

March 17, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 5:34 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Gerard Washington, Assistant Chief, representing the Milwaukee Fire Department; and Carianne Yerkes, Assistant Chief, representing the Milwaukee Police Department.

The Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 5:10 p.m. to 5:30 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 Assistant Fire Chief.

The meeting was staffed by Executive Director MaryNell Regan. The Chair opened the meeting with Public Comment.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Mary Watkins spoke about a police shooting that occurred on March 14, 2014 involving the Brown Deer Police Department and her request for information.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Director presented the following items for approval on the consent agenda. (Detailed information concerning the items can be found under the appropriate regular meeting agenda heading in the minutes.)

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2016.
- B. Appointments: 1. Fire Equipment Dispatcher (2 positions).
2. Fire Equipment Dispatcher – Contingency (2 positions).
3. Police Services Specialist (Half-Time).
- C. Correspondence regarding Suspension of Firefighter.

Item B-3 was removed from the consent agenda at the request of Commissioner Wilson.

Commissioner O'Hear clarified that Item C was not an action item and that adoption of it would not mean that the Commission had made a pre-determination that the suspension was approved by them, pending any appeal of the discipline. There being no further objections, the remaining items were adopted.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

TO ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, from Deputy Chief, Fire, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective March 27, 2016:

BRIAN L. SMITH.

b) The Director responded to a question raised during Public Comment at the March 3, 2016 meeting, regarding what happens to the original video from the body-worn cameras. The Director explained that the video is uploaded to Evidence.com, and the original video is never edited. If a request is made for the video, a copy of the video is made which can be edited for redaction purposes. The original video remains unchanged and is not edited.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a) The Director opened the floor to Commissioner Wilson who expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Milwaukee Police Department members who helped organize and host the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police Conference in Milwaukee, February 3-5, 2016. She particularly wished to commend Officer Jennifer Feather for her hard work "above and beyond the call of duty". Commissioner Wilson was extremely impressed with the speakers and the topics that were covered and the information she received.

5. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented for approval an examination announcement bulletin for the position of Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) in the Fire Department. Jason Stenglein, FPC Human Resources Representative, provided a presentation to the Board and explained that HEOs are not only responsible for driving the heavy equipment vehicles and safely transporting firefighters to and from emergency scenes, but also operating the apparatus and staging it to ensure appropriate water resources and aerial ladder support. The minimum qualifications for the position is two years of continuous service as a Firefighter or Fire Paramedic in the Milwaukee Fire Department as of May 12, 2016; current State of Wisconsin certification as an EMT-B; a valid regular Wisconsin driver's license; and completion of the MFD Professional Development Program upon time of promotion. Completion of the MFD Professional Development Program is a new requirement for this position, as it was previously optional. Applications will be accepted beginning on March 18, 2016 and will close on April 18, 2016. A written exam will be held on May 12, 2016. The performance test will be conducted during the week of June 20, 2016. Commissioner O'Hear moved approval of the bulletin, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

6. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The Director presented a letter dated March 10, 2016, from Chief Mark Rohlfing, wherein he requests that the new civilian position of Athletic Trainer be classified as exempt from competitive examination pursuant to FPC Rule V, Sections 2 and 5, and for the individual to serve at the pleasure of the Chief. The Chief is requesting the exemption because this is a highly-skilled professional position unique to the City requiring confidentiality and sensitivity concerning the Department's wellness and education plan, and will be responsible for providing policy advice to command staff and will act as a spokesperson for command staff as needed. Commissioner O'Hear moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Crouther. The motion carried unanimously.

b) The following appointments, as presented by Chief Rohlfing, were approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Items B-1 and B-2:

TO FIRE EQUIPMENT DISPATCHER, from eligible list established June 18, 2015, contingent upon successful completion of a medical examination, psychological exam and drug screen, effective April 11, 2016:

#22 – JOEL KRAMSCHUSTER and #25 - STEPHANIE CHIN.

TO FIRE EQUIPMENT DISPATCHER, on a contingency basis, from eligible list established June 18, 2015, also contingent upon successful completion of a medical examination, psychological exam and drug screen, effective April 11, 2016:

#30 – LAFREDRICK BURNS and #27 – CINDY JOHNSON.

Note: The above candidates can fill open position vacancies through 4/18/16.

c) The following communication was previously approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Item C.

A letter dated March 7, 2016, from Chief Rohlfing, wherein he notifies the Board that Firefighter Marvin L. Coleman II has been suspended for five days, with two days held in abeyance pending the successful completion of an approved program, for violation of Department Rules and Code of Conduct under an order dated March 2, 2016.

7. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) Item B-3 was previously removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Wilson. Commissioner Wilson requested information on the duties of a Police Services Specialist (PSS). Assistant Chief Carianne Yerkes explained that these part-time positions are usually filled by retired police officers and perform different work than Police Services Specialist Investigators (PSSI), who usually conduct background investigations. Police Service Specialists perform work other than background investigations, such as providing vehicle assistance in Facilities Services. The nominee for this particular appointment would assist in the photo lab of the Forensics Investigations Unit, which is where he worked prior to retiring. The Board then approved the appointment, as presented by Chief Edward Flynn, as follows:

TO POLICE SERVICES SPECIALIST, effective March 28, 2016, subject to a one-year probationary period:

SAMUEL MOODY (HALF-TIME).

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting concluded at 5:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryNell Regan
Executive Director

MNR:JCS:js