

# 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:**

**February 15, 2024  
5710 General Haig Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124**

**This meeting was available via Webex.**

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

**Also present:**

**Louis Robein, Board Attorney  
Paul Mitchell  
Pam Meyer  
Teresa Kehoe**

**A quorum being present, the Board Secretary Treasurer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Meagher noted that the Opel/ LATEC conference was held from Feb 7-9, 2024. The conference is local and all Board members have been registered.

Meagher noted that the next Board meeting will be held Thursday March 14, 2024.

## **REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES**

Meagher noted that the December 2023 minutes require approval. There was no January 2024

meeting due to lack of an agenda.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to accept the minutes of the December 2023 meeting.**

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Jared Carter** has resigned and is seeking a refund of contributions. He is entering business.

**MOTION:** Move by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the refund of contributions of Jared Carter. Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY**

**Mr. Francis Lasalle and David Smith** have requested a change in beneficiary forms.

**DROP WITHDRAWAL**

**None**

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

**None**

**REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:**

**Michael Williams:** New Fund , age eligible with 28 years of service is applying for a Regular Pension effective February 7, 2024.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a Regular Pension application for Mr. Williams effective February 7, 2024, 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 30 years or more 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 APPLICATIONS**

**None**

**WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS**

**Mrs. Geradine Cancienne** is applying for a Non- Line of Duty widows benefit effective January 1, 2024.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a Non-Line of Duty widow's benefit for Mrs. effective January 1, 2024.

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**Mrs. Carmen Conrad** is applying for a Non- Line of Duty widows benefit effective December 1, 2023.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Nelson to approve a Non-Line of Duty widow's benefit for Mrs. Washington effective December 1, 2023.

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**Mrs. Chongkonrat Messina** is applying for a Non- Line of Duty widows benefit effective January 1, 2024.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a Non-Line of Duty widow's benefit for Mrs. Messina effective January 1, 2024.

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**Mrs. Leslie Wallace** is applying for a Pre-Retirement Line of Duty Death widows benefit effective December 27, 2023.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a line of duty benefit for Mrs. Wallace effective December 27, 2023 as per 11:3378(A)(1) as on duty injury under the heart and lung act, which provides for a benefit of 66 2/3% of the member's last month's salary and approve a minor's children benefit for Grayden James Wallace and

**Gavin Luke Wallace until age 18 effective December 27, 2023.**

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**APPLICATIONS PENDING**

**None**

**REPORTS OF DEATHS**

**Members**

**Glen Wallace**, an active member, died on December 27, 2023, leaving a widow and 2 minor children.

**Edwin S. Hattier** died on January 28, 2024 at the age of 97, no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on April 16, 1951 and retired on August 11, 1977 after 26 years of service. He spent 46 years on pension.

**George Naquin** died on January 31, 2024 at the age of 72, leaving no widow or minor children. He entered the department on June 13, 1977 and retired on January 15, 2003 after 25 years of service. He spent 21 years on pension.

**Daniel J. Sauter** died on January 18, 2024 at the age of 62, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 9, 1985 and retired on July 11, 2001 after 16 years of service. He spent 22 years on pension.

**Widows:**

**None**

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

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old Systems for December 2023 and January 2024.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CEA Agreement**

Members of Local 632 and City officials have discussed allowing the payment of a single additional payment to retired members similar to the agreement made with NOMERS retirees. This payment requires a change in the CEA adopted by the City, Pension fund and Local 632. Mr. Robein has presented the Board with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which addresses this change. When executed by all parties, the CEA will allow an additional payment to retirees, if approved by the Board. In addition, the requirement that an outside committee be formed to review and recommend investment decisions to the Board will also be removed from the CEA, as the outside committee will not have fiduciary responsibility, which creates a conflict between Board members and the Fund's consultant, and has not been seated due to lack of volunteers. The MOU is being drafted by Robein and will be reviewed by the City Attorney's office. A representative of the Fund will need to sign the final MOU. A motion and resolution by the Board allowing Mr. Meagher to sign the resolution is necessary.

**MOTION:** Moved by Roy and seconded by Gaal to allow for the execution of the MOU by Mr. Meagher. BE IT RESOLVED that the NOFFPRF approves the modification of provisions of Article I, Sections 4 and 5 of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) by restating those CEA provisions by deleting any references to the term or phrase "13" check and agree to suspend and hold I abeyance the obligation of the Pension Fund to "administratively create and empower an independent advisor Board" as per Article I (A), Section 15, and finally to allow all parties to the CEA to seek to secure changes to the State legislation as proposed by HB 33 and HB34, which was limited under Article I (D)(6).

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**2024 Budget**

The 2024 Budget will be presented at the next scheduled meeting.

**LEGAL:**

Robein discussed current State legislation which requires access to meetings via electronic

means to meet ADA requirements. The Board currently makes all meetings available via WEB ex

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

**TIMELY FILING OF APPLICATIONS:**

All Members applying for retirement 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. Murphy III Date: 3/14/2024