

Wrentham has a new fire chief

By Stephen Peterson speterson@thesunchronicle.com | Nov 1, 2018

WRENTHAM — The town has a new fire chief, Antonio “Tony” Marino.

Marino, 49, had been named deputy chief this past summer and previously served as a captain and longtime firefighter with the department.

Town Administrator Kevin Sweet announced Marino’s appointment at Tuesday’s selectmen meeting, and selectmen voted unanimously to confirm it.

“He has demonstrated a commitment to the community and fire/emergency medical service excellence throughout his career,” Sweet said. “I look forward to the professionalism he will bring to the position and the department.”

Marino was recommended for the fire department’s top post by a search committee and was one of three finalists, and the only internal one, from 22 applicants.

The search committee was comprised of building commissioner and committee Chairman John Naff, local school Superintendent Allan Cameron, selectman and former police chief James Anderson, and resident Mary Beth Bernard.

Marino joined the department as a volunteer firefighter in 1986 and became a full-time firefighter in 1999. The firefighter/EMT was promoted to captain in 2013. Throughout his career, Marino has served as a president and executive board member of the Wrentham Permanent Firefighters Association.

Before joining the department, Marino served as a firefighter in the U.S. Navy from 1987 to 1991. He holds a bachelor's degree in fire administration from Salem State and an associate's degree in fire science from Quinsigamond Community College.

James "Jay" McMorrow retired as fire chief at the end of June after eight years, and the department has since been overseen by an interim fire chief, Robert Hollingshead, who had previously served as interim fire chief in Medfield after retiring as chief in Hull.

"I'm very, very happy with the last two chiefs we've had," Selectman Stephen Langley said.

Of Marino's appointment, Langley said, "It's just fantastic. He has worked very hard with the department. He has great ideas, I'm very happy and excited for the future of the department with Tony as its head."

Marino said he is anxious to dive right into his new duties.

"It's an exciting time for us here at Wrentham Fire. We have a great group of professionals with a plethora of talent and desire to bring the Wrentham Fire Department to new heights," Marino said Wednesday morning. "My immediate plans are to continue to move forward and stay on the course we have charted."

Of Hollingshead's tenure, Marino said, "We have achieved so much."

The interim chief "provided a different lens and helped us hit the reset button," he said.

"We have a bright future here because of his leadership and guidance. I have big shoes to fill when he leaves at the end of the week," Marino said.

“Our department and community deserve a top-notch program and we intend on providing that,” he said. “My role will be to empower the members of the team and provide an inclusive environment for all to take part in.”