

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:

**June 14, 2023
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, Branden Krsak, Martin Gaal, and Stephen Roy. A. Tervalon and Roman Nelson were absent.

Also present:

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

A quorum being present, the Board's Secretary Treasurer called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher noted that the STOYA project at Lakewood is terminated. Neighborhood opposition to the project did not allow the District Councilman to support the project.

Mr. Meagher noted that Paul Mitchell has requested to attend a conference in July. Approval to attend the conference is requested.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve travel and conference fees for Paul Mitchell to attend the Koried Global Summit conference, July 18-21, 2023.
Motion passed.**

NO OBJECTIONS

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

The May 2023 minutes require approval.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Douglas Colson is requesting a refund of his contributions due to his resignation. He is moving to Philadelphia.

MOTION Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the refund of contributions to Mr. Colson.

Motion passed

NO OBJECTIONS

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

Kenneth G. Kirsch a Fire District Chief, age appropriate with 32 years of service is applying for a 50% Service-Connected Disability Pension effective June 14, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension application for Mr. Kirsch effective June 14, 2023, 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

James A. Berggren a Fire District Chief, age appropriate with 33 years of service is applying for a 50% Service-Connected Disability Pension effective June 14, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension application for Mr. Berggren effective June 14, 2023, 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

REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:

None

PLOP APPROVALS

None

REVERSE DROP

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

David Nick is requesting to enter DROP effective June 1, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a 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

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Carolyn Cassreino is applying for a Non-Duty Widow's benefit effective June 1, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the Non-Duty Widow's benefit for Mrs. Cassreino effective June 1, 2023.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Mrs. Urselle Cryer was granted a Non-Duty Widow's benefit effective August 1, 2021. She has submitted additional medical documentation to support her application for a Line of Duty Death benefit.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the Line of Duty Widow's benefit for Mrs. Cassreino effective August 1, 2021.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Members

Gerald E. Cassreino died on May 7, 2023 at the age of 80, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on July 31, 1967 and retired on February 16, 1978 with 10 years of service. He spent 44 years on pension.

Wilmot Miller, Jr. died on May 27, 2023 at the age of 78, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on April 4, 1975 and retired on December 27, 1995 with 20 years of service. He spent 27 years on pension.

Mordelo V. Breckenridge, Sr. died on May 20, 2023 at the age of 75, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on August 2, 1971 and retired on October 1, 2008 after 37 years of service. He spent 14 years on pension.

Joseph J. LaMonte died on June 4, 2023 at the age of 74, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on April 19, 1971 and retired on November 3, 2004 after 33 years of service. He spent 18 years on pension.

Widows:

Louise M. Hahn died on May 14, 2023 at the age of 94. Her benefits began on March 1, 2023. She enjoyed benefits for 3 years.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Roy to remove the members and widows 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 May 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Personnel committee

Meagher noted that members of the Personnel committee have discussed obtaining health insurance coverage for staff employees under the age of 65. The City of New Orleans has rejected a request to have pension staff employees join the City's health plan. As a result, the following motion was proposed.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to reimburse pension staff under the age of 65 an amount equal to the employer portion of health care cost paid by the City effective July 1, 2023. Staff members will be required to seek coverage individually.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Waterpark Offer

The Biloxi Waterpark transaction has closed. We have sold our interest in the facility as approved by the Board for \$1,500,000.

Board Election

Mitchell noted that the State Statutes requires an election of active and retired members every two years. He provided the Board with documents outlining the election process as follows:

2023 ELECTION PROCESS

June 14, 2023 (Regular monthly Board meeting)

- Announce election process

July 10, 2023 – July 14, 2023

- Nomination period.

August 2, 2023

- Election Committee meets to review rules.

August 7, 2023

- Ballots mailed out

August 23, 2023

- Ballots due in by 8:00 pm

August 24, 2023

- Ballots counted. New members seated

August 24, 2023

- 2-year term begins.

During the week of June 19, 2023 election notices will be mailed to every retired member, while active members will be sent an email via headquarters. Election notices will be mailed to each engine house for posting. Nomination forms will be available in our offices during normal business hours.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to accept the election process for the 2023 election.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Lakewood appraisal

Mitchell noted that the auditors have noted that five years have passed since the last appraisal on the Lakewood golf course property. The fund will take the necessary steps to have the appraisal completed in the coming months. The appraisal is expected to cost \$7,500.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the appraisal of Lakewood.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

LEGAL:

There is no pending litigation. Robien noted that a bill to increase the State Supplemental Pay to \$600 per month. The bill has not been signed.

ADJOURNMENT

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: 7/12/2023