

September 17, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 5:59 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Steven M. DeVougas, Chair  
Kathryn A. Hein  
Michael M. O'Hear  
Ann Wilson  
Marisabel Cabrera  
Fred Crouther

ALSO PRESENT: Milwaukee Fire Department Chief Mark Rohlfing and Milwaukee Police Department Chief Edward Flynn.

The Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 4:40 p.m. to 5:52 p.m. pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Stats., to consider the promotion of Police Officer Cheuyeml Yang to the rank of Detective.

The meeting was staffed by Executive Director MaryNell Regan. The Director presented for adoption minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2015. Commissioner O'Hear moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Crouther. The motion carried unanimously.

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) The Director returned to the Board a letter dated September 2, 2105, from Chief Flynn, objecting to the promotion of #64 - Police Officer Cheuyeml H. Yang to the position of Detective. Commissioner O'Hear moved to sustain the objection, seconded by Commissioner Crouther. The motion carried unanimously.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

a) The Director presented a classification report for ten new positions of Community Service Officer in the Police Department. Andrea Knickerbocker, Human Resources Manager from the Department of Employee Relations (DER), presented a report dated September 11, 2015, recommending that the new positions be classified at the same level of a Police Services Specialist – Investigator in Pay Range 5EN (\$39,518 -\$46,439) with footnote "5" attached. The new positions would support basic Police Department operations and functions by performing a variety of specialized duties not requiring the attention of a sworn Police Officer. Commissioner Crouther moved to approve the classification recommendation, seconded by Commissioner O'Hear. The motion carried unanimously.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotions, as presented by Chief Mark Rohlfing, were approved by the Board:

TO FIRE LIEUTENANT, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established December 19, 2013, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screen, effective September 27, 2015:

#46 – THOMAS W. DAMROW\*; #47 – BRIAN W. GIEGERICH; #48 – JOSEPH M. FRANZ; and #49 – LOREN J. MAY.

Note: #46 previously promoted to Fire Lieutenant on July 22, 2012 through Fire Lieutenant Paramedic special promotion process.

TO HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established July 27, 2014, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screen, effective September 27, 2015:

#15 – MICHAEL E. BELLANGER; #16 – KENNETH J. VERIGA; #17 – LORENZO A. WILLIAMS; and #18 – BRETT R. BIESBOER.

b) The following appointments, as presented by Chief Rohlfing, were approved by the Board:

TO BUSINESS FINANCE MANAGER, effective September 27, 2015:

YVETTE M. ROWE.

c) The Director presented a letter dated September 9, 2015, from Chief Rohlfing, notifying the Board that the contingency appointment of #53 – Thomas J. Gosse to Fire Cadet was utilized on September 8, 2015.

The Director presented a letter dated September 3, 2015, from Chief Rohlfing, notifying the Board that #22 – Brandon P. Mathe, previously appointed to Fire Cadet on July 16, 2015, and placed on a “hold” status, joined the August 17, 2015 Fire Cadet class on September 3, 2015.

#### 4. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotions, as presented by Chief Flynn, were approved by the Board:

TO POLICE LIEUTENANT, from eligible list established July 16, 2015, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective October 11, 2015:

#6 – REBECCA L. BABICH; #7 – KRISTIN K. FELSMAN; #8 – DANIEL P. THOMPSON; #9 – DANIEL C. BELL; and #10 - JAMES A. OLSON.\*

\*Promoted on a waiver basis.

TO DETECTIVE, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established December 19, 2013, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective October 11, 2015:

#67 – THOMAS L. GUTHRIE; #68 – ANDREW R. HOLZEM; and #69 –SAMANTHA L. FLOCK.

Note: The Commission moved to hold over the promotion of #66 – Jeffrey N. Emanuelson to the next meeting.

The Director presented a letter dated September 16, 2015, from Chief Flynn to the Board, requesting the promotion of #70 – Jonathan Mejias-Rivera to Detective be held in abeyance. The Chair so ordered.

TO OFFICE ASSISTANT III, from Office Assistant II, effective October 11, 2015:

SANDRA HANSEN.

b) The Director presented a letter dated September 8, 2015, from Chief Flynn, presenting a request from Detective Luke D. Ardis for voluntary demotion to his former rank of Police Officer, to be effective September 27, 2015. Commissioner O’Hear moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

c) The Director presented a letter dated September 11, 2015, from Chief Flynn, presenting a request from Hugo Aviles for reappointment to Police Aide. Mr. Aviles had applied for both the Police Aide and Fire Cadet positions and was eligible for both. He received an appointment as a Police Aide first and later resigned and transferred to the Fire Department. He realized he prefers a career with the Police Department and requests reappointment to Police Aide, effective September 27, 2015, contingent upon successfully passing a medical examination and a drug screen. Chief Flynn recommends his reappointment. Commissioner O'Hear moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Crouther. The motion carried unanimously.

d) The Director presented a letter dated September 8, 2015, from Chief Flynn, requesting the Board conduct a recruitment, examination and eligibility list for the position of Vehicle Services Assistant as soon as possible. The Chair referred the matter to the Department of Employee Relations for implementation.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Executive Director opened the floor to public comment, indicating that each commentator had to sign-up beforehand and limit their comments to two minutes.

Mary Watkins expressed concerns about Community Service Officers and wanted to know if they were going to be equipped with any weapons. She also wanted to know if they were going to be outfitted with body cameras. Ms. Watkins described the two-minute time limit for public comment at the Regular Fire and Police Commission meetings as draconian. She feels the public has been tremendously patient with the FPC and it is not too much to ask to be able to speak with a more flexible time limit. She noted that the public had to wait almost a year for a hearing on the Manney matter, and that there has not been a citizen complaint hearing in three years. According to her, other committees allow people to speak until they begin to ramble.

Karen Kramer and her friends, Terry Neilson and Leana Christiana, each spoke about the unsolved murder of Ms. Kramer's daughter in the City of Milwaukee in 2003. They alleged that Chief Flynn and District Attorney John Chisholm were preventing the case from being sent to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for investigation. They asked Chief Flynn to do whatever was necessary to expedite the matter to the DOJ.

Cynthia Greenwood indicated that the public wants an opportunity to talk one-on-one with Commissioners in which the Commissioners answer questions. She also expressed her concern about missing children and the police's indifferent attitude to them. She alleged that a police officer recently beat someone at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and broke his jaw. She also told the story of her son Andrew Greenwood being beaten by police officers years ago, resulting in permanent severe injuries. She questioned how violently officers interact with young men.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner O'Hear moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Crouther. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 6:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryNell Regan  
Executive Director