

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 12, 2020
2401 Westbend Parkway
Suite 3001
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Thomas Meagher, Martin Gaal, Stephen Roy, Branden Krsak, Tim McConnell and Al Tervalon. Norm White was absent.

Also present:

Pam Meyer

Louis Robein, Board Attorney

Paul Mitchell

Kenny Prevost, retired firefighter

Nicholas Lavene, active firefighter

A quorum being present, the Board President called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher reminded Board members that LATEC/OPEL is hosting a pension conference in New Orleans on Feb 19-21, 2020. Members attending include Meagher, Mitchell, Krsak and Roy. Registration is free and all Board members have been registered.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the January 2020 Regular Board minutes.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

William Knight and Neil Patel are requesting refunds of employee contributions.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the refund of employee contributions to Mr. Knight and Patel.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

CHANGE OF BENEFICARY

John Hoolahan and Pearce L. Grieshaber have completed change of beneficiary forms.

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

Nicholas C. Lavene:: New Fund Fire Operator, age 64 with 40 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability effective February 14, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher 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

PLOP APPROVALS

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS:

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

Christopher D. Wren: a New Fund Fire District Chief, age 50 with 30 years of service is

applying to enter DROP effective February 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the DROP application 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

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Pensioners:

Joe N. Manale, Jr. died on January 4, 2020 at the age of 66, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on October 22, 1978 and retired on November 7, 2012 after 30 years of service. He was on pension for 7 years.

Harry L. Trepagnier, Jr. died on January 3, 2020 at the age of 69, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on November 29, 1960 and retired on January 10, 2007 after 37 years of service. He was on pension for 12 years.

Norman Davis, Jr. died on January 21, 2020 at the age of 77, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on April 27, 1964 and retired on April 27, 1984 after 20 years of service. He was on pension for 35 years.

W.R. Winchester died on January 7, 2020 at the age of 83, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on November 12, 1957 and retired on September 4, 1988. He received pension benefits for 31 years.

Richard A. Lacour died on January 19, 2020 at the age of 78, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department of April 5, 1971 and retired on January 24, 1992. He received pension benefits for over 28 years.

Bert E. Gilmore, Jr. died on January 29, 2020 at the age of 91, leaving no widow or minor children. He entered the department on March 11, 1957 and retired on May 1, 1978 after 21 years of service. He spent 41 years on pension.

Joseph R. Mack, Jr. died on January 29, 2020 at the age of 83, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 10, 1963 and retired on February 17, 1985 after 21 years of service. He spent 34 years on pension.

Widow:

Jocelyn M. Wilson died on January 20, 2020 at the age of 95. Her benefits began on August 1, 1993. She spent 26 years on pension.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to remove the above noted deceased members and widow from the pension rolls.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mr. Tervalon left the meeting.

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to go into executive session to discuss disability issues.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to come out of executive session.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Lois V. Winchester is applying for a Non-duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective February 1, 2020 for Mrs. Winchester.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Bonnie R. Burger is applying for a Line of Duty Widow's benefit effective January 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the Line of Duty Widow's Benefit effective January 1, 2020.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Florence B. Corcoran is applying for a Non-duty widow's benefit effective December 1, 2019.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective December 1, 2019 for Mrs. Corcoran.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Patrick A. Leonard is applying for a Line of duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the Line of Duty Widow's Benefit effective February 1, 2020 for Mrs. Leonard.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Gloria F. Davis is applying for a Non Duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective February 1, 2020 for Mrs. Davis.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Grace F. Mack is applying for a Non Duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective February 1, 2020 for Mrs. Mack.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Inez Barras is applying for a Line of duty widow's benefit effective December 1, 2019.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the Line of Duty Widow's Benefit effective December 1, 2019 for Mrs. Barras.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATION FOR CHILD BENEFITS

Emmanuel Noah Rodriguez, a dependent of Alan and Judith Melancon is applying for a dependent child benefit. Staff has reviewed applicable tax returns, birth certificate and guardianship information to support this application.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by McConnell to approve the dependent benefit for Master Rodriguez.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Mr. Riney Blount has provided the Fund with additional medical information, which has been forwarded to Dr. Lutz for review.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old system for January 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Building Update: Mr. Meagher noted that NORA's board of directors approved the purchase of the Lakeview property by the New Orleans Firefighters' Pension and relief Fund on Monday February 9, 2020..

NEW BUSINESS:

Rule IX notifications, terminations and resignations: Mr. Meagher requested that the Superintendent and his staff include the pension fund on all correspondence to members regarding Rule XI notifications, terminations and resignations. Advance notification would allow the Fund to contact members and discuss retirement options. Mr. McConnell agreed to provide same..

Sick Leave adjustments: Mr. Meagher informed Mr. McConnell that members affected by the appellate court ruling reversing the 100% of salary for 30 years of service affected a few members on DROP. Because of the reversal decision, members who used sick and or annual days to reach a 100% pension benefit (33 years of service) will be due a credit of the sick and annual time used now that the threshold has changed to 30 years of service. McConnell agreed to notify his staff of the benefit change. McConnell indicated the change was delayed by the cyber-attack.

Securities Litigation: Mr. Mitchell noted that representative of the Connor Group Law firm contacted him regarding securities litigation they are handling on behalf of the State Attorney General and City of New Orleans regarding certain bond trades that may have impacted the Fund. His securities litigation contract requires no funding and has been reviewed by the Robien Law firm. Mitchell felt the Fund's exposure was very limited due to the small number of fixed income issues held by the Fund during the period under review. He recommended moving forward with the agreement and sought a motion for approval.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the securities litigation agreement with the Connor Law Group.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

LEGAL:

Mr. Robien noted that the American Pension Consultants matter is set for trial in April 13, 2020.

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:  Date: 3/11/2020