

# **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:**

**August 9, 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, Alcide Tervalon, Martin Gaal, Stephen Roy, Roman Nelson and Norman White.**

**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 10:00 a.m.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Meagher noted that Board members have been registered for the LAPERS conference next month in New Orleans.

Paul Mitchell noted that all motions made during the Investment Board meeting were executed. The motions included terminating Jackson Square, selling all of the Vanguard Total Stock Market allocation, investing in Fidelity Total Stock Market, investing in Baird Aggregate Bond Fund and investing in Europacific Growth Fund.

**REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES**

Meagher noted that the July 2023 minutes require approval.

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

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

**None**

**CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY**

**None**

**DROP WITHDRAWAL**

**None**

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

**Jeffery B. Conner:** New Fund Firefighter, age eligible with 12 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension effective July 14, 2023. (LWOP date)

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by White to go into executive session to discuss health related issues regarding this disability.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by White to come out of executive session to discuss health related issues regarding this disability.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to have the member meet with the Fund's physician, who will provide additional medical information to the Board before the Board take any additional action on this application.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:**

**None**

**PLOP APPROVALS**

**None**

**REVERSE DROP**

**None**

**DROP APPLICATIONS**

**None**

**WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS**

**Mrs. Juanita M. Breckenridge** is applying for a Non- Line of Duty widows benefit effective July 1, 2023.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a Non-Line of Duty widow's benefit for Mrs. Collins effective July 1, 2023.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**Mrs. Penny R. LaMonte** is applying for a Non- Line of Duty widows benefit effective July 1, 2023.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**Mrs. Weda Wade Lee** is applying for a Line of Duty widows benefit effective August 1, 2023.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a line of duty widow's benefit for Mrs. Collins effective August 1, 2023.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**APPLICATIONS PENDING**

None

**REPORTS OF DEATHS**

**Members**

**Cesar Shelly:** Mr. Shelly died on July 9, 2023 at the age of 79, leaving no wife and no minor children. He entered the department on January 17, 1972 and retired on June 1, 1996 after 24 years of service. He spent 27 years on pension.

**Widow**

**Rita S. Lapara** died on June 9, 2023 at the age of 85. Her benefits began on December 1, 1988. She collected benefits for 34 years.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher 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 system for July 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Pension Board election**

Meagher noted that no candidates other than the four incumbent Board members signed up during the nomination period. As a result, there is no need for an election and the current elected Board members will remain on the Board for a two-year term beginning August 24, 2023. Meagher noted that State Statutes require that the Board hold a meeting on August 24, 2023 to seat the new Board and election of officers. Notices will be sent out regarding the meeting to be held beginning at 12 noon.

**Recertification**

Meagher noted that recertifications of disability retirees is complete, with two exceptions. Those members have been contacted and are expected to submit completed recertifications to the Fund by month end.

**LEGAL:**

Mr. Robien noted that the garnishment request of the US Attorney is permissible as per the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act and the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act. A discussion of both Acts followed.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the garnishment of 25% of the monthly benefit paid to Gertrude Parker as requested by the US Attorney, Payments will commence with the August benefit and remitted as directed by the garnishment order.**

**Motion passed**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**SPD**

An updated SPD has been prepared and reviewed the Board's legal counsel, Updates included all legislative actions not included in the current SPD, such as legislation regarding employees subject to the 2.5% accrual rate, presumptive cancer bills, presumptive PTSD bills and heart and lung bills.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and Seconded by Gaal to approve the adoption of the updated SPD.**

**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:  Date 9/13/2023