

# **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:**

**October 12, 2022  
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**

**Porche, via Webex**

**A quorum being present, the Board Secretary Treasurer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Meagher noted that the National Conference of Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) is meeting soon in Nashville, TN. Four board members are registered for the Nashville conference (Gaal, Krsak, Nelson and Roy).

**REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES**

Meagher noted that the September 2022 minutes require approval. The minutes have been adjusted to reflect the correct date of Mr. Kreger's pension benefit which is August 10, 2022

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to accept the minutes of the August 2022 meeting.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Michael J. Daney:** This member with 6 years of service has requested a refund of his contributions.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the refund of contributions to Mr. Daney.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY**

Ronald Nunez provided updated beneficiary forms.

**DROP WITHDRAWAL**

**Edward A. Poole:** Mr. Poole is withdrawing from the DROP effective September 30, 2022 due to his disability retirement.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to approve the early DROP withdrawal for Mr. Poole.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

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

**Edward A. Poole,** New Fund District Chief, age eligible with 30 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension effective October 12, 2022.

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

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak 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 Roy to approve the 50% Service Connected Disability application for Mr. Poole effective October 12, 2022 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

**REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:**

**None**

**PLOP APPROVALS**

**None**

**REVERSE DROP**

**None**

**DROP APPLICATIONS**

**None**

**REPORTS OF DEATHS**

**Members**

**Stanford Collins:** Mr. Collins died on September 21, 2022 at the age of 72, leaving a wife and no minor children. He entered the department on January 17, 1972 and retired on June 14, 2006 after 43 years of service. He spent 16 years on pension.

**Widows:**

**Christine S. Sauter** died on September 18, 2022 at the age of 97. Her benefits began on April 1, 2012. She collected benefits for 10 years.

**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. Jacquelyn Collins** is applying for a joint and survivor's widows benefit effective October 1, 2022.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a widow's benefit for Mrs. Collins effective October 1, 2022.

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 September 2022.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Expense Committee**

Board member Krsak, Nelson and Gaal reviewed Fund expenses submitted by Board members and credit card charges for propriety of support and purpose. No exceptions were noted.

**Five % twenty-fifth check**

Meagher noted that the City Administration has granted all City employees a 5% payment, which was processed during the first week of October. Meagher requests that the Board approve a similar 5% payment to its four employees. Discussion followed on the size of the payment and confirmation that the payment is a onetime payment similar to that of the City of New Orleans.

**MOTION: Moved by Krsak and seconded by Roy to approve a onetime 5% of base pay payment to the four fund employees.**

**Motion passed**

**Meagher and Gaal Abstained**

**Troy Johnson**

The Fund has been notified that Mr. Johnson has been rehired by the department. Mr. Johnson was previously on a disability pension due to a shoulder injury and has been cleared by the City to return to work. His monthly disability pension benefits have been stopped.

**Lakewood Properties Presentation:**

Members representing the STOA Group (STOA) were on hand to provide the Board with an executive summary of their plans to develop a 20 acre portion of property adjacent to the Lakewood golf course. STOA proposes a multi family development on the Lakewood site pending approval of zoning, etc.

STOA is a contractor, developer, owner and operator of multi-family communities throughout the southeast. They have been involved in the development of projects totaling 4257 units across 17 projects in various stages (pre construction, construction, lease-up and stabilized. Over the past 5 years STOA has developed \$1.1 billion in total projects. Based in Hammond, LA., STOA has projects in Hammond, Baton Rouge and on Manhattan Blvd in Harvey.

Discussion followed on the timing of construction, quality of the development, retail portion of the development and management of the development.

**MOTION: Moved by Nelson and seconded by Krsak to allow Meagher and staff to continue negotiations with the STOA Group**

**Motion passed.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**LEGAL:**

Mr. Robien provided an update on the longevity payments and mediation status relating to back

pay during Katrina.

**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** 11/9/2022