

**For Immediate Release**

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**Bath Appoints Fire Chief**

Bath Township Board of Trustees appointed Walter H. Hower as the new Fire Chief effective January 1st, 2012. Chief Hower replaces Chief James Paulett who retired on March 15th, 2011. Mr. Hower was one of thirty-one candidates who applied for the position. The Board of Trustees appointed a selection committee which included members from the public and fire service as well as a Trustee. This group narrowed the candidates to five who were sent for further testing and review. The Board of Trustees reviewed these results, posed further questions to each and conducted extensive individual interviews.

Mr. Hower became a part-time member of the department in July of 1987. Previously, he was a member of the Fire Department Explorer Post. Mr. Hower rose to the rank of Lieutenant in 1995 and later to the position of part-time Captain in 2003. He also has previous fire fighting experience as a full-time firefighter for the City of Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department. Currently, Mr. Hower is employed by the University of Akron as an Associate Professor in Fire Protection Technology.

Mr. Hower's education includes an Associate Degree in Fire Protection Technology, a Bachelor of Science in Construction Technology and a Master Degree in Public Service Administration. Additionally, Mr. Hower has many certifications including Paramedic, Fire Instructor, State Inspector, Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials Technician, and Certified Fire Protection Specialist. As a member of the County Special Operations Response Team, Mr. Hower has functioned as the Branch Director for the Hazardous Materials Branch since 2009.

Mr. Hower follows the example of his father, James Hower, who has been with the fire department since 1965 and achieved the rank of part-time Assistant Chief.

Newly appointed Chief Hower has been a lifetime resident of the township and currently resides in the township with his wife, Dana, and their 4 daughters, Sienna, Olivia, Mya and Eliana.

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