

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 12, 2022
2401 Westbend Parkway
Suite 3001
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

This meeting was held via zoom.

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Thomas Meagher, Stephen Roy, Branden Krsak, Norman White, Alcide Tervalon, Martin Gaal and Roman Nelson.

Also present:

Pam Meyer

Teresa Kehoe

Louis Robein, Board Attorney

Mark Porche, firefighter

David Watkins, firefighter

Dyer, firefighter

A quorum being present, the Board Secretary Treasurer called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

Meagher noted that the November 2021 minutes require approval.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to approve the December 2021 Regular Board minutes.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

None

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

None

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

Chris J. Arnone, New Fund fire operator, age eligible with 19 years of service is applying for a 66 2/3% Service Connected Disability Pension effective January 12, 2022.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to deny a 66 2/3% disability and to approve a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension 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

REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:

None

PLOP APPROVALS

None

REVERSE DROP

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Members

George S. Francis died on December 18, 2021 leaving a widow and no minor children at the age of 83. He entered the department on June 17, 1962 and retired on August 17, 1988 after 26 years of service. He spent 33 years on pension.

Widows:

Naomi C. Dufrense died on September 4, 2021 at the age of 92. Her benefits began on March 1, 2015. She enjoyed pension benefits for 6 years.

Susan W. Stenger died on October 20, 2021 at the age of 81. Her benefits began on November 1, 2016. She spent five years on benefits.

Rosemary G. Oster died on December 22, 2021 at the age of 67. Her benefits began on November 1, 1981. She spent 40 years on pension.

Beverly G. Maggiore died on December 16, 2021 at the age of 83. Her benefits began on January 1, 2003. She spent 18 years on pension.

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. Gloria McReynolds is applying for a Non Duty Death benefit effective December 1, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a regular death benefit for Mrs. McReynolds effective December 1, 2021.

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 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Office Building update: Mr. Meagher noted that framing, roof and outside coverings are complete. Wiring and sheetrock are underway. The 2022 longevity distribution will be held at the new office site. Move in is expected for April 2022 or thereafter.

Actuary RFP

Meagher noted that the actuary RFP's have been received. 12 RFP's were mailed, three responded. Meagher asked for members to participate in the RFP review committee. Gaal, Krsak and Roy will make up the committee to review the responses and make a recommendation to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Personal Sick and Annual leave Mr. Meagher informed the Board that staff is requesting payment of unused sick and annual leave balances in excess of 10 days.

MOTION: Moved by Gall and seconded by Nelson to approve payment of sick and annual leave balances in excess of 10 days as requested.

Motion passed.

Meagher abstained

Digicom Maintenance agreement: Mitchell noted that the benefits software program project is nearly complete. Our previous software was developed and in use since 2005 and run on a AS400. The new software is Microsoft based and is run on a much smaller server. Digicomm

was selected in 2020 to design the benefits program after a search. In addition to being the lowest responsible bidder to develop the software, the maintenance agreement will cost \$26,000 per year, substantially less than the amount quoted by competitors.

Mitchell discussed future software enhancements which would allow monthly statement access, pension calculation estimates, and website enhancements.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the Digicomm maintenance agreement.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

2022 Budget Mitchell provided the Board with a proposed budget for 2022. The budget recognized the 2022 appropriation of \$36,000,000 for the New Fund, which was capped below the actuarially determined balance of \$40,705,000 due to the CEA. Mitchell estimates that Benefit payments and DROP/PLOP payments to total \$39,500,000 and \$10,000,000 respectively, both totals similar to prior year. Investment income is expected to total \$2,400,000, with investment expenses remaining relatively stable compared to prior year at \$220,000. Administrative expenses are expected to remain below \$1,000,000. The Fund expects increases in the Fiduciary insurance premium for a 4th year in a row. Moving expenses and software expenses are also expected to increase over prior year. Decreases are anticipated in employee benefit expenses.

Waterpark matters Mitchell provided the Board with a letter from management of the Waterpark, indicating that they would like to continue discussions with the City of Mobile in the City's quest to build a water park at I-10 and I65. Our operating agreement with management prohibits development of a waterpark in the area. Discussion followed. It was determined that no decision could be reached on approving further discussions until the matter was reviewed by legal counsel. The matter will remain on the agenda.

LEGAL:

Ronald Fiorello has requested to revoke his DROP decision. His initial request was denied by Fund staff. This request seeks to appeal the staff decision. Mr. Robein was informed of the appeal and provided Board members with a letter which recommends denial of the request. Mr. Fiorello was available to make the request in person and spoke to the Board. Discussion on the matter followed. Mr. Nelson inquired about the total cost to revoke which would make the system whole. He would prefer to make his decision after a calculation was provided to him. The matter was tabled until the cost analysis could be provided.

SEB matter Mr. Robein noted that Segretto et al have appealed to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Longevity 2022 Mr. Robein noted that the 2022 Longevity distribution is scheduled for February 15 and 16 at the site of the new Local 632 and Pension office. Letters have been

mailed to each member and eligible recipient.

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:** 2/9/2022