

Press Release

Edgerton Police Chief Selected

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2019

Contact Person

Police Commission President, Terry Dickinson

By a unanimous vote, the City of Edgerton Police Commission appointed Mr. Robert Kowalski as Edgerton's next Chief of Police. Mr. Kowalski has served as a Chief of Police to the Cook County Health Hospital System and most recently in Sauk Village, Illinois. Prior to those positions, much of Mr. Kowalski's professional career was spent as a Supervisory Special Agent for the Chicago Office of the FBI. He has a Master's Degree in Criminal/Social Justice and has attended various specialized training courses through the FBI and through Northwestern University.

The Edgerton Police Commission received 21 applications for the Chief position. The Commission's rigorous candidate selection process included two in-person interviews, meetings with many community officials, a tour of the City with the finalists, and an in-depth background investigation of each finalist candidate. The Commission benefitted from the assistance of several experienced police professionals throughout the process: Rock County Chief Deputy Tillman, Janesville Police Chief Moore, Janesville Deputy Chief Sheridan, and Evansville Police Chief McElroy. Detectives from the Janesville Police Department completed the background investigations under the direction of Janesville Police Lieutenant Hiers. Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Fred Falk, who has also held both Rock County Sheriff and Federal Marshal positions, was also instrumental in the selection process. Mr. Falk could not overstate his and the Commission's gratitude for the assistance of the other police professionals. "The expertise and insights provided by those agencies was invaluable to our evaluations. We cannot thank them enough for the *many* hours they spent helping us," explained Fred Falk.

Ultimately, the 21 applicants were whittled down to four finalists. Terry Dickinson, Police Commission President, explained that there was one consistent message stated and restated by the police professionals that were involved: *You have a difficult decision to make given the quality of the candidates who've applied.* Dickinson was impressed by the depth of experience many of the candidates arrived with. He stated that "This is truly a good problem to have."

"We have great expectations for the new Chief," said Edgerton Police Commissioner Dr. Mark Coombs. "During the interview process, Mr. Kowalski expressed his desire to focus some of his energies on training Edgerton's current officers to become leaders themselves, and to share with them from his extensive experience". Dickinson also explained that during the interview, Mr. Kowalski emphasized his philosophy and support for community policing, citing several programs he implemented in Sauk Village, such as 'Shop with a Cop' and 'Cop on Top.'

Mr. Kowalski and his spouse, Leisa, who is a neonatal intensive care RN, will relocate to the Edgerton area from Darien, IL. They have two sons, the eldest being a Blackhawk helicopter pilot and Lieutenant with the National Guard (and a pilot for Envoy Airlines), while the other is a sophomore at UW Stevens Point studying Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Upon completing the final pre-employment tests, Edgerton's next chief is expected to be on the job starting March 25, 2019.