

December 17, 2009

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

ABSENT: Commissioner: Paoi X. Lor (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Jones, Acting 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 5:01 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: Review of removal from Fire Lieutenant Eligible List.

The Director presented for adoption minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2009. He noted at the previous meeting Assistant Chief Michael Jones became Acting Chief of the Fire Department and Deputy Chief Debra Weber became Acting Assistant Chief of the Fire Department. He also noted that the Police Department presented their overtime budget and commended them on the work they are doing to utilize overtime effectively. Commissioner Hein moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

1. NEW BUSINESS:

a) The Director presented a letter dated December 10, 2009, from Ronald D. Leonhardt, City Clerk, who requests that Police Officer Mark D. Buetow be detached from the Police Department to serve as Police Liaison Officer, effective January 1, 2010. Mr. Buetow will have reinstatement rights to his former classification when his term of employment as Police Liaison Officer ends. Mr. Buetow was present and stated he was looking forward to working with the Board. Commissioner Stark moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Baca. The motion carried unanimously.

2. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented for adoption an eligible list for the position of Fire Lieutenant in the Fire Department, consisting of 54 names. He then read the first ten names on the list. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the list, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

b) The Director presented for adoption an eligible list for the position of Communication Systems Manager in the Police Department, consisting of three names. Commissioner Hein moved approval of the list, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

c) The Director presented for approval an examination announcement bulletin for the position of Fire Technical Services Manager in the Fire Department. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the bulletin, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following appointment, as presented by Acting Chief Michael Jones, was approved by the Board:

TO FIRE EQUIPMENT DISPATCHER, from eligible list established June 4, 2009, contingent upon successful completion of a medical and drug screening, effective January 11, 2010:

#6 – REGINA BOSTON-DIXON.

b) The Director presented a letter dated December 9, 2009, from Acting Chief Jones, wherein he requests that Battalion Chief Daniel J. Holton be allowed to serve as Acting Deputy Chief in the Bureau of Special Operations for more than 30 days until a promotion to Deputy Chief can be made. Commissioner Baca moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

c) The Director stated that the Board met earlier in closed session to discuss the matter of Heavy Equipment Operator Timothy Beaumont's removal from the Fire Lieutenant Eligible List. Mr. Beaumont, his attorney, and the Board will receive a full record of the documents presented for review. The matter will be laid over to the next meeting on January 7, 2010 to allow time for Mr. Beaumont to respond and for the Board to review the record. At that time a determination will be made in accordance with the remand from the Circuit Court decision.

Jeffrey Sweetland, Mr. Beaumont's attorney was present and presented to the Board a tentative settlement agreement created during a mediation session with Assistant City Attorney Thomas Beamish. He asked that the proposed settlement also be taken into consideration.

d) The Director presented a letter dated December 9, 2009, from Acting Chief Jones, wherein he notifies the Board that Probationary Firefighter John C. Przybylla has been terminated effective December 8, 2009.

e) The Director presented a letter dated December 9, 2009, from Acting Chief Jones, wherein he notifies the Board of various personnel changes made in accordance with the 2010 City of Milwaukee Adopted Budget. These changes include the decommissioning of Ladder 10 located at 3628 N. Holton Street, and the elimination of the fifth sworn firefighter position on eight additional ladder trucks, which results in those ladder trucks being staffed with four people per shift.

Acting Chief Jones spoke regarding the decommissioning of Ladder 10. He stated he looked at the response times, population density, calls for service, and experience to determine which Ladder company should be decommissioned. Two sites were looked at, and decommissioning Ladder 10 made the least impact on response time and effectiveness of the Department. No public feedback has been heard yet, but the Department will reach out to the community to notify them of the changes and the effect it will have on them.

The Director presented a letter dated December 9, 2009, from Acting Chief Jones, wherein he notifies the Board of more personnel changes made in accordance with the 2010 City of Milwaukee Adopted Budget. These changes include the deletion of the following positions: Administrative Fire Lieutenant assigned to the Assistant Chief, Information Technology Specialist, and Administrative Assistant II in the Technical Services Section, Fire Equipment Repairer I in the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance, and three positions of Firefighter (Fire Education Specialist) in the Bureau of Instruction and Training. Two civilian positions of Community Education Specialist will be created.

Acting Chief Jones stated the Firefighters in the Fire Education Specialist roles will go back to the field and two civilians will be hired to provide educational training to the public.

f) The Director presented a letter dated December 9, 2009, from Acting Chief Jones, wherein he requests that two positions of Community Education Specialist be classified in accordance with the 2010 Adopted Budget. The Chair referred the request to the Department of Employee Relations for implementation.

4. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The Director presented a letter dated December 14, 2009, from Chief Edward Flynn, wherein he nominates Inspector of Police Edward Liebrecht to the exempt position of Assistant Chief of Police in the Police Department, to be effective January 10, 2010. Pursuant to Rules of the Board, final action on this nomination was laid over to permit the nominee to be interviewed.

The Director announced that the Inspector of Police promotion was removed from the agenda.

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

TO POLICE DISTRICT OFFICE ASSISTANT, effective December 27, 2009:

CHRISTOPHER S. CLEVELAND.

c) The following appointment, as presented by Chief Flynn, was approved by the Board:

TO HELP DESK SPECIALIST I, a transfer from Safety Specialist Senior, effective December 27, 2009:

LISHUNDA L. PATTERSON.

d) The Director presented a letter dated July 15, 2009, from Assistant Chief Dale Schunk, wherein he notifies the Board that Police Sergeant Jeffrey J. Corn has been discharged for violation of Department Rules and Regulations under Personnel Order 2009-105 dated July 15, 2009.

e) The Director announced that the reappointment request would be moved to the end of the agenda.

f) The Director presented a letter dated December 11, 2009, from Chief Flynn, wherein he presents the Board with the proposed 2010 Furlough Guidelines and forms for the Department. Assistant Chief Ray commended Cynthia Ratliff and Val Williams for their work on the guidelines. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the 2010 Furlough Guidelines, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

g) The Director presented a letter dated December 2, 2009, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that an examination be conducted for the position of Police Telecommunicator (Seasonal) as soon as possible as the eligible list has been exhausted. The Chair referred the request to the Department of Employee Relations for implementation.

h) The Director presented a letter dated December 10, 2009, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests approval to rescind Milwaukee Police Department Rule 5 – Absence in its entirety, and revise Milwaukee Police Department Standard Operating Procedure 010 – Absence. Pursuant to Rules of the Board, the Chair laid the matter over until the next meeting.

i) The Director presented a memorandum from Police Department Chief of Staff Judy Pal regarding changes to the Department Organizational Chart to reflect the changes adopted in the 2010 Budget. The changes eliminate the Safety Division and merge it with the Community Services Division. The Community Services Division will be moved under the Professional Standards Bureau. Pursuant to Rules of the Board, the Chair laid the matter over until the next meeting.

j) The Director presented a communication regarding the Police Department Safety Plan. The plan was created in conjunction with the Department of Employee Relations and Fire and Police Commission staff to find ways to reduce on-duty injuries for Milwaukee police officers. Data is collected on many types of duties and activities. By monitoring the activities more closely, it can be determined how the injuries occur and changes in training, policies, and procedures can be put into place to reduce future injuries. The department will make sure that the data collected will be used and analyzed for appropriate changes.

Assistant Chief Ray thanked Florence Dukes and the Safety Division staff who led the effort to create this plan. The plan will be implemented by the human resource and medical sections. The plan should help decrease absences and injuries.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave Seager introduced himself as the new President of Local 215 and stated he looked forward to working with the Board in the future.

The Director then returned to the agenda item taken out of order.

6. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

e) The Director presented a letter dated December 2, 2009, from Chief Flynn, wherein he presents a request for reappointment to the position of Police Sergeant from Timothy Wilger. Mr. Wilger was appointed on September 26, 1994, was promoted to Police Sergeant on March 2, 2001, and resigned on March 28, 2009. Chief Flynn recommends that Mr. Wilger be reappointed to his former position of Police Sergeant.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Wilger several questions regarding the reasons for his resignation and how he will handle those issues if reappointed.

Mr. Wilger was present and spoke about his former position and why he resigned. He stated while on the department he was fair and got along well with his supervisors. Assistant Chief Ray stated if reappointed, Mr. Wilger will be assigned to street patrol, be counseled as a new employee, and serve a probationary period.

Commissioner Baca moved to approve the reappointment request, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting concluded at 6:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Tobin  
Executive Director