



# Hamburg Township Public Safety Department

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*RICHARD DUFFANY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY/CHIEF OF POLICE*      *RDUFFANY@HAMBURG.MI.US*

August 2, 2022

On June 16, 2022 Hamburg Township Fire Chief Nick Miller submitted his letter of retirement after 30 years of service with the Hamburg Township Fire Department. Chief Miller's retirement was effective July 1, 2022. Director of Public Safety Rick Duffany was authorized by the Township Board to recruit and bring back to the Board a qualified candidate to fill the vacancy caused by Chief Miller's retirement.

The Township Board also unanimously passed a resolution establishing the Hamburg Township Public Safety Department. This resolution formally consolidated the Hamburg Township Police and Fire departments into one public safety department. The police and fire departments had been operating under a combined police/fire administrative team since 2018 headed by the Director of Public Safety.

The organizational format of the new Public Safety Department has the department managed by the Director of Public Safety supported by a Deputy Director for Fire Operations and a Deputy Director for Police Operations.

Public Safety Director Duffany subsequently recommended to the Township Board that Jeffrey Newton be approved by the Board to fill the vacant Deputy Director for Fire Operations position and the Board approved the hiring on July 19, 2022 by a 5-2 vote. Deputy Director Newton began his new role on July 25, 2022.

As indicated Deputy Director Newton's hiring was passed on a 5-2 vote. Clerk Michael Dolan and Trustee Cindy Michniewicz were the two "no" votes. Any official comments about their reason for voting "no" should be obtained from Clerk Dolan and Trustee Michniewicz, however, in their public comments at the Board meeting they both indicated that their opposition was to the selection process and not the qualifications of Deputy Director Newton.

Deputy Director Newton has over 21 years of fire service experience with the Fraser Department of Public Safety, including 12 years as a fire officer (3 years as a Sergeant and 9 years as a Lieutenant). During his time at Fraser, Deputy Director Newton obtained numerous fire-related certifications including all that were required by Hamburg Township's job description for the position and he held an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license for over 20 years. While at Fraser, Deputy Director Newton served in various fire service roles including firefighter, engineer, fire officer and EMT-B responding to both fire and EMS runs.



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Additionally, Deputy Director Newton has completed over 20 of FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) courses/certifications and was the City of Fraser's Emergency Management Program Manager from 1999 to 2002 and the city's Emergency Management Liaison to Macomb County from 2002 until his retirement in 2011.

Finally, Deputy Director Newton has over 25 years of combined public safety command experience including 10 successful years as the Village of Pinckney Police Chief. On account of his time with Pinckney, Deputy Director Newton has knowledge of the people and institutions within Livingston County and is extremely familiar with all aspects of the inner workings of the Livingston County public safety structure to include police, fire, EMS, emergency management and Livingston County Central Dispatch. Additionally, he possesses the knowledge and is extremely proficient in the radio systems, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems, record management systems and county-wide protocols which are utilized within Livingston County including by Hamburg Township.