



Gerrish Township Fire/EMS Department

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September 11, 2023

To: Gerrish Township Board Members
From: Jim Fisher, Fire and EMS Chief 
Subject: Recommendation to fill the Captain/Training Officer position

The department is moving ahead with filling the Captain/Training Officer position that was vacated by Jake Figley upon his retirement. We sought internal candidates and received letters of interest and resumes from four qualified department members.

Interviews were held on Friday, September 8, 2023 at the township hall. The interview panel consisted of Ken Forst – Roscommon County Deputy Emergency Management Director, Crystal Beatz – Dispatcher Roscommon 911, Jeff Vasher – Fire management Specialist Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Assistant Chief Gilliam, and Assistant Chief Rodgers.

The interview candidates were Paramedic/Firefighter Neal Dopp, 2nd Lieutenant Jason Budzinski, Lieutenant Mike Bentley, and Paramedic/Firefighter Matt Wooten. After the interviews I met with the interview panel to discuss each candidate. We compared the candidates' responses to the questions, reviewed again the letters and resumes, and discussed the impressions of the panel.

The panel unanimously recommended Matt Wooten as the top candidate for the position. The panel expressed the following thoughts about Matt: Matt has 20 plus years of experience and time with other our department and departments down state that was significant in our consideration of him. Matt has previously obtained MI Fire Officer level certification along with technical rescue certifications. Matt discussed his ability to mentor others and referenced how he was mentored by other officers he has respected over the years. Matt often takes the initiative and is a very active member of the department. Matt discussed his desire to work on recruitment for the department as we seek out new paid-on-call members. The committee felt Matts personality and communication skills will fit well with the department members and the leadership team.

Therefore, I am asking that you approve the recommendation for Matt Wooten to fill the Captain/Training Officer role effective the beginning of the pay period Sept 17, 2023. Matt would then begin receiving the Captain/Training Officer stipend of \$4,992.86 annually or \$192.03 bi-weekly.

Thank you for your consideration, Jim