

# NEW ORLEANS FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

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**Martin Gaal**  
Board President

**Thomas F. Meagher, III**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**SUBJECT:**

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

**TIME, DATE AND PLACE:**

**July 8, 2020  
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, Martin Gaal, Stephen Roy, Branden Krsak, Al Tervalon, McConnell and Norman White.**

**Also present:**

**Pam Meyer  
Louis Robein, Board Attorney  
Paul Mitchell  
Autrey Plaisance**

**A quorum being present, the Board President called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**OIG review** Meagher noted the office of the OIG will review the Fund's investment policy and procedures in the coming months. Their aim is to provide guidance and suggestions for improvement where necessary.

**Purchase of Prior Service time** Meagher also noted that during July of 2019 the Fund purchased seven years of past service time for its staff members. The purchase was made in accordance with the agreement to join MERS and was discussed over a period prior to some of the current board members being appointed. The purchase was the first installment. Additional purchases of prior service time are planned for fund staff. MERS and the Fund require fund staff to pay their employee portion of the benefit. Meagher also noted that the purchase of prior

service credits is available to all municipal staff, police and firefighters through their respective plans. This benefit is not unusual and the disclosure is being made to assure that this current Board is aware of the payments.  
Discussion followed.

**REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES**

**MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Krsak to approve the June 2020 Regular Board minutes.**

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Kirk Cunningham and William Ballard are requesting refunds of their employee contributions.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the refund of contributions to Mr. Ansardi.**

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**CHANGE OF BENEFICARY**

None

**R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS**

Meagher noted that all disability applicants have provided the necessary documentation supporting their disability to our office. Members have visited with Dr. Lutz and his report is included in folders provided to Board members.

**William N. Ballard, Sr.** New Fund Fire Captain, age 64 with 25 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability effective June 8, 2020.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve regular service Pension and deny 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. The member will be notified of his right to appeal the decision and provide additional medical information.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

### PLOP APPROVALS

William Ballard is applying for a 36 month PLOP.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the 36 month PLOP election for Mr. Ballard.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

### DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

### REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS:

**Stanley Reed:** New Fund Fire Operator, age 63 with 21 years of service is applying for a regular Service Pension effective July 3, 2020.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve regular service Pension and 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

### DROP APPLICATIONS

**Thomas D. Coogan, Jr. :** New Fund Fire Operator , age 52, with 30 years of service is applying to enter DROP effective March 1, 2020.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a DROP application effective March 1, 2020 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

Armand M. Bourdais, new Fund Fire District Chief age 50, with 30 years of service is applying to enter DROP effective July 1, 2020.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a DROP application effective July 1, 2020 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

Wayne Collongues, New Fund Fire Operator, age 54 with 30 years of service is applying to enter DROP effective July 1, 2020.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a DROP application effective July 1, 2020 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:

Pascal C. Verderame, died on June 5, 2020 at the age of 91, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on April 17, 1957 and retired on April 17, 1986 after 29 years of service. He spent 34 years on pension.

**Widows:**

**Yolanda M. Bolline** died on June 4, 2020 at the age of 94. Her benefits began on February 1, 1984. She received pension benefits for 36 years.

**Barbara F. Cina** died on April 11, 2020 at the age of 81. Her benefits began on May 1, 2022 and continued for 8 years.

**Orduna C. Clement** died on June 14, 2020 at the age of 89. Her benefits began on August 1, 2019. She passed away 10 months later.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Krsak to remove the above noted deceased member from the pension rolls.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS**

None

**APPLICATIONS PENDING**

**None**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**SEB payment history request:** No update provided

**Information for life insurance:** No update provided

**Building Update:** Mr. Meagher noted that NORA is requiring a resolution from the Board approving the purchase of the land and authorizing Mr. Meagher to represent the Fund at closing. A copy of the resolution has been drafted by our legal counsel, Mr. Tarcza, which will be executed by Mr. Gaal and Meagher upon passage of the motion.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Krsak that the board approve the purchase of property bearing the address of 5604 and 5710 General Haig Street, New Orleans, La for a total purchase price of \$250,000.

**Motion passed**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

McConnell signed on to the meeting.

**LEGAL:**

Triche trial is moved to August 2020. The Judge assigned to the case indicated that his son is a fireman, but not in New Orleans.

**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:** 8/12/2020