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ConFire chief and his deputy share a special bond

By Nick Marnell



Fire Chief Jeff Carman, right, and Deputy Chief Lewis Broschard at the Advisory Fire Commission meeting. Photo Nick Marnell

Fire Chief Jeff Carman waxed eloquent as he recognized Lewis Broschard, his deputy fire chief, for his 10 years with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

"His qualities are too numerous to mention," Carman said. "He has the ability to free-think. He's a well-rounded person, and a great family guy. And that means a lot to me."

Carman told his Advisory Fire Commission Dec. 4 that he and Broschard would often exchange emails late into the night, and when Carman woke up in the morning, there was already a list of email responses from his deputy chief.

"He's a great partner, but that gives too much credit to me," Carman said. "It's nice to be able to take credit for all the things that Lewis has done."

Carman ended the ceremony by presenting Broschard the ultimate compliment. "I hope that he's my

replacement when I leave," the chief said of the man who was a finalist for the fire chief position in 2013.

Broschard had been spearheading the Lafayette Fire Station 16 rebuild, but turned over the project to Assistant Chief Aaron McAlister in 2016. McAlister said the district prefers to piece out the station demolition and the construction to two different firms, and due diligence is underway for the district award of the demolition contract, for which the board of directors approved the funding Dec. 5.

Once ConFire awards the contract, Station 16 demolition should take two to three weeks, McAlister said.

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