

Police to see command adjustment

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Department adding sergeant to help cover administrative duties

The Saukville Police Department has seen a dramatic shift in the seniority of its police force, with the retirement of longtime Chief Bill Meloy and Officer Barry Effinger.

When Jeff Goetz, another longtime officer, was promoted to chief last year, the department suddenly found itself a little lean on command staff. Goetz's lieutenant post has been left vacant since he took office last June.

In the wake of all that change, the Village Board has approved a restructuring proposed by Goetz.

According to the plan, a temporary sergeant's position will be created to assist with administrative duties. Robert Ramthun is already a sergeant in the department.

Goetz characterized the position as "a temporary sergeant."

To complete the shuffle, the plan had to receive the blessing of the Saukville Police Association, the collective bargaining unit that represents the department's officers.

"The association was very supportive of the agreement and signed off on the memorandum of understanding right away," Goetz said.

The chief said a screening process will be used to determine who will be appointed the new sergeant.

According to the agreement, the new command officer should be assigned no later than July 15.

Beyond that, the agreement says the village "will make every effort to promote one of the sergeants to lieutenant by no later than Dec. 31, 2015."

Once that promotion is made, the department will revert to a command structure of having a chief, lieutenant and sergeant and eight police officers.

The village is in the process of screening applicants for two officer positions, filling slots left vacant by the promotion of Goetz and retirement of Effinger.

Those new officers are expected to be on the job by early summer.