

May 15, 2014

A Special Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 3:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Sarah W. Morgan
Kathryn A. Hein
Michael M. O'Hear
Ann Wilson
Marisabel Cabrera
Steven M. DeVougas

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Barrett, Honorable Mayor of Milwaukee, Michael J. Murphy, Common Council President; and Mark Rohlfing, Chief, Milwaukee Fire Department

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The Director called the meeting to order stating everyone is present for the reappointment of Chief Mark Rohlfing to another four year term as Fire Chief. He asked everyone to stand for the presentation of the colors by the Milwaukee Fire Department's Honor Guard. The Director thanked everyone for attending and introduced the Fire and Police Commission (FPC) Board, Mayor Tom Barrett, Common Council President Michael Murphy, Chief Mark Rohlfing and his family. He gave a brief history of the FPC and the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD). Mayor Barrett was introduced. He agreed with the Director that we have the best fire department in the country, through their professionalism, training, staffing, equipment and camaraderie. With all the drama the members of the MFD respond to, there is not much drama within the MFD under Chief Rohlfing's leadership. There have been changes in the MFD through their coordination and cooperation with suburban fire departments, some of whom are present today. He emphasized his appreciation of Chief Rohlfing's leadership during times when resources are strained. He congratulated and thanked Chief Rohlfing for the leadership he has provided to the MFD. Common Council President Michael Murphy was introduced. He thanked the Board for their leadership in reappointing Chief Rohlfing. He thanked the men and women of the MFD, stating they are the backbone of the community. Alderman Murphy acknowledged the changing nature of how fires are fought. He expressed his appreciation of the members who respond to EMS calls, how quickly they arrive and how well the citizens are taken care of. He thanked Chief Rohlfing's family for allowing him to serve the community. Commission Chair Sarah Morgan shared a few remarks about Chief Rohlfing. She stated she was involved in the initial process to hire Chief Rohlfing and is very pleased with what he has accomplished in the past four years. She further stated he sought grant funding and partnerships which positively impact the fire service. He has worked closely with the Fire and Police Commission, listening carefully and responding to their concerns, particularly the concerns to better diversify the MFD. On behalf of the Board, she thanked Chief Rohlfing for his service to the citizens of Milwaukee.

The Director administered the Official Oath of Office to Chief Rohlfing.

Chief Rohlfing thanked everyone for attending and the kind words spoken about him. He stated he was truly blessed for being reappointed to a job he truly loves. He acknowledged and thanked the people who have helped him be successful for the last four years, including his wife, Maureen who is his cheerleader, supporter, advisor and best friend for the last thirty-six years; and his three children Kaitlin, Jordan and Ryan. The success of the department has been achieved by a team of individuals he works with every day. He stated the right people are your most important asset and he believes he has the right people on his management team leading the MFD. They have worked hard to stay within their budget, reduced their salary cost with better staffing decisions, built a health and wellness program that is and will become a national model. It will be rolled out at the Metro Chief's Conference in 2015. They have been able to realize significant savings with most of their EMS and special teams training being done on-duty. They have been able to maintain excellent response times even though they have taken some of their apparatus out of

service. They have updated and refined the culture of the MFD and made accountability one of their defining principles. They are updating their training programs, rules and regulations. They are working hard to become more professional. They have significantly increased their public education and prevention opportunities and activities. Their Fire Cadet program is a great program that was redefined. They are working with the suburbs to provide better EMS and fire services to the citizens of Milwaukee and the county. He thanked the Chiefs of Milwaukee County for their support, friendship and willingness to work alongside him and the MFD. He further stated they have just completed the active shooter training with the MPD. They are rebuilding their juvenile fire starter program so they can take care of the youth that get in trouble when they are young with the intrigue of setting fires. They are greatly expanding their FOCUS program to provide smoke detectors city-wide. The successes have come with a lot of hard work. They have fun, enjoy what they do and as a team, they work together with passion because they enjoy their job and have a great dedication to the MFD and the citizens of Milwaukee. He thanked Mayor Barrett for his confidence and support. He also acknowledged and thanked Aldermen Witkowski, Murphy, Kovac, Wade and newly elected Stamper who have supported him and the MFD over the past four years. He thanked Executive Director Tobin and the Fire and Police Commissioners for their help, support, encouragement and belief in what the MFD is doing. He thanked the men and women of the MFD who have believed in him and worked with him to try and make a difference. They will continue to serve with courage, honor and integrity.

2. ADJOURNMENT:

The Director requested everyone to remain standing so the colors could be retired by the Honor Guard. He adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Tobin
Executive Director

MGT:cj