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**City, Town of Beloit to Share Fire Chief in Spirit of Regional Cooperation**

**October 19, 2020** - The City of Beloit and the Town of Beloit will share a fire chief and fire investigation services under a new intergovernmental agreement approved tonight by the Beloit City Council and the Town Board of Supervisors.

This agreement paves the way for the two communities to share services in a fiscally responsible manner while continuing to provide a high level of service to residents in both jurisdictions. The two fire departments remain separate entities and are not being merged under this model of regional cooperation.

“We look forward to working with the city to provide the best service for both communities,” said Tammy Maegli, Town Chair. “Not only is this partnership good for the Town of Beloit community, Chief Pease’s progressive leadership will be a tremendous benefit for all of our firefighters.”

“Especially during such a difficult time dealing with COVID-19, we are immensely proud of this partnership that will provide efficiencies and service enhancements to both communities,” said City Council President Regina Dunkin.

The City of Beloit and Town of Beloit already respond in each other’s communities using automatic vehicle location - or AVL - to dispatch the closest available unit to the emergency at hand.

“Emergencies do not know boundary lines, and my goal as fire chief is to ensure our communities are being served by firefighters and medical personnel who have the same training and capabilities regardless of the uniform’s patch,” said Fire Chief Dan Pease. “I sincerely thank the Town of Beloit for the opportunity for regional collaboration.”

Pease will report to the Town Administrator regarding Town of Beloit Fire Department activities and operations starting Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020. All significant expenditures or changes to equipment and property for the Town of Beloit Fire Department will require the

approval of the Town Board. The Town of Beloit will fund 25% of the fire chief salary in this agreement.

This agreement also allows the Town of Beloit to use City of Beloit fire investigators to determine cause and origin of fires in the township, which will include collaboration with law enforcement on any criminal investigations such as arson.

“This is a beautiful example of how regional collaborations can benefit everyone,” said Beloit City Manager Lori Curtis Luther. “We look forward to this partnership with the Town of Beloit.”

Chief Pease began his fire career in 1987 in a Chicago suburb. He was hired as a firefighter there and worked his way through the ranks before he retired as fire chief on March 1, 2018. He began his career in Beloit on March 2, 2018, and brings many technical skills to the position, including: incident command, special operations, technical rescue, fire suppression, hazardous materials, water rescue, fire prevention, and labor relations. He was promoted to fire chief by the Beloit Police & Fire Commission in May 2020.

Chief Pease holds a Bachelor’s degree in fire science from Southern Illinois University and a Master’s degree in business/public administration from Columbia Southern University. He has numerous state and incident command certifications.

Chief Pease comes from a firefighter family and has a total of nine family members in the fire service. Chief Pease is married with seven children (five daughters and two sons) and has three grandchildren.

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