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Scott Anderson appointed via 4-1 vote as CPD Chief



Chiefland Mayor Betty Walker pins the chief's badge on Chiefland Police Chief Scott Anderson. Walker is the liaison between the CPD and the City Commission.

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Story and Photos By Terry Witt

Senior Reporter © Dec. 13, 2016 at 9:57 a.m.

CHIEFLAND -- Scott Anderson was hired as Chiefland police chief Monday night (Dec. 12) on a 4-1 vote of the city commission.



City Commissioner Teresa Barron cast the lone dissenting vote.

Chiefland Vice Mayor Chris Jones cited Anderson's assertiveness as the reason for Jones making the motion to hire CPD Officer Anderson instead of CPD Capt. Ray Tremblay.

City Commissioner Barron had made the first motion to hire Capt. Tremblay as chief, but that

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motion died for lack of a second. Vice Mayor Jones, who had asked for a five-minute recess to talk privately with both officers before making his decision, came back and moved to hire Anderson.

“I can’t say one is more seasoned than the other. Both have strengths and weaknesses,” Jones said. “I think Scott is more assertive. Ray is a real nice guy. I just feel right now the city needs someone who is more assertive.”

Vice Mayor Jones’ motion to appoint Anderson as the Chiefland police chief was seconded by City Commissioner Donald Lawrence, and received affirmative votes from Mayor Betty Walker and City Commissioner Rollin Hudson as well Commissioner Lawrence and Vice Mayor Jones.

Anderson replaces Police Chief Robert Douglas who has accepted a position as the chief deputy of the Marion County Sheriff’s Office under recently-elected Marion County Sheriff Billy Woods.

Anderson, who retired from the Levy County Sheriff’s Office, will make a starting salary of \$61,500. Commissioners gave him a higher starting salary because his wife Ella Anderson, a patrol officer with the city, will have to resign to comply with the state nepotism law. She won’t be able to serve as an employee under his command as chief.

Douglas began his career as the city police chief at \$54,000. He was making about \$62,000 when he retired.

Anderson and his wife were making a combined \$59,500 as patrol officers for Chiefland police. The city commission gave Anderson enough money to compensate for what he will lose with his wife’s resignation plus a little more. He was happy with the offer.

Anderson said he anticipates a good working relationship with the Levy County Sheriff’s Office.

Anderson is the son of former Chiefland Police Chief Donald Anderson. His full name is Donald Scott Anderson, but he goes by Scott. He is well liked and respected within the city police department. The same can be said of Tremblay, a 21-year veteran of the city police department.

It was Barron who made the motion to give Anderson the \$61,500 salary. The motion passed 4-1 with Vice Mayor Jones casting the lone vote in opposition. Jones said he was concerned about the strain on the city’s budget and the fact that the city would have to pay Douglas for accrued vacation and sick time and other pay. Douglas is a contract employee. Jones had suggested an annual salary of \$57,000 to \$58,000.

Anderson left the City Commission meeting holding the arm of his beloved 96-year-old grandmother, Georgia Bowman, mother of Betty Anderson. After carefully helping his grandmother climb into an SUV, Anderson headed for his scheduled night shift on patrol. When his shift ended at 6 a.m., he would officially take over as chief.

Anderson served in a variety of positions at the Levy County Sheriff’s Office. He was a K-9 officer, patrol corporal, lieutenant in charge of special operations and captain of the special operations division at the sheriff’s office which included Levy County Sheriff’s 9-1-1 dispatch center, marine units, K-9 units, SWAT Team, Levy County Drug Task Force and Motor Pool.

He started his career in law enforcement as a correctional officer with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office from Oct. 1986 to July 1989. He had control of high risk, combative and escape-risk inmates at the Pinellas County Jail.

He worked at Lancaster Correctional Institution from August of 1989 to June of 1995.

Anderson worked as a corrections deputy and K-9 deputy for the LCSO from June 1995 to March 2013. He became a corporeal in the patrol division and later a lieutenant in special operations division, and still later was promoted to captain in charge of special operations division.

He retired from the LCSO and was hired by CPD Chief Douglas in April of 2015 as a patrol officer, a job he has held since.

Anderson gave plain-spoken responses to questions from commissioners about his strengths

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and weaknesses and how he would run the city police department.

“I’m a worker. I wouldn’t be just a chief. You ask these men. I get my hands dirty,” he said when asked for his most notable strength.

Asked about whether he thinks K-9 dogs should be added to the department, Anderson said he would like to have two K-9s, one for each shift. The department currently relies on the sheriff’s office for K-9 support due to budget constraints.

When Tremblay was asked for his chief strength, he said “I am a people person.”

Tremblay has been active in community organizations throughout his career including Another Way where he is vice president on that women’s shelter board of directors.

“I guess that’s where my heart has always been, serving the community,” Tremblay said.

Tremblay said when Douglas hired him as a patrol officer, he told him Chiefland was the only place he ever wanted to work, and his allegiance to the community hasn’t changed.

Anderson and Tremblay are friends. They shook hands and wished each other the best before entering the city commission meeting room to find out who had been selected as chief. Each had been asked to stand outside while the other was being interviewed. Both were asked to remain outside as commissioners discussed who should get the job.

On a final note, the city commission said goodbye to retiring Chief Robert Douglas who told commissioners he loved working for Chiefland. He said the city is like a family and he urged them to never let go of the family atmosphere. He said city commissioners, City Hall staff and city police officers are part of the family. He said he has enjoyed working with the city.

“You all continue to bless me; believe me,” he said.

When talking to a reporter during a break, the reporter complimented Douglas on doing a good job of keeping the peace during his 11 years as chief. He said he did it with prayer.

In parting remarks to commissioners, Douglas showed off the gun and badge he had used during his 11 years with the CPD. His employees framed the gun and badge and gave it to him at a going-away party.



Outgoing Chief Robert Douglas shows the gift he received from his employees, his gun and badge in the frame.