

# 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:**

June 19, 2019  
2401 Westbend Parkway  
Suite 3001  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Thomas Meagher, Angelo Marchese, Tim McConnell, Martin Gaal, Nick Lavene, Norm White and Al Tervalon.

Also present:

Pam Meyer  
Louis Robein, Board Attorney  
Paul Mitchell  
Steven Roy, Active firefighter  
Branden Krsak, Active firefighter  
Jay Fielding, Active firefighter

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

## COMMUNICATIONS

None

## REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the May 2019 Regular Board minutes.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Cornell Meredith has resigned and is requesting a refund of employee contributions. Meagher noted that Mr. Meredith had 10 years of service.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by White to approve the refund of employee contributions for Mr. Meredith.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY**

None

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

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

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

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

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

**Thomas F. Meagher, III:** New Fund Fire Captain, age 62 with 35 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability effective June 19, 2019.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese 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. Meagher abstained.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

Following the approval of Mr. Meagher's retirement, Mr. Meagher resigned his position representing active members on the Board. The Board unanimously accepted the resignation. To fill the vacancy Mr. Gaal suggested that the Board support his motion to take items out of order to address Board vacancies.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese to take items out of order.  
Motion passed NO OBJECTIONS

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese to appoint Active member Steven Roy to fill the Board vacancy created by Mr. Meagher's retirement as authorized by R.S. 11:3362(C).  
Motion passed. NO OBJECTIONS

Mr. Marchese noted at this time that he is tending his resignation from the Board. The Board unanimously accepted the resignation. Mr. Gaal noted that it would be appropriate to appoint Mr. Meagher to the vacant position as authorized by R.S. 11:3362(C)

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Lavene to appoint Retiree member Thomas Meagher to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Marchese.  
Motion passed. NO OBJECTIONS

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Lavene to appoint Mr. Meagher as Secretary Treasurer of the Board.  
Motion passed. Meagher abstained. NO OBJECTIONS

### **PLOP APPROVALS**

**Thomas F. Meagher, III:** Mr. Meagher was approved for a 50% Service connected disability pension and has elected to PLOP.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Lavene to approve the PLOP election for Mr. Meagher. Motion passed. Meagher abstained. NO OBJECTIONS

### **DROP WITHDRAWAL**

None

### **REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS:**

None

### **DROP APPLICATIONS** effective May 1, 2019

**Ernest Morris:** New Fund fire Operator, age 53 with 30 years of service is applying for DROP.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by White 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 and QDRO TERMINATIONS**

#### **Pensioners:**

**John P. Sparcello:** Mr. Sparcello died on June 6, 2019 at the age of 86 leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on October 1, 1957 and retired on June 9, 1999 after 41 years of service. He spent 20 years on pension.

**Gail Heno:** Gail Heno was the QDRO of Mr. Sparcello. Her benefits cease at this death.

**David M. Delyea, III:** Mr. Delyea died on June 11, 2019 at age 55, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on March 10, 1991 and retired on June 6, 2007. He spent 12 years on pension.

**Jack J. Stelletto:** Mr. Stelletto died on June 13, 2019 at the age of 92, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on February 11, 1957 and retired on January 17, 1971 after 14 years of service. He spent 48 years on pension.

#### **Widows:**

**Ann H. Caulfield (Mathew):** Ms. Caulfield died on May 9, 2019 at the age of 88. Her benefits began on April 1, 2007. She enjoyed benefits for 12 years.

**Barbara E. Marcade (John)** Mrs. Marcade died on May 24, 2019 at the age of 74. Her benefits began on August 1, 2013. She was on benefits for five years.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to remove the above noted QDRO from the rolls.

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS**

**Mrs. Wanda Reinecke:** Mrs. Reinecke is applying for a Non Duty Widow's benefit effective May 1, 2019.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by White to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective May 1, 2019 for Mrs. Reinecke.

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**APPLICATIONS PENDING**

**None**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old system for May 2019.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Board Elections:** Mitchell noted that State Statutes require Board elections be completed by the last Thursday in August of this year. He provided the Board with an election calendar and discussed the election process. The board will adopt the election plan at the July meeting.

**Notice of QDRO:** Attorneys representing Mrs. Tracey Schmitt have requested that the QDRO be noted as received by the Fund. Placing the item on the agenda accomplishes this task.

**LEGAL:**

Mr. Robein noted that the litigation involving the Mischler and Taranto lawsuits have terminated due to lack of action. These actions challenged the right of the Legislature to increase Employee pension contributions.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to go into executive session to discuss legal matters.**

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

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

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**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 F. Meagher III Date 8/14/19