

# TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

## TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

**MEETING DATE:** February 6, 2012

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 6.b.

**SUBJECT:** Fire Chief Retirement and Recruitment Options

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:**

As you know, Fire Chief Chris Barbee is retiring effective March 31. The Chief has served the Town of Sunset Beach for over 12 years and has done a commendable job during that time. Under his leadership the Fire Department has hired more firefighters to better serve the fire district and added a second fire station in a part of the District that needed a closer fire station to serve our growing population. He and his staff have received several grants to help defray the cost of both of those decisions. He provided the Town its first long-range staffing analysis, apparatus replacement schedule, and department capital improvement plan, among many other positive contributions to the Department.

There are a couple of options on how to handle the recruitment of a new fire chief.

One is to advertise for a month after our February 6 meeting while Chris is still Fire Chief and interview both outside and inside candidates around mid-March with the aim of hiring someone in April. (We may want to enter into a contract with Chris for some overlap in April to help whoever is hired get grounded.). Another option is to make the Assistant Fire Chief the "Acting Fire Chief" and hire Chris as a "consultant" for an indeterminate time until we decide to promote the Assistant Chief or recruit outside.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS OR COMMENTS:**

TOWN ADM: ( x ) DEPT. HEAD ( )