

December 17, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 5:44P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Rohlfing, Chief, Milwaukee Fire Department, and Assistant Chief James Harpole, representing the Milwaukee Police Department.

The Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 5:11 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Stats., to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over whom the Board has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to wit: performance evaluation of candidate for promotion to Battalion Chief, Fire.

The meeting was staffed by Executive Director MaryNell Regan. The Director presented for adoption minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 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 following promotion, as presented by Chief Rohlfing, was approved by the Board:

TO BATTALION CHIEF, FIRE, from Fire Captain, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective December 20, 2015:

JOSEPH F. HEGEMAN, JR.

b) The Director issued a statement about changes to the Public Comment format. Commencing with the first Regular Meeting in January 2016, Public Comment will now be received at the beginning of each meeting. The Director indicated that the Commissioners would like to hear comments from the public about agenda items before they vote on them. The time period in which to make comments will be twenty minutes.

2. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented for adoption an eligible list consisting of fifty-eight names for the position of Detective in the Milwaukee Police Department. A presentation was made by FPC Human Resources Representative Toni Vanderboom. Applications were accepted in July 2015, and testing consisted of a written exam and oral assessment center. The oral assessment center consisted of an oral interview and a Career Review Board. Commissioner Crouther moved approval of the list, seconded by Commissioner O'Hear. The motion carried unanimously.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

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

TO FIRE CAPTAIN, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established December 19, 2013, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective December 20, 2015:

#20 – DAVID R. SEAGER, JR.\* and #21 – MICHAEL G. PALMER.

\*In addition to completion of in-service training for the promotion, he must thereafter successfully complete probation for an aggregate of one year of actual service pursuant to FPC Rule XI, Section 7 (b).

TO FIRE LIEUTENANT, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established December 19, 2013, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective December 20, 2015:

#52 – ROBERT L. HEHN and #54 – WILLIAM R. CODE.

b) The following appointment, as presented by Chief Rohlfing, was approved by the Board:

TO FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPRESSED AIR TECHNICIAN, from Fire Mechanic Helper, effective December 20, 2015:

PABLO LLANOS-ALDAPE.

c) The Director presented a letter dated December 4, 2015, from Chief Rohlfing, wherein he notifies the Board that Fire Cadet Avery K. Meeks, Jr. has been terminated, effective December 4, 2015.

Commissioner Wilson congratulated the men on their recent promotions; however, she expressed concern about the lack of diversity she sees in the Department; although she realizes this is something the Department is continuously working on. She offered her assistance in anything she could do to help create greater diversity in the Department.

#### 4. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotion, as presented by Chief Flynn, was approved by the Board:

TO POLICE RECORDS SPECIALIST I, from Police District Office Assistant, effective January 3, 2016:

NATALIE POLICHT.

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

TO POLICE SERVICES SPECIALIST, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, medical examination, and drug screening, effective December 21, 2015:

ROBERT J. O'GROSKY (FULL TIME)\*.

\*Appointee must serve a one-year probation period.

TO OFFICE ASSISTANT I, from Department of Employee Relations eligible list, contingent upon successful completion of a medical examination and drug screening, effective January 4, 2016:

TAMMY S. KAISHIAN.

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Chair opened the floor to public comment, indicating that there is a two-minute limit for comments. He requested the public to address their comments to the Commissioners and not to anyone else. He reminded everyone that by law the Commissioners are not allowed to respond to comments and to please not be offended by that. He encouraged anyone who had additional questions or concerns to contact the FPC office by email or phone and to check the website.

Ms. Mary Watkins was the only individual to provide public comment. She explained that earlier today she attempted to attend the U.S. Department of Justice's press conference at the Federal Courthouse regarding the Collaborative Reform Initiative with the Milwaukee Police Department and was denied entry to the event by the U.S. Marshals. She was informed that the event had been moved from the outside to inside, and only individuals listed on an invitation list were allowed into the event. Ms. Watkins demanded to know why the event had been moved from the outside, and why only "VIPs" and elected officials were allowed at the press conference. She accused Chief Flynn of preventing the public from attending the event and questioned what he was hiding. She stated that this action was contrary to being collaborative and transparent, and was starting things off on the "wrong foot." It appeared to her that Chief Flynn was only willing to collaborate with certain individuals and not others. She also wondered what happened to the investigation of the Milwaukee Police Department in 2012 by former U.S. Attorney James Santelle. She asked what the results were of that investigation and where was the follow-up. She stated that this incident is more evidence that Chief Flynn should be removed from office because he does not intend on collaborating with anyone, and he prevented the public from a public building to a hear a press conference about collaborating with the public.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting concluded at 5:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryNell Regan  
Executive Director

MNR:JS:jcs