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NEWS RELEASE

February 13, 2022

Village of Park Ridge fire chief resignation

On Saturday, February 12, the Village of Park Ridge received a letter of resignation from fire chief Brian Lepper.

Lepper, who was appointed chief in April 2014 stated that his resignation will be effective June 30, 2022.

“On behalf of the Village Board of Trustees and our residents, I want to thank Brian not only for his nearly eight years of service, but for his ability to recruit an excellent squad of volunteer firefighters who have provided a high level of fire protection on a very limited budget,” said Steve Menzel, Village president and trustee.

According to Menzel, the Village board plans to discuss the fire department at its upcoming meetings, including how it will proceed with regard to finding a new chief.

Lepper’s resignation comes at a time when the Village is in the midst of intense planning efforts that encompass fire protection as well as the broader scope of needs that include streets, water and fire hydrants, snow removal, and garbage and recycling services. The planning is led by the Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Strategic Planning Task Force. The latter was established in May 2021 to help identify and clarify the Village's needs, prioritize those needs with citizen input, and recommend a strategy for managing the financial resources to meet those needs over time.

“Chief Lepper’s resignation is a reminder of the challenges that small communities face in funding and maintaining a high level of fire protection,” Menzel said. “It is clear the Village will need to invest more resources in fire protection than it has in the past, and our planning work will continue to seek expertise and public input to help guide our decisions going forward.”

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