

# 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:**

**March 9, 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, Brandon Krsak, Alcide Tervalon, Martin Gaal and Roman Nelson. Norman White called to indicate that he had a conflict with the scheduling.**

**Also present:**

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

**A quorum being present, the Board Secretary Treasurer called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Meagher noted that the NCPERS conference is scheduled for May in Washington D.C. the week of May 21-25. Board members and staff should notify Paul Mitchell if they plan to attend the conference so registrations can be completed. An agenda was forwarded to each Board member.

**REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES**

Meagher noted that the February 2022 minutes require approval.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the February 2022 Regular Board minutes with noted corrections.**

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Rickey R. Stukes** is requesting a refund of his contributions. It was noted that Mr. Stukes was inactive and two years away from being eligible to receive a pension. Staff has discussed the financial impact of this refund with Mr. Stukes. He signed an acknowledgement noting that, under our current rules and regulations, he is forfeiting his right to a pension, unless he returns to the job and has completed a request for a return of his contributions.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the refund of contributions for Mr. Stukes.**

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY**

**None**

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

**Henry J. Vanderbrook** New Fund fire operator, age eligible with 33 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension effective March 9, 2022.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy 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**

**APPLICATIONS PENDING**

**Joshua Guidry:**

Staff was provided with information that Mr. Guidry's years of service of less than five years makes his beneficiary eligible for only the 50% monthly benefit currently paid to his beneficiary.

**REVERSE DROP**

**None**

**DROP WITHDRAWAL**

**Henry Vanderbrook** has made an application for a disability retirement and has terminated his DROP effective February 28, 2022.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the DROP withdrawal for Mr. Vanderbrook.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**DROP APPLICATIONS**

**None**

**REPORTS OF DEATHS**

**Members**

**Adam Woodruff:** Mr. Woodruff died on March 2, 2022 at the age of 45 leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 14, 2004 and passed away, while active, with 17 years of service.

**Edward Dunn**: Mr. Dunn died on February 11, 2022 at the age of 98, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 10, 1946 and retired on June 10, 1969 after 23 years of service. He spent 52 years on pension.

**Francis L. Fatheree** died on February 22, 2022 at the age of 84, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on August 10, 1967 and retired on December 28, 1989 after 22 years of service. He spent 32 years on pension.

**Huey J. Brown** died on February 14, 2022 at the age of 85 leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on September 20, 1961 and retired on November 17, 1980 after 18 years of service. He received benefits for 41 years.

**Hugh F. Rigney, III** died on February 23, 2022 at the age of 73 leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on August 23, 1971 and retired on May 2, 2009.

**Melvyn Marcello** died on February 16, 2022 at the age of 73, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on December 1, 1987 and retired on July 2, 2003 after 15 years of service. He spent 18 years on pension.

**Peter Barbazon Jr.** died on March 1, 2022 at the age of 80 leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on November 29, 1963 and retired on July 17, 1989 after 25 years of service. He spent 32 years on pension.

**Widows:**

**Mrs. Mary Leblanc** (Richard) died on February 27, 2022 at the age of 91. Her benefits began on July 1973 and continued for 48 years.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS**

**Mrs. Lana Rigney (Hugh)** is applying for a Non Duty Death benefit effective March 1, 2022.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to approve a non-duty death benefit for Mrs. Rigney effective March 1, 2022.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

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

**Office Building update:** Mr. Meagher noted that cabinets are in, flooring downstairs complete, lighting and ceilings being installed, as well as baseboards and countertops are ordered. Major outstanding work remains out door landscaping and bathrooms. Move is about two months away.

**Waterpark matters** following receipt of 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 I-65. Mitchell noted the group has had discussion with Bob Tarcza. Management of the waterpark has not provided any incentive to adjust the operating agreement at this point. Our operating agreement with management prohibits development of a waterpark in the area No new information was available.  
ion continued on the merits of face to face meetings. The motion died for lack of a second.

**Actuary RFP**

Meagher noted that he met with Mr. White and Chief Nelson to discuss their concerns over the RFPs for actuary and consultant. The members were provided with information on the search process, RFP's mailed, actuaries contacted, and RFP's received. Meagher noted that Mr. White was satisfied with the information provided. Chief Nelson indicated that he was as well. Mr. Roy, as chairman of the RFP committee provided the following motion:

**MOTION:** Roy moved and Gaal seconded that after reviewing the RFPs received, that Mike Conefry, the Fund's current actuary, be retained as its actuary and that the firm of Rudd and Widsom be retained to perform the actuarial experience study and actuarial audit.

Motion passed

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consultant RFP**

Mitchell discussed the attached report on the consultant RFP with the Board. After discussion the members of the RFP committee were provided with copies of the responses to the RFP. The committee is expected to make a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

**OIG review**

Mitchell provided the Board with his response to the OIG's review of the Fund's investment process and policies and discussed the OIG's findings. The OIG review noted four findings. The response provided the timing to complete or make the corrections recommended in the findings. The OIG expects to finalize their report and make it public later this month.

**LEGAL:**

**Ronald Fiorello** has requested to rescind his request to revoke his DROP decision.

**Longevity 2022** Mr. Robein provided information on the number of checks distributed during the 2022 Longevity distribution

**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: Thomas F. Meagher III Date: 5/11/2022

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
- OF THE -  
**FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND**  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
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## Report to the Board on Consultant Services RFP

In connection with the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement executed between the City Of New Orleans, the Fighters' Pension and Relief Fund (the Fund) and Local 632, section 1. A 7 & 8, the staff of the Fund developed and completed an RFP for Investment Consultant Services which is attached to this report. The following provides a summary of the actions taken in this project.

1. **Prepare a concise RFP seeking competent experienced actuaries.**  
Fund staff developed an RFP's for Consultant services.
2. **Procure a viable listing of consultants**  
Fund staff consulted with members of various staffs at pension plans in the City and State to obtain a listing of consultants doing business with their plans. The Pension and Investments magazine was also used as a source of potential candidates and well as staff files from the search performed in 2014. This effort produced a listing of 25 different firms. The Fund's RFP was mailed on or about November 12, 2021. A copy of the RFP is attached.
3. **Establish the RFP review committee**  
During the December meeting of the Board, three members of the RFP investment review  
Committee was named. RFP responses will be provided to those Board members who would make a recommendation to the full Board.
4. **Summary of the Bids received**  
Several of the firms responded noting that they would not bid to provide services to our Fund because of its size. Staff received four responses. A number of the larger



consulting firms, NEPC, AON, Callen, Investment Consulting Services and Segal indicated that our fund was too small. Many others including UBS, Gavion, Great Lakes Advisors, R.V. Khuns, and Summit Advisors simply elected not to respond.

The Fund received responses from the following four firms: And Co. Consultants, Demarche and Associates, Marquette and Associates, and Versus

5. **Recommendations of the Committee**

I anticipate that the committee will meet before the next meeting and make a recommendation to the Board.

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