




TOWN OF FREEPORT, MAINE

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ITEM # 219-21 FIRE CHIEF APPT.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Freeport Town Council
FROM: Peter Joseph, Town Manager 
DATE: 12/2/21
RE: Nomination of Paul Conley for appointment as Freeport Fire/Rescue Chief

Section 507.1 of the Freeport Administrative Code (Ordinance Chapter 2) requires that the Town Manager nominate a candidate for appointment as Fire/Rescue Chief to the Town Council for confirmation. This memo serves as my nomination of Paul Conley of Freeport to serve as Freeport's next Fire/Rescue Chief.

Paul has worked for the Town since 1996, when he was hired as Rescue Chief. At that time ambulance operations were separate from the Fire Department, however, around 2004 the two departments were combined to form the Freeport Fire/Rescue Department. At that time, Paul took the position of Deputy Chief of the combined Fire/Rescue Department, which is a position he has held until the current time. He has also served as acting Fire/Rescue Chief on at least three separate occasions, one of which was for an extended period of time.

The recruitment process for this opening generated 11 applications from internal and external candidates. While this was not a huge number, the applicants were well qualified, with many having previous or current experience as either chief or deputy chief of their respective departments.

Other than his experience with Freeport Fire/Rescue, one of the factors that stood out in Paul's candidacy was a good understanding of the current strengths and challenges facing the Freeport Fire/Rescue Department. Paul discussed his plans and goals for the Fire/Rescue department extensively with management prior to his selection, and we feel he has a thorough understanding of the issues facing the department as well as a vision for its future.

I am looking forward to working with Paul in a permanent capacity as Fire/Rescue Chief, and hope the Town Council will join me by confirming him to the position.