



For Immediate Release

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Cascade Township Introduces Fire Chief Candidates *Five Candidates Will Participate in the Interviewing Process*

Cascade Township, Michigan, Oct. 9, 2017 – Cascade Township has started its final interviewing process with the top five candidates from its nationwide search to fill its vacant fire chief position.

The new fire chief will be responsible for leading the more than 30-member department, which provides services to the more than 18,000 residents of the Township. Candidates in consideration include: Gregory Ginebaugh, Adam Magers, David Pelton, Todd Stevenson and Kenneth Van Hall.

“Out of the more than 30 applications we received, these candidates were the best of the best,” said Township Supervisor Rob Beahan. “Each of them bring a wealth of experience and something unique to the table, and we are looking forward to the opportunity to secure one of them as our new fire chief. We certainly hope our community takes time to participate in this process.”

On Oct. 14, candidates will participate in interviews hosted by the Township beginning at 9 a.m. Interviews will take place at the Wisner Center, located at 2870 Jack Smith Ave SE, and will be open to the public. At 6:30 p.m., a public meet and greet will follow, also taking place at the Wisner Center. An offer is expected to be made to one of the following candidates in the following week.

Gregory Ginebaugh

Ginebaugh is the current deputy fire chief for the City of Kentwood Fire Department. He has served in this role since 2013, and has held numerous positions with the City of Kentwood Fire Department since 1982, including on-call and full-time firefighter, fire inspector, acting fire marshal, lieutenant/inspector and captain. He is a resident of Grand Rapids.

His related professional experience includes working as an emergency planner for Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc.; a contractual instructor for Michigan State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Training Center; and as a non-resident programs instructor for Center for Domestic Preparedness. He holds several licenses and certifications, and has participated in related specialized training. Additionally, he serves on several committees and associations, including the Western Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, among others.

Ginebaugh obtained his bachelor’s degree in fire science from Lake Superior State University. He also holds an associate degree in fire science from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and an associate degree in general studies from Grand Rapids Community College. Most recently, Ginebaugh graduated from the Eastern Michigan University School of Fire Staff and Command Executive Leadership Program, obtaining a certificate of completion.

Adam Magers

Magers currently serves as the battalion chief for the Battle Creek Fire Department. He has held this role since 2003, and has worked in the department since 2002. Additionally, Magers is the technical sergeant/assistant chief of operations for the fire department's 110th attack wing, where he is responsible for managing fire department operations for 25 soldiers in the Michigan Air National Guard, in both stateside and deployed locations.

Magers holds several certifications and licenses through the Department of Defense, the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress, the State of Michigan and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He also was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal and Air Force Achievement Medal for his actions while deployed to Iraq and Kuwait to provide fire protection to the U.S. Air Bases in 2007 and 2013, respectively.

Magers received his bachelor's degree from Hope College and his associate degree in fire protection from the Community College of the Air Force. Most recently, Magers graduated from the Eastern Michigan University School of Fire Staff and Command Executive Leadership Program. He resides in Battle Creek.

David Pelton

Pelton currently serves as a captain, basic emergency medical technician, fire inspector and training officer for the Allendale Fire Department, where he has worked since 2010. Prior to these roles, Pelton worked as a lieutenant and rescue diver for Georgetown Township Fire Department; a part-time firefighter, EMT-B and fire inspector for Plainfield Township Fire Department; and a firefighter and medical first responder for City of Walker Fire Department. Before entering into the fire service in 2001, Pelton worked at several companies as a prepress technician and scanner operator. He currently resides in Jension.

Pelton holds several certifications nationally, as well as through the state of Michigan and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He obtained his bachelor's degree in fire science from Lake Superior State University and his associate degree in fire science from Lansing Community College.

Todd Stevenson

Stevenson is a lieutenant for the Cascade Township Fire Department, a role he has held since 2014. Prior, he served as a both on-call and full-time firefighter for Cascade Township, where he has worked since 2007. He has also served as a paraprofessional for students with autism for Kentwood School District.

Stevenson holds several certifications and has participated in numerous professional development activities. Some of these include certification as a firefighter I and II, and participation in a Fire Chief 101 Leadership Seminar.

He received his master's degree in organizational leadership from Waldorf University and his bachelor's degree in fire science administration from Waldorf University. Stevenson is a resident of Grand Rapids.

Kenneth Van Hall

Van Hall is the current training and EMS captain for Delta Township Fire Department. He has held this role since 2013 and has worked for Delta Township Fire Department since 2008, serving as a firefighter and paramedic. He also works as a lieutenant and on-call firefighter for Cutlerville Fire Department, a role he has held since 2001. Prior, he served as a senior paramedic, field training officer and special response team member for American Medical Response, as well as a paramedic, field training officer and emergency dispatcher for Life EMS, Inc.

Van Hall holds several certifications and professional affiliations, including Western Michigan Fire Chief's Association, International Society of Fire Service Instructors, among others. He has also received several awards throughout his career, most recently the 100 Club of Greater Lansing Professional Excellence Award.

He obtained his bachelor's degree in fire safety engineering technology from the University of Cincinnati, with minors in fire service administration and emergency medical services administration. He also received his paramedic certificate from Davenport University. Van Hall resides in Byron Center.

The final interviewing process began on Oct. 2, and requires candidates to complete a physical assessment as well as a managerial skills assessment focused on several categories, monitored by three fire chiefs from around Michigan.

The selected candidate will ensure Township policies, ordinances and laws are being followed, and will also be responsible for the department's operating budget, recruitment and hiring, and mutual aid relationships with other municipalities and townships.

The department has been seeking a fire chief since April 2017. During this time, Lt. Ron Rowland served as interim chief and assumed responsibilities for day-to-day operation of the Township.

About Cascade Township

Home to more than 18,000 residents, Cascade Township is committed to serving the public by providing the finest community services possible with respect, efficiency and integrity. With the Thornapple River at its heart, Cascade Township is recognized as an excellent place to live, work, recreate and raise a family. For more information, visit <http://www.cascadetwp.com/>.

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