

SHELBY TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

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Shelby Township Fire Department sees round of promotions, new hires

With unanimous approval from the Shelby Township Board of Trustees at the March 3 board meeting, the Shelby Township Fire Department will see an upcoming round of promotions and two new hires.

Along with two firefighters receiving promotions to Lieutenant Medic and Lieutenant/Fire Inspector, Shelby Township will have a new Emergency Medical Services Coordinator filling a position that has been vacant since 2010.

“Following in the footsteps of former Fire Chief Gene Shepherd, Chief Jim Swinkowski has been at the forefront installing practices and policies to make the most of every dollar in his department’s budget,” Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said.

“If he tells our Board of Trustees these are the moves he needs to make to ensure the safety of our township and its residents, then these promotions and these new hires will make Shelby Township an even greater place to live, work and do business as our residents know they can feel safe and secure within its borders.”

This vacancy was a result of a 2009 study that suggested several cost-cutting measures including the elimination of the EMS Coordinator position and one of the three Fire Inspector positions to save \$188,000.

“In a lot of ways we streamlined several different processes as we made every effort to comply with the study, and we even went beyond what the study recommended in some areas with overall budget reductions of more than \$1.5 million from 2010 to today,” Shelby Township Fire Chief Jim Swinkowski said citing initiatives such as reduced healthcare costs and reformed pension costs realized by his department and the Board of Trustees.

“Unfortunately we are just not able to maintain certain specific critical functions without the EMS Coordinator. Since the study was completed we are responding to 1,600 more runs per year with a majority of those being EMS related. And mandates from the Macomb County Medical Control Authority and State further the need to fill the vacancy.”

Joseph Morck and Jeffrey Shea were approved as entry-level Firefighter Medics, contingent upon successful completion of a physical evaluation, physical examination, drug and alcohol testing, and a physical agility test. Pending physicals and evaluations, Morck and Shea will formally join the Shelby Township Fire Department at an April 6 swearing-in ceremony.

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