

## Seeking a Part-time Fire Chief

After 48 years serving in the Northfield Fire-Rescue Department, Chief Nystrand recently announced his retirement. The announcement presents a new leadership opportunity for the fire-rescue department which operates under a paid on-station model. The retiring chief served as both the director of public works and fire chief. This shared responsibility functioned well as the fire department is staffed by a mix of both paid on-station firefighters who work part-time with Northfield and full-time Public Works staff who also work as part-time firefighters. The men and women of the department have helped make this model very successful and the new fire chief will be expected to embrace and enhance the approach.

The Village is seeking a highly qualified individual to serve as its next fire chief. Applicants wishing to be considered for the part-time position must have a valid driver's license and be eligible to be appointed as a fire chief under Illinois 65 ILCS 5/10-1-7.3, which among other things requires firefighter and fire officer certifications, and an associate degree or higher in fire science, certification meeting NFPA 2002 and NFPA 1021 qualifications, or a minimum of 10 years' experience as a Northfield firefighter.

In addition to possessing the minimum qualifications to be appointed as fire chief, the new chief will bring a demonstrated history of successful senior-level leadership. Desired traits include ethical leadership, excellent verbal and written communication skills, financial management experience, and a demonstrated pattern of open communication and mentorship, as well as project management skills. The selected fire chief will work closely with the newly created Superintendent of Public Works role and be supported by a Deputy Fire Chief.

The Northfield Fire-Rescue Department has one station which is staffed with an ambulance and ALS squad. As a smaller department, the fire chief will be expected to manage both emergency call response and manage the administrative duties of the department. The salary range for the part-time exempt position is \$85,000 - \$105,000, with an anticipated salary of \$95,000+/- . The position offers flexible work hours which are anticipated to average 25-hours per week. Benefits will include access to either a pension plan (IMRF) or a comparable defined contribution plan depending upon the candidate's situation and eligibility. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and listing of three professional references to [hireme@northfieldil.org](mailto:hireme@northfieldil.org), or by mail to Human Resources, Attn: Fire Chief Position, 361 Happ Rd., Northfield, IL 60093 by August 11, 2025.

