

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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October 10, 2014

“Jim Dooley- New City of Norfolk Operations Manager”

As of October 1 Jim Dooley was assigned to the position of Operations Manager for the City of Norfolk supervising the Streets, Parks and Maintenance Divisions. He transferred from the Fire Division where he has served as the Assistant Fire Chief of Operations.

Dooley has rushed into his share of burning buildings and as Chief of Operations has also trained and overseen the fire division’s 27 firefighters and 25 reserve firefighters. As a licensed electrical contractor, he served as general contractor and wired the new City Council chambers.

“We were looking for someone with management skills who also understood the mechanical end of things. Jim Dooley was the perfect fit,” said Shane Weidner, Norfolk City Administrator.



Dooley was an electrician and volunteer firefighter in Alliance, Nebraska when he took an Emergency Medical Technician course and loved it. He applied and was hired in Norfolk as a firefighter. Later on he developed an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science program at Northeast Community College.

He also helped develop a local training program at NECC so firefighters could learn the skills to qualify as a paramedic.

“People want to grow and improve their skills and doing so increases the City’s ability to make a significant

difference in the outcome of the citizens who call for help and assistance,” Dooley said.

In between his time answering rescue calls and managing the fire division operations, he researched a way to have the traffic lights change so that rescue vehicles would always have green lights. He then raised funds, installed and wired the first traffic signal preemption devices in Norfolk.

The Public Safety Training Center was another one of Dooley’s innovations for Norfolk. He developed the rationale for the project, testified before the Nebraska Legislature for funding to obtain the property and was involved in all aspects of its design.

“I’ve always looked for ways to improve operations in the City and tried to make changes in the most cost effective ways I could,” Dooley said from his office at the Fire Division. He will soon be moving to his new location in the Street Division Building on 9th and Omaha Avenue.

Dooley has a bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Management and, in his free time, runs marathons including the Boston Marathon this past spring.

“The staff at the streets and parks divisions work hard and sometimes aren’t appreciated for the 2:00 am snow plow calls and the 100 degree days of mowing. I look forward to working side by side with these guys and continuing my service to the Norfolk community,” Dooley said.

Dooley and his wife, Mary, have three sons: Brent (Jeri) of Austin, Texas; David (fiancé Jenny) of Bennington; and Nathan of Norfolk and one grandson, Mason.

Dooley fills the position left by Gary Miller who currently works as Risk Manager for the City of Council Bluffs, IA.