

Board renews contract for three more years

By Sean Delaney

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The Shelby Township Board of Trustees on Jan. 19 voted to renew a contract between the township and Fire Chief James Swinkowski for an additional three years.

“Chief Swinkowski is doing a great job and we really appreciate it,” said Supervisor Richard Stathakis. “We’re happy to have him (in Shelby Township).”

A 25-year veteran, Swinkowski worked his way up through the ranks after joining the department in February 1991. He previously served as chief of training and EMS coordinator for the department and was named acting chief shortly after the death Chief Gene Shepherd in May 2012.

Following Shepherd’s death,

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Swinkowski was among nine candidates who tested for the fire chief's position, according to township records. Four were certified as eligible by the township's Police and Fire Civil Service Commission and Swinkowski topped that list.

He was officially appointed to the position of fire chief Jan. 15, 2013, and has been leading the department ever since.

As approved, the contract states that Swinkowski's current annual salary of \$105,500 will increase to \$107,610 effective Feb. 1. It will increase to \$107,762 next year.

"The fire chief shall (also) receive a performance bonus on March 31 of each contract year, which is based upon the overall performance rating received in an annual performance evaluation," the contract states. "Upon achieving an overall performance rating of 2.75 - 3.74, the performance bonus will be equal to 1.5 percent of base pay. Upon achieving an overall performance rating of 3.75 - 5.0, the performance bonus will be equal to 2.9 percent of base pay rate. No performance bonus will be paid for an overall performance rating of 2.74 or less."

Other highlights of the contract include:

- Five weeks (25 working days) vacation time, 96 hours of sick leave per



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contract year, and short-term/long-term disability.

- A \$150,000 life insurance policy.

- A \$1,000 uniform allowance.
- Eligibility for retirement upon reaching age

50 and 25 years of service. According to Human Resources Director Lisa Suida, the contract expires on Feb. 18, 2019.

It may also be terminated at any time by either party.