

NEW ORLEANS FIRE FIGHTER'S PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

Martin Gaal
Board President

Thomas F. Meagher, III.
Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT:

**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Fire Fighter's Pension & Relief Fund**

TIME, DATE AND PLACE:

**March 11, 2015
3520 General DeGaulle
Suite 3001
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

Board President Martin Gaal called the meeting to order. The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Martin Gaal, Thomas Meagher, Angelo Marchese, Tim McConnell, Nick Lavene and Norman Foster.

Total as follows: Six (6) members present, one vacancy. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm.

Also present,

**Pam Meyer
Louis Robein, Board attorney
Paul Mitchell
Kenny Prevost, firefighter
J. Petruska, retired firefighter
Jesse Evans, NOMERS**

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

McConnell noted that he has not had sufficient time to review the January minutes and would request a deferral on approval of the minutes until the next meeting. There was no February meeting.

MOTION: Moved by McConnell and seconded by Marchese to defer approval of the minutes for the January 2015 meeting.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

None

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

None

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

Thomas J. Pansano, Dwight Williams, George H. Conrad, Sr. and Thomas Simmons have requested changes to their beneficiary forms.

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

NEW APPLICATIONS:

Ronald Castille-New Fund Fire Operator- age 57 with 14 years of service is applying for a Regular Service Pension effective January 30, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to approve a Regular Service Pension effective January 30, 2015.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

DROP APPLICATIONS:

None

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Pensioners:

Edward E. Cones: Mr. Cones died on January 18, 2015 at age 79 with no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on December 11, 1970 and retired on October 8, 1996 with 26 years of service. He spent 19 years on pension.

Melvin L. Hermann: Mr. Hermann died on January 4, 2015 at the age of 93 with no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on November 13, 1946 and retired on October 8, 1996 after 21 years of service. He spent 48 years on pension.

Dennis O. Carrero: He died on January 21, 2015 at age 87, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on February 21, 1948 and served the department for 28 years. He retired on July 1, 1976 and spent 39 years on pension.

Michael L. Ricca: Mr. Ricca died on January 28, 2015 at age 69, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 18, 1978 and retired on December 31, 1989 after serving the department for 11 years. He spent 26 years on pension.

Joseph A. Daigle: Mr. Daigle died on January 9, 2015 at age 77, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on July 7, 1967 and retired on April 4, 1999. He served in the department for 31 years and spent 15 years on pension.

James G. Clement: He died at age 74 on February 1, 2015 leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on August 10, 1962 and retired on July 14, 1991 after 29 years of service. He spent 24 years on pension.

Charles J Vedros: Mr. Vedros died on February 4, 2015 at age 78, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on July 1, 1959 and retired on September 30, 1981 after 30 years of service. He spent 33 years on pension.

Andrew L. Dufresne: Died on February 9, 2015 at age 89 leaving a widow and no minor children. He provided over 17 years of service to the Department, retiring on September 8, 1976. He spent 39 years on pension.

Warren J. Martin: Mr. Martin died on February 10, 2015 at age 67, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on September 8, 1969 and retired on June 30, 1987 after 17 years of service. He spent 27 years on pension.

Joseph E. Daire: Mr. Daire died on March 2, 2015 leaving no widow and no minor children. He was 79, entered the department on August 22, 1967 and retired on July 18, 1988 after 20 years of service. He spent 26 years on pension.

Active members:

Corey Smith: Mr. Smith died on February 22, 2015 at age 25 with no widow. He entered the department on February 14, 2011 and was with the department for 4 years.

Widows:

Esther L. Shaw: Ms. Shaw died on January 12, 2015 at age 87. Her benefits began on June 1989. She spent 26 years on pension.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese to go into executive session to review medical documentation and reserve privacy rights to members for Service Connected Disability Pension applications and pending applications.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Moved by Lavene and seconded by Marchese to come out of executive session to review medical documentation and reserve privacy rights to members for Service Connected Disability Pension applications and pending applications.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Discussion followed on the application of Line of Duty benefits. Mr. Robein noted that widows would have to show that members suffered from heart and lung ailments during their service on the job to qualify for line of duty benefits. Members must demonstrate that cancer existed as late

as five years after employment or prior to meet eligibility for a line of duty benefit. Board members reviewed medical information of all applicants in executive session.

Mrs. Michael Ricca: Mrs. Ricca is making an application for a line of duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Marchese to approve a non-duty death benefit as per R.S. 11:3378 effective February 1, 2015 and inform the applicant of the right to appeal the decision and provide additional medical information.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Roy Heck: Mrs. Heck is making an application for a line of duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to approve a non-duty death benefit as per R.S. 11:3378 effective February 1, 2015 and inform the applicant of the right to appeal the decision and provide additional medical information.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Charles J. Vedros: Mrs. Vedros is making an application for a line of duty widow's benefit effective March 1, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Marchese and seconded by Gaal to approve a line of duty death benefit as per R.S. 11:3378 and R.S. 33:2581 effective March 1, 2015.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Roland P. Hymel, Jr. : Mrs. Hymel is making an application for a line of duty widow's benefit effective January 1, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Marchese and seconded by Gaal to approve a line of duty death benefit as per R.S. 11:3378 and R.S. 33:2581 effective January 1, 2015.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Dennis O. Carrero: Mrs. Carrero is making an application for a line of duty widow's benefit effective February 1, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese to approve a line of duty death benefit as per R.S. 11:3378 and R.S. 33:2581 effective March 1, 2015.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Warren J. Martin: Mrs. Martin is making an application for a line of duty widow's benefit effective March 1, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by McConnell to approve a line of duty death benefit as per R.S. 11:3378 and R.S. 33:2581 effective February 1, 2015.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Ernest W. Pollock, Jr. : New Fund Fire Operator, age 56 with 33 years of service is submitting an application for a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension effective January 14, 2015. No action was taken on the following pending applications.

Kenneth G. Prevost- New Fund Firefighter, age 63 with 34 years of service is submitting an application for a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension effective January 14, 2015. No action was taken on the following pending applications.

Gary Haydel- New Fund Fire District Chief, age 60 with 36 years of service is submitting an application for a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension effective January 14, 2015. No action was taken on the following pending applications.

Mrs. Patricia Hrivnak: Application for a line of duty death benefits effective January 1, 2015. Mrs. Hrivnak was approved for a non-duty death benefit during the January meeting. The Board deferred action on the line of duty application. The Fund is seeking additional medical information from headquarters.

Mrs. Kathleen Thomas: Mrs. Thomas' application for a Line of Duty Death benefit. The Fund is seeking additional medical information from headquarters.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

NCPERS conference: Mr. Meagher noted that the NCPERS conference will be held in New Orleans from May 3, 2015 to May 7, 2015. All Board members expressed an interest in attending as well as Paul Mitchell. Mr. Meagher noted that delegates to the conference would also have to be nominated. Mr. Meagher and Gaal will serve as official delegates and Marchese and Lavene will serve as back-up delegates. Mr. Gaal also requested that he be authorized to get a hotel room in lieu of making the commute from Picayune each day.

MOTION: Moved by Marchese and seconded by Lavene to approve the attendance of all Board members for the NCPERS convention, a hotel room and related expenses for Mr. Gaal, and the selection of Meagher and Gaal as delegates to the conference.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

125 cafeteria plan: Pam Meyer outlined the changes to the cafeteria plan document. They include maximum flexible savings plan (FSA) amount of \$2,550.00, a 100% deferral of health insurance premiums, and \$500 carryover of unused FSA amounts from the prior year.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese to authorize Mr. Meagher to execute the 125 Plan document.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Board elections: Mr. Mitchell reminded the Board that elected members terms end during August of 2015. Election planning should begin shortly.

LEGAL:

Troy Magee: Active member who passed away on October 27, 2014 requires discussion in executive session. Item deferred.

Mr. Robein noted that legal matters being discussed would not require executive session.

Mischler et al v State of Louisiana et al:
Tarranto et al v City of New Orleans

Mr. Robein noted that the Mischler case was allotted to Judge Jupiter's court, after the Baton Rouge courts ruled that the case should be filed in Orleans. Plaintiffs also filed a similar case with only five of its members from the original suit. That case is assigned to Judge Cates. Judge Cates heard arguments on the merits of the case last week. It is not certain if Judge Jupiter will hear the Mischler case because the plaintiffs have not paid filing fees which amount to \$300 for each plaintiff.

Longevity Litigation: We are awaiting a new hearing date.

Funding Mandamus: The hearing date set for next week has been deferred until further notice.

TIMELY FILING OF APPLICATIONS:

All Members applying for Pension, 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.

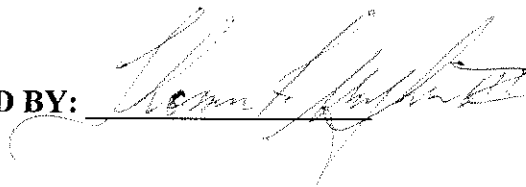
The administrative office will continue to process all paperwork in a friendly, orderly, and timely fashion. We thank all applying members for their continued cooperation. This will enable the Administrative Office and the Board of Trustees to perform their jobs more efficiently.

Members who have recently changed their address or marital status and have not updated their beneficiary form should do so at this time. Please contact the Pension Office during the hours of 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for beneficiary verifications. Your cooperation is appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

APPROVED BY:



DATE:

6/3/15