at Sparks, a city of just over 90,000 according to 2010 Census data, Turley went back to school at the University of Nevada, Reno, to pursue a master’s degree in public administration. He said he spent nearly five years going to night school while working for the city full time. In 2010, he received his master’s degree.

When his time at Sparks was up, Turley became the finance director for the Carson City School District in Carson City, Nev. He was with them for nearly four years before taking the job in Show Low.

Turley said he has seen plenty of changes in the accounting field, from changes in reporting requirements to methods that strengthen control over fraud to new regulations.

“It’s an ever-changing evolution,” he said. “There’s always new accounting standards. That’s also one of the exciting things. You’re continually learning.”

Working both in private practice and public service, Turley is also aware of the differences between both. The biggest, he said, would possibly be quality of life. In private practice, he said it was not unusual for people to work long hours, while he called government accounting more “service-oriented.” He said accountants in public service still have to maintain control over the finances of the government while providing its citizens with the services they need.

Turley had visited Snowflake a few times while working in Nevada, but the Show Low job was the opportunity he was waiting for. He said he learned Show Low was looking for a new Administrative Services director through the Government Finance Officers Association’s website, and he had no doubt about what he had to do.

“There were other job openings in Arizona,” he said. “This is the only one I applied for because this is where I wanted to come.”

As Administrative Services director, Turley will oversee both the Finance Department and Human Relations Department. This, he said, makes him responsible for the city’s utilities, overseeing the city’s financial transactions, making sure the proper safeguards are in place for both city employees and citizens, and overseeing personnel matters.

Turley said his main job is to protect the “assets” for the citizens of Show Low, as it is their tax dollars he is responsible for. He said he will have to “safeguard those funds” to make sure they go toward the services people expect to have.

Turley will also be responsible for crafting the city’s budget. While he said he is “up to his neck” in work regarding the budget, it is really nothing new for him, as he started with budgets back in 1994 while in private industry.

Currently, only Turley has made the trip back to Show Low. His wife of over five years, Dena, will remain in Nevada until the end of February when the family can move into their new house.

Turley said he met Dena, who was from Seattle, on the Internet, and the two have been married since 2008. It was the second marriage for both of them, and between them they have eight daughters, ages 12 to 26, all from their previous marriages.

Turley said his family may not have been as excited as him to move, but they are all looking forward to joining him in Show Low and expects they will be fine once they get here.

Reach the reporter at sdieterich@wmicentral.com

Tweet 1

More From This Site

- [Starving people into submission](#)
- [Leslie Ann Beecroft Carroll](#)
- [Gilbert C. Padilla](#)
- [Eagar Police Report - January 17, 2014](#)
- [Brilee Jean Massey](#)

From Around The Web

- [9 Things You Should Never, Ever Say to Your Husband](#) (SparkPeople)
- [5 Things You Never Knew About ChristianMingle](#) (Christian Mingle)
- [Best 5 Schools to get a Degree Online](#) (Education Portal)
- [Best-selling investing books distilled to a one-page checklist](#) (The Coffeehouse Investor)
- [Must-Have Products Being Sold For Next To Nothing](#) (LifeFactopia)

Recommended by
