

NEW ORLEANS FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

Martin Gaal
Board President

Thomas F. Meagher, III
Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT:

**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Firefighters' Pension & Relief Fund**

TIME, DATE AND PLACE:

**February 9, 2022
2401 Westbend Parkway
Suite 3001
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

This meeting was held via zoom.

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Thomas Meagher, Stephen Roy, Branden Krsak, Norman White, Alcide Tervalon, Martin Gaal and Roman Nelson.

Also present:

Pam Meyer

Teresa Kehoe

Louis Robein, Board Attorney

Mark Porche, firefighter

A quorum being present, the Board Secretary Treasurer called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher noted that the LATEC/ OPEL investment conference is scheduled for February 23-25 is free to trustees and staff. All board members have been registered and should have received email correspondence regarding the conference. He encouraged Board members to use this opportunity to gain educational credits.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

Meagher noted that the January 2022 minutes require approval.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the January 2022 Regular Board minutes with noted corrections.
Motion passed.**

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Kienan P. Clement is requesting a refund of his contributions.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the refund of contributions for Mr. Clement.
Motion passed.**

NO OBJECTIONS

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

None

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

Lance V. Wagner, New Fund fire operator, age eligible with 33 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension effective February 9, 2022.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has beyond 30 years of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.
Motion passed.**

NO OBJECTIONS

REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:

Joseph Bennette, New Fund fire operator, age eligible with 23 years of service is applying for a Regular Service Pension effective March 1, 2022.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a Regular Service Pension which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member’s average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has beyond 30 years of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

PLOP APPROVALS

None

REVERSE DROP

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Members

John Davis died on January 31, 2022 at the age of 81, leaving a wife and no minor children. He entered the department on July 14, 1954 and retired after 20 years of service on February 1, 1983. He spent 38 years on pension.

Joseph J. McQueen died on January 20, 2022 at the age of 88, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on December 15, 1954 and retired after 24 years of service on December 1, 1978. He spent 43 years on pension.

Vernon D. Savelle died on January 24, 2022 at the age of 82, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on November 6, 1966 and retired after 21 years of service on August 1, 1988. He spent 33 years on pension.

Wilfred J Argeanton died on January 24, 2022 at the age of 77, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on January 25, 1964 and retired after 26 years of service on April 17, 1990. He spent 31 years on pension.

John Burkart died on January 21, 2022 at the age of 86, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on April 29, 1957 and retired after 33 years of service on May 17, 1990. He spent 30 years on pension.

James A. Gaudin, Sr. died on January 20, 2022 at the age of 80, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 5, 1969 and retired after 29 years of service on May 1, 1998. He spent 22 years on pension.

Widows:

Gladys M. Dempsey died on January 7, 2022 at the age of 80. Her benefits began on February 2012, ten years ago.

Betty I. Englebrancht died on December 2, 2021 at the age of 87. Her benefits began effective May 2008, 13 years ago.

Mary C. Dauenhaur died on November 17, 2021 at the age of 89. Her benefits began effective April 2008, 13 years ago.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Roy to remove the members and widows from the rolls.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Gloria McReynolds is applying for a Non Duty Death benefit effective December 1, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a regular death benefit for Mrs. McReynolds effective December 1, 2021.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Mrs. Barbara Argeanton is making application for a line of duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2022.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a Line of Duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2022 for Mrs. Argeanton.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Sandra S. Savelle is applying for a Non-Duty Widow's benefit effective February 1, 2022.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a Non- Duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2022 for Mrs. Savelle.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old system for January 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Office Building update: Mr. Meagher noted that sheetrock is complete. Cabinets will go in soon followed by flooring and ceiling work. Move in is expected mid-April or so.

Actuary RFP

Mr. Roy, who headed the RFP review committee with Mr. Gaal and Krsak, discussed the results of the search for a new Actuary. He noted that 12 RFP's were mailed, three responded. Based on the fees, professional qualifications and services provided, the committee recommended retaining Conefry as the Fund's actuary and hiring Rudd and Widsom to perform the actuarial study. Chief Nelson and White requested additional information about the search process before voting on the matter. Mitchell agreed to provide the members with copies of the responses, the RFP, and other data pertinent to the search. The vote was delayed.

NEW BUSINESS

Waterpark matters following receipt of a letter from management of the Waterpark, indicating that they would like to continue discussions with the City of Mobile in the City's quest to build a water park at I-10 and I-65. Mitchell noted the group has had discussion with Bob Tarcza. Management of the waterpark has not provided any incentive to adjust the operating agreement at this point. Our operating agreement with management prohibits development of a waterpark in the area. Discussion followed.

Board meeting attendance: Mr. Gaal proposed a motion to require Board members to be present at meetings in order to cast a vote on matters before the Board. Discussion on the motion noted that board members with young families were uncomfortable attending meetings in person in this Covid 19 era. It was also noted that both the City Council and State agencies were still meeting via zoom. Discussion continued on the merits of face to face meetings. The motion died for lack of a second.

LEGAL:

Ronald Fiorello has requested to revoke his DROP decision. His initial request was denied by Fund staff. This request seeks to appeal the staff decision. Last month, Mr. Robein provided Board members with a letter which recommends denial of the request. A separate request to determine the total cost the request was provided to the Board by the Fund's actuary. The matter was tabled until the cost analysis could be reviewed by the members.

SEB matter Mr. Robein noted that Segretto et al have appealed to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Longevity 2022 Mr. Robein noted that the 2022 Longevity distribution is scheduled for February 15 and 16 at the site of the new Local 632 and Pension office. Letters have been mailed to each member and eligible recipient.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

TIMELY FILING OF APPLICATIONS:

All Members applying for retirement, DROP or PLOP must do so 45 days in advance of the scheduled retirement date. All medical documentation for disability applications must be in the administrative office 45 days prior to the scheduled retirement date. Failure to comply with the Fund's rules will cause a delay in the Board taking action and will probably force an extension beyond the member's desired retirement date.

The administrative office will continue to process all paperwork in a friendly, orderly, and timely fashion. We thank all applying members for their continued cooperation. This will enable the Administrative Office and the Board of Trustees to perform their jobs more efficiently.

Members who have recently changed their address or marital status and have not updated their beneficiary form should do so. Please contact the Pension Office during the hours of 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for beneficiary verifications. Your cooperation is appreciated.

APPROVED By: Thomas J. Huff III Date: 3/9/2022