

APPROVED
Cedar Area Fire & Rescue Board
Special Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5 pm
Via Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Greg Julian called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Present on roll call were Greg Julian, Rick Royston, John DePuy, and Ron Schaub. Dan Leach was absent. Andy Doornbos, Matt Maus, Joe Voiles and Dana Boomer were present as staff.

Discussions/decisions will be for the direction of the Cedar Area Fire & Rescue Board as previously published, per the Open Meetings Act. Potential quorums of township boards will be noted in the minutes.

Consideration of Agenda – The meeting notice was used as the agenda for the meeting – the meeting is for the purpose of hearing, discussing and acting upon the recommendations from the Chief Hiring Subcommittee. **DePuy moved, Royston seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: DePuy (yes), Schaub (yes), Royston (yes), Julian (yes). Motion approved.**

Public Comment - None

Discussion:

The Chief Transition Committee (DePuy, Royston, Maus and Comeaux) met last Friday to discuss the nine applications for the chief position. The committee determined that there were three or four applicants that were competitive for the position. Royston initially felt strongly about going out for applications, rather than simply moving forward in hiring I/C Doornbos as Fire Chief. After lengthy discussion amongst the committee members, the committee feels that due to Doornbos's education, experience, involvement and history with the area, they recommend to the fire board that the board move ahead with hiring Andrew Doornbos as the Fire Chief, and forego any further interview process. The committee recommends and requests that the Fire Board take action to hire Andrew Doornbos as Fire Chief, dependent on a background check and the negotiation of a contract to be presented to the board for approval at the February 18 meeting.

The board then discussed. DePuy was part of the resume review committee, and felt Doornbos came to the top of the group, through his experience, his knowledge of the area, and his existing reputation with community and staff. He fully endorses Doornbos as the next chief of the department. Schaub stated that while he's new to the board and doesn't know Doornbos as well as some of the other board members, he feels it's better for the department to have someone who

is knowledgeable about the area and the department. He has a little bit of concern about the area of budgeting and finances and Doornbos' experience with those, but he feels that Doornbos is a good choice for the department. Julian wanted to make sure that the department did a thorough search, and make sure that the board picked a qualified candidate. He feels that Doornbos has qualifications that match those of the other candidates, and has the advantage of his knowledge of the area and experience with the department. Julian thinks that Doornbos will be able to continue building on the work that Chief Comeaux did, given his thorough knowledge of Comeaux's work and plans.

The committee feels the chief transition will be the smoothest with Doornbos. Royston has confidence that, while budgeting is always a concern, Doornbos has been involved in the budget with Cedar Fire, and will do well going forward.

There is a consensus to move forward with the hiring process as recommended by the hiring committee. **DePuy moved to move forward with the hiring of Andrew Doornbos as Fire Chief, and to direct the hiring committee to pursue a background check and conduct contract negotiations with Doornbos, for further approval at the February 18 meeting. Schaub seconded. Roll call vote: Schaub (yes), Royston (yes), DePuy (yes), Julian (yes). Motion carried.**

I/C Doornbos thanked everyone for their kind words. He is excited about the transition process, and is ready to continue his hard work on behalf of the department.

Citizens Comments – Joe Voiles said that he has known Doornbos for a long time, and it was in part due to him that he moved to Cedar Fire. He, and other members of the staff, are very happy about the actions taken by the board this evening. Maus concurred.

DePuy and Royston briefly discussed the timeline for moving forward with contract negotiations – this will be set up outside of the meeting tonight.

With no further business, Royston moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 pm, Schaub seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Boomer
Recording Secretary