

October 1, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 5:35 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Richard C. Cox, Chair
Carolina M. Stark
Ernesto A. Baca
Kathryn A. Hein
Sarah W. Morgan

ABSENT: Commissioner: Paoi X. Lor (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Douglas Holton, Chief, Milwaukee Fire Department; and Monica Ray, Assistant Chief, representing the Milwaukee Police Department.

The Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 4:05 p.m. to 5:25 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: promotion of two Battalion Chiefs to Deputy Chief and two Fire Captains to Battalion Chief.

The Director presented for adoption minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2009. Commissioner Hein moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

TO DEPUTY CHIEF, FIRE, from Battalion Chief, effective October 4, 2009:

JACK P. CHRISTIANSON and STEVEN W. GLEISNER.

TO BATTALION CHIEF, FIRE, from Fire Captain, effective October 4, 2009:

SEAN W. SLOWEY and SPENCER L. VASSEL.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

a) The Director administered the oath of office to Steven Fronk, the new Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Services. Emergency Management and Homeland Security Services will move under the administrative arm of the Fire and Police Commission as part of the 2010 Budget.

b) The Director presented the revised Influenza Season Employment Policy. The original policy was adopted at a previous Board Meeting. The revision allows new employees to use accrued sick leave during the first six months of their employment for seasonal influenza or H1N1, modifies the requirement for a doctor's certificate after a certain number of days, and provides that absences due to seasonal influenza or H1N1 do not count for sick leave control purposes. The purpose of the policy is to encourage sick employees to stay home. Commissioner Stark moved to adopt the revised Influenza Season Employment Policy, for fire and police employees, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

3. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented for adoption an eligible list for the position of Police Sergeant in the Police Department, consisting of 120 names. The Director read the first five names of the eligible list for the public present. Commissioner Baca moved approval of the list, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

b) The Director presented for approval an examination announcement bulletin for the position of Police Aide in the Police Department. The Director pointed out a typographical error on page 1 and raised for discussion adding “or its equivalent” under the minimum requirement regarding the 2.0 grade point average for schools that do not issue letter grades. Also, the Director suggested adding a date of December 1, 2009 to the paragraph regarding notification of military leave. The Director suggested voting on the examination bulletin tonight due to scheduling issues. Commissioner Baca stressed the need to move forward with the process. The Director clarified that adding “or its equivalent” would not allow for a GED, that an applicant would in fact have to receive a high school diploma. Commissioner Morgan suggested adding language specifying that a GED will not be accepted. Commissioner Stark asked who determines what equivalency means, did the Department of Employee Relations (DER) have a formula for determining equivalency, and did they leave the language out for a reason. There was no representative from DER present to comment. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the bulletin with the typographical correction and the addition of the date of December 1, 2009 for notification of military leave. No action was taken on language concerning the grade point average. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baca. The motion carried unanimously.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

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

TO FIRE CAPTAIN, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established February 19, 2009, effective October 4, 2009:

#8 – STEVEN G. RIEGG and #9 – LAURIE L. PEIFER.

TO FIRE LIEUTENANT, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established December 6, 2007, effective October 4, 2009:

#37 – SCOTT R. ALWIN II and #38 – SCOTT T. MEKA.

b) The Director presented a letter dated September 23, 2009, from Chief Holton, wherein he notifies the Board that he has granted Firefighter Craig C. Weiss an extension of his unpaid medical leave of absence, which commenced June 24, 2009, and will now expire on December 24, 2009.

The Director presented a letter dated September 18, 2009, from Chief Holton, wherein he notifies the Board that Lieutenant William J. Echevarria has returned from his unpaid military leave of absence on September 15, 2009, which commenced May 10, 2009.

The Director presented a letter dated September 18, 2009, from Chief Holton, wherein he notifies the Board that Firefighter Michael P. Saskowski has returned from his unpaid military leave of absence on September 17, 2009, which commenced April 23, 2009.

5. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The Director presented a letter dated September 23, 2009, from Chief Edward Flynn, wherein he notifies the Board of the following personnel transactions: Identification Technician Charles Rotramel returned from an unpaid military leave of absence, which commenced March 31, 2008, and concluded on August 10, 2009;

Police Officer Micolette N. Acevedo was granted an unpaid maternity leave of absence, which commenced June 1, 2009, and concluded August 23, 2009; Police Officer Daniel Ocasio was granted an unpaid military leave of absence, which commenced July 14, 2009, and concluded on August 20, 2009; Police Officer Tiffany N. Skonieczny was granted an unpaid military leave of absence, which commenced August 6, 2009, and concluded on September 1, 2009; Police Dispatcher Alasha T. Jones was granted an unpaid medical leave of absence, which commenced April 19, 2009, and concluded on July 9, 2009; Police Dispatcher Laticia A. Robinson was granted an unpaid medical leave of absence, which commenced July 10, 2009, and concluded on August 3, 2009; Police Telecommunicator Angela Algee-Cotton was granted an unpaid medical leave of absence, which commenced July 30, 2009, and concluded on September 16, 2009; Police Officer Elizabeth A. Hallman was granted an unpaid educational leave of absence to commence February 22, 2010, and conclude on July 24, 2010; and Custodial Worker Kathleen Polewski was granted an unpaid medical leave of absence, which commenced August 21, 2009, and will conclude on November 22, 2009.

b) The Director presented a letter dated September 23, 2009, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Police Officer Cassandra L. Benitez be extended by an additional 290 days, until August 8, 2010, due to being placed on limited duty and subsequently taking a Family Medical Leave Act maternity leave during her recruit training. Commissioner Morgan moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

The Director presented a letter dated September 23, 2009, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Police Officer Bryan J. Norberg be extended by an additional 129 days, due to an on-duty injury, effective when he returns to full duty. Commissioner Baca moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

The Director presented a letter dated September 23, 2009, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Police Officer Janel M. Vytlačil be extended by an additional 257 days, until June 29, 2010, due to being placed on limited duty and subsequently taking a Family Medical Leave Act leave. Commissioner Hein moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

The Director notified the public that the meeting of October 15, 2009 will be held at the Wilson Park Senior Center and will start at 6:00 P.M., not 5:30 P.M.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no comment made from the public present.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Baca moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 5:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Tobin
Executive Director