

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:

**February 15, 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, Roman Nelson, Stephen Roy A. Tervalon and Norman White.

Also present:

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher noted that the LATEC pension conference begins today in New Orleans and that all Board members are registered.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

The January 2023 Board minutes require approval.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to accept the minutes of the January 2023 meeting.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Benjamin Bradley has resigned on September 21, 2015 after 5 years with the department, left his contributions with the Fund, but is requesting a refund of those contributions.

MOTION Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the refund of contributions to Mr. Bradley.

Motion passed

NO OBJECTIONS

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

Daniel Sauter and David Delyea, Jr have updated their beneficiary forms.

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

None

REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:

Michael A. Ebbs: Fire captain with 20 years of service, age appropriate, is applying for a Regular pension. No decision was reached on this candidate's benefit as pension benefit calculations were not available at the date of the January meeting. Full salary history and benefit amounts are available for Board member review. Mr. Ebbs was terminated on September 30, 2020, appealed his termination and has exhausted all appeals. He is applying for a benefit effective as of his termination date.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a regular pension benefit application for Mr. Ebbs effective September 30, 2020, the date of his termination, 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

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Members

Allen E. Clement died on January 23, 2023 at the age of 79. He entered the department on June 21, 1971 and retired on January 1, 1984 after 12 years of service. He spent 39 years on pension.

Gilbert Thompson died on January 11, 2023 at the age of 83. He entered the department on November 15, 1971 and retired on February 1, 1982 after 11 years of service. He spent 40 years on pension.

Patrick E. Sensebe died on February 6, 2023 at the age of 78. He entered the department on September 10, 1967 and retired on January 14, 2006 after 39 years of service. He spent 17 years on pension.

Widows:

Kay V. Yates died on November 23, 2022 at the age of 90. Her benefits began on March 1, 1990, 32 years ago.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to remove the members and widows from the rolls.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Lynn T. Clement is applying for a Non Duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to and approve a non-duty widow's benefit for Mrs. Clement effective February 1, 2023.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

None

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

NEW BUSINESS

Waterpark Offer

Mitchell presented the Board with a buyout offer from the general manager of Gulf Islands Water Park in the amount of \$1,500,000. This latest offer follows about a year of negotiations and counter offers regarding a buyout and follows our 2019 agreement to receive \$1 per guest fee. The Fund's total investment in the Park was \$3,500,000. We have collected over \$900,000 in return to date, leaving an investment balance of \$2,600,000. Annual guest payments are expected to average \$100,000, meaning it could take 26 years to recoup our initial investment. Mitchell noted that the present value of a \$100,000 annual annuity for 26 years is estimated to be \$1,130,000 to \$1,300,000 based on a 7.5% and 6% interest rate, respectively. The Park has debt outstanding and its balance sheet in the past has not looked great. The offer of \$1,500,000 is acceptable. Mitchell has contacted Jon Breth who also agrees that the Board should accept the offer.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to accept the offer presented by Gulf Islands Water Park of \$1,500,000 for the sale of the Fund's interest in the entity.
Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Insurance Bids:

Mitchell noted that he has received bids from three insurance brokers. Those bids are significantly less than the cost of our current coverage. The Fund will go with a new vendor.

LEGAL:

Mr. Robein provided an update on the longevity payments.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to heart and lung medical records.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

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:** 3/8/2023