

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:

**April 10, 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 Krsak.

Also present:

Louis Robein, Board Attorney

Paul Mitchell

Teresa Kehoe

Mark Porche (remotely)

Romy Samuel (remotely)

A quorum being present, the Board Secretary Treasurer called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Meagher noted that NCPERS is hosting its annual conference during May in Seattle and its Police and Fire conference in Palm Springs late in the year. He suggested members review their calendars and consider attending either conference.

Meagher noted that the Tier 2 reporting forms were due.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

Meagher noted that the March 2024 minutes require approval.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to accept the minutes of the March 2024 meeting.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

None

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

None

REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:

None

PLOP APPROVALS

None

REVERSE DROP

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

Joseph Jurisich IV, Fire District Chief, age appropriate, with 30 years of service is applying for DROP.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a DROP application for Mr. Jurisich effective March 1, 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.

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Caron Jacobs is applying for a Line of Duty widows benefit March 1, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to deny the line of duty application and approve a Non-Line of Duty widow's benefit for Mrs. Jacobs effective March 1, 2024. Mrs. Jacobs will be granted additional time to provide sufficient medical information to support the Line of Duty application. The Board will review that information when submitted and take appropriate action.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Nicholette M. Andrews is applying for a non-duty death benefit.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a non-line of duty benefit effective March 1, 2024 for Mrs. Andrews.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Dion Marie Landrum is applying for a line of duty death benefit.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to approve a 66 2/3% Line of Duty death benefit effective February 16, 2024 as member died while active.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Christine Mary McCann is applying for a non-duty death benefit effective March 1, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to approve a non-duty death benefit for Mrs. McCann effective March 1, 2024.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Ms. Tana R. Turner is applying for a line of duty death benefit effective April 1, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a line of duty death

benefit for Ms. Turner effective April 1, 2024.

CHILD BENEFIT

Jace Joshua: Son of deceased firefighter Josua Guidry is making application for a child benefit effective October 10, 2021. Mother, who lived out of state has submitted supporting documentation to support monthly benefit payment.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to approve the child benefit for Mr. Guidry's son.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

None

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Members

William F. Witty died on March 20, 2024 at the age of 86 leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 15, 1959 and retired on June 26, 1984 with 25 years of service. He spent 39 years on pension.

Widows:

None

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to remove the deceased 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 March 2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

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. Additional changes to the CEA regarding accrual rates and widow's minimum monthly payments were discussed. The Superintendent noted that the accrual rate changes would reduce resignations and overtime. Discussion followed on staffing shortages, resignations, hiring classed, upcoming opportunities at neighboring parishes, etc., HB 32 and 33 will address those changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Expense Committee

The Expense committee, consisting of Meagher, Gaal, Roy and Krsak met following the March Board meeting and reviewed all expense reports, reimbursements and credit card charges for 2023. Stephen Roy chaired the committee and note that no exceptions were noted during the review.

MOTION: Moved by Krsak and seconded by Roy to accept the report of the expense committee.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

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. Robein noted that actual attendance by Board members is required to vote on any matter. The Fund's administrative rules have been submitted to the State Legislature to reflect this legislation.

He also provided a report on longevity payments.

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:  **Date:** 5/8/2024