

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:

January 11, 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, A. Tervalon and Norman White. Stephen Roy was absent.

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 10:00 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Meagher sought approval of a 5% pay raise for staff which would match the City's announced pay increase for its employees effective January 1, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Nelson and seconded by Krsak to approve the 5% pay increase for Board staff effective January 1, 2023.

Motion passed

Meagher abstained

Meagher noted that he would like to set up a Personnel committee meeting, schedules permitting, to review pay scale for a staff employee. Roy is in captain's training for the entire

month of January. The meeting will be set as he becomes available.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

Meagher noted that the December 2022 minutes require approval with adjustments reflecting Roy as a member of Personnel Committee.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to accept the minutes of the December 2022 meeting as adjusted.

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:

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 amount as pension benefit calculations were not available at the date of this meeting. The board did agree to grant a regular pension benefit. Approval of the monthly dollar amount will occur at a future meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a regular pension benefit. Staff can prepare the calculation and present same to the Board once completed.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

PLOP APPROVALS

None

REVERSE DROP

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Members

Louis J. Gentry died on December 24, 2022 at the age of 82, no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on July 2, 1963 and retired on February 17, 1987 after 23 years of service. He spent 35 years on pension.

John J. Signorelli died on December 12, 2002 at the age of 72, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on October 11, 1971 and retired on December 31, 1990 after 19 years of service. He spent 32 years on pension.

Widows:

Joan Ruppert died on December 17, 2022 at the age of 89. Her benefits began on July 1, 1999. She spent 23 years on benefits.

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. Mary Lang is applying for a Non Duty widow's benefit effective December 1, 2022.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to and approve a non-duty widow's benefit for Mrs. Lang effective December 1, 2022.

Mrs. Charlene B. Signorelli is applying for a Line of Duty widow's benefit effective January 1, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to deny the line of duty widow's benefit and approve a non-duty widow's benefit for Mrs. Signorelli effective January 1,

2023. Mrs. Signorelli will also have the right to appeal this decision and is requested to provide the Board with additional medical information to support the Line of Duty application request.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

None

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old system for December 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

NEW BUSINESS

Personal Annual and Sick leave

Annually staff members are allowed to cash out annual and sick leave balances above 2 weeks if requested. Board approval of this policy is requested.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Krsak to allow staff to cash out any sick leave or annual leave balances above two weeks if requested.

Motion passed.

Meagher Abstained

CEA agreement

Meagher noted that he met with the City's CAO to discuss changes to the CEA, including elimination of the 13th check provision, elimination of the fiduciary committee provision and support for legislative changes to increase the widow's pension to \$1,500.00 per month. He noted that the CAO had no objections to his requests, although legislative changes would not happen in 2023. Council actions will be discussed with the CFO and others later this year.

LEGAL:

Mr. Robein provided an update on the longevity payments.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held February 15, 2023

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: 2/15/2023