

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:

**February 12, 2016
3520 General DeGaulle
Suite 3001
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Martin Gaal, Thomas Meagher, Angelo Marchese, Tim McConnell, Nick Lavene, Derrick Muse, and Norman Foster.

A quorum being present, Board President Martin Gaal called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Also present,

**Pam Meyer
Louis Robein, Board Attorney
Paul Mitchell
Joe Delery, retired firefighter
David Nick, retired firefighter
Joe Buras, retired firefighter
Kenneth Kirsch, firefighter
Kenny Prevost, retired firefighter
Nicholas Felton, retired firefighter**

Foster noted that he and Muse would not be able to stay for the entire meeting and would like to address disability applications out of order.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by McConnell to take items out of order.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY 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 Marchese and seconded by Lavene 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

Dennis Meyers is a New Fund firefighter applying for a 66 2/3% Service Connected Disability retroactive to December 16, 2015. The member is 63 years old with 33 years of service.

MOTION: Moved by McConnell and seconded by Muse to approve a 50% Service Connected Disability retirement benefit effective December 16, 2015 pursuant to R.S.11:3376 (B) or to alternatively approve a regular retirement benefit calculated in accordance with all conditions of R.S. 11:3384 calculated as 2 ½% of his average compensation for the first 12 years of service and all years of service to age 50 and at 3 1/3% for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond twelve years and 50 years of age. If the member has 30 years of service the benefit shall be calculated at 2 ½% for the first 12 years of service and 3 1/3% for all years of service after 12 years up to 100% of his average annual compensation.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Meagher, Gaal, Marchese and Lavene noted that their vote was to approve the disability election.

ALTERNATIVE ELECTION AS PER R.S.11:3376 F (2)

Dennis S. Meyers:

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to approve the higher benefit election per RS 11:3376 F (2) for Dennis Meyers which provides a benefit of 3 1/3% of his average annual compensation for all years of service up to 100% of his average annual compensation, as outlined in the worksheet provided to members.

McConnell, Muse and Foster voted against the motion. Meagher, Marchese Gaal and Lavene voted for the motion. Motion passed.

Foster and Muse left the meeting.

Mr. Meagher noted that he would like the Board to consider taking an item out of order on the agenda. Mr. Leroy Brown is available to make a presentation to the Board on wellness for first responders.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to take items out of order.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

I AM Wellness Solutions:

Mr. Leroy Brown was on hand to provide the Board with information on his program designed to provide wellness solutions for First Responders. His program will use federal grants, community and corporate partners to develop and implement a Wellness and Fitness Program consistent with the recommendations of the IAFF/IAFC Joint Labor Management Wellness Fitness Initiative (WFI). The program expects to provide Health Assessments, Mental Health and Wellness Strategy, Interventions and Data collection for First Responders. Benefits include reduced soft tissue injuries, lower worker's comp claims and a healthier workforce.

The Board then moved to the regular order of business.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher noted receipt of a thank you card from the family of Harold Eck.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes with corrections noted.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

None

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

Byron Mercier, Jr., James Berggren, Billy Shanks, Sidney Nunez, Ryan Neely, Reginal Green, Sean Watson, Sr., Glen Bagert, Gerald Leone, Carlo Maphis, Robert Kemp, Darrin Napolitauo, Jr., Brett Casey, and Dale Messina have submitted current beneficiary forms.

DROP WITHDRAWAL

Dennis Meyers has requested to terminate his DROP effective December 15, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to approve the withdrawal of Mr. Meyers from DROP effective December 15, 2015.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS:

None

DROP APPLICATIONS: Effective March 1, 2016

Kalvin K. Koeing: New Fund Fire Firefighter, age 56 with 30 years of service is applying to enter DROP.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Marchese to approve a DROP benefit application calculated at 3 1/3% of his average annual compensation for each year of service or portion of a year, up to 100% of his average annual compensation.

McConnell offered a substitute motion to approve a regular service benefit calculated at 2 ½% for the first 12 years of service and all years of service to age 50 and 3 1/3% for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and age 50. If the member has 30 years of service the benefit shall be calculated as 2 ½% on the first 12 years of service and 3 1/3% for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years up to 100% of the member's average annual compensation. The motion was not seconded.

Substitute motion failed.

A vote on the original motion followed:

Meagher, Marchese, Gaal and Lavene vote for. McConnell voted against.
Motion passed.

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Pensioners:

Joseph P. Boyd, Jr. Mr. Boyd died on January 10, 2016 leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on September 20, 1970 and retired on December 26, 2000 with 30 years of service. He spent 15 years on pension. Mr. Boyd was 67.

Widow:

Patsy S. Zanco: Mrs. Zanco died on January 4, 2016 after seven years on benefits at the age of 84. Benefits began on November 1, 2008.

Mrs. Charles F. Ray: Mrs. Ray died on January 27, 2016 at the age of 93. Benefits began on January 1, 1973.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese to remove the above noted deceased

**members and widows from the pension rolls.
Motion passed.**

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Mrs. Deborah Mouchon- Mrs. Mouchon has indicated that she does not wish to appeal the Line of Duty Widow's benefit decision reached by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Old System appropriations

Mr. Meagher indicated that he will meet with the City officials to discuss problems with the payment of the Old System appropriations.

Spencer Freeman: Mr. Freeman has requested a transfer of service credits to MPERS. The actuarial value of the transfer is \$201,292.00 plus interest from December 31, 2015 to date of payment.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the transfer of service credits for Mr. Freeman.
Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

LEGAL:

Tax Exempt status

Mr. Robein noted that January 31, was the deadline for the Fund complete its IRS application for a Tax determination Letter, which would, if approved, continue the tax exempt status for the Fund. Mr. Robein provided each member with a copy of the application and discussed the

complexities of the document. A discussion followed on the four bills filed in the legislature this session. The bills HB 56,57,58, and 59 will limit the ability to do both DROP and PLOP, allow for conversion of sick and annual leave for service credits, allow for pre-tax of employee contributions and reduce accrual rates for future employees.

MOTION: Moved by McConnell and seconded by Marchese to go into executive session to discuss the Chartis settlement.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

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:

4/18/16