

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:

**December 10, 2014
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, Nick Lavene, Angelo Marchese, Tim McConnell and Norman Foster.

Total as follows: Six (6) members present, no members absent, one vacancy. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

Also present,

**Pam Meyer
Louis Robein, Board attorney
Paul Mitchell
Kenny Prevost, firefighter
J. Petruska, retired firefighter
Nicholas Felton, active firefighter
Derrick Francis, mayor's office**

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to approve the minutes for the November 2014 meeting.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

Business Council/Mayor's Pension Reform Task Force: 2nd public meeting of the task force is scheduled for 3:00 pm on December 15, 2014 in the City Council chambers.

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Ronald J. Beaulieu, Jr. is seeking a refund of contributions. He left the fire department in 2008.

MOTION: Move by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the refund of contributions to Mr. Beaulieu.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

John Burkart, Gary Hargis Sr., Craig Armant, Michael A. Ebbs, Thomas Ussin and Marc Inoa have requested changes to their beneficiary forms.

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

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 Meagher 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

NEW APPLICATIONS:

John V. Leblanc: New Fund Fire District Chief age 55 with 33 years of service is applying for a Service Connected Disability Pension effective December 10, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Lavene and seconded by Meagher to approve a 50% Service Connected Disability Pension effective December 10, 2014 for Mr. Leblanc.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

DROP APPLICATIONS:

Ernest J Wehlen: New Fund Fire Operator, age 50 with 24 years of service is applying to enter the DROP effective December 1, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Lavene and seconded by Gaal to approve the DROP application effective December 1, 2014.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Pensioners:

Robert N. Clements, Sr.: died on November 11, 2014 with no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on March 16, 1943 and retired with 20 years of service. He retired on June 10, 1963 and spent 51 years on pension. He was 98 years old.

Widow:

Marguerite K. Orr: Died on November 12, 2014 at age 94. She became eligible for benefits on January 1, 1993.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

None

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Mrs. Karen O'Neill (Michael): the hearing committee met on October 16, 2014 to discuss whether Mr. O'Neill's death was considered duty related which entitle his widow to a 66 2/3% benefit. Medical documentation, civil service decisions and information from the State of Louisiana were provided to the Board supporting the 66 2/3 application. Board members met in executive session during the November and December meetings.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the 66 2/3% death benefit for Mrs. O'Neill. Motion passed. **Foster opposed**

Mrs. Kathleen Thomas: Mrs. Thomas' application for a Line of Duty Death benefit was reviewed during the November meeting. Action on the application was deferred until additional medical information could be obtained.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to defer action on this request until additional medical information regarding medical causation is received from the doctor.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTION

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Brad Matherne: The Fund acknowledges receipt of \$12,127.34 from the State Firefighters Retirement System. Mr. Matherne is transferring his time with the State System into our system.

Sick and Annual leave accruals: Under current practice, unused sick and annual leave accruals in excess of 10 days have been paid out to employees requesting same.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to allow for payment of unused sick and annual leave accruals in excess of 10 days.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTION

Appropriation adjustment: In accordance with a memorandum from Andy Kopplin, CAO, dated December 9, 2014, the City of New Orleans has authorized changes to Fire Department budget allotments for 2014 between the Old and New Fund. The purpose to the memorandum was to permit the transfer of “excess” reserves accumulated in the Old Fund to the New Fund. The amount of excess reserves will be determined through consultation with the Board attorney and review of year end balances.

Recording of Board meetings: McConnell led a discussion in support of requiring that Board meetings to be recorded. He felt that recordings would provide absolute evidence of all activity occurring at Board meetings. McConnell noted that Board meetings of other State Funds are recorded and videotaped. He felt that this Fund should be the same. Meagher felt that Board minutes were sufficient support for the activity occurring at Board meetings. Discussion on the matter followed.

MOTION: Moved by McConnell and seconded by Marchese to allow recording of Board minutes. Motion failed. McConnell and Foster for, Marchese, Meagher, Gaal and Lavene opposed.

LEGAL:

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to go into executive session to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to actual litigation and legislation.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Marchese to come out of executive session entered into to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to actual litigation and legislation.

Mischler et al v State of Louisiana et al: New lawsuits have been filed in local courts.

Longevity Litigation: Next hearing is January 13, 2015. At the December hearing the Judge requested that various City officials attend the hearing.

Funding Mandamus: Next hearing set for January 2015

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.

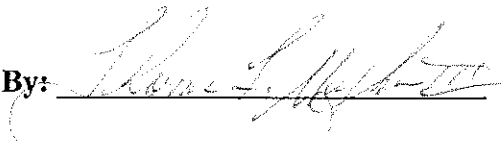
The administrative office will continue to process all paperwork in a friendly, orderly, and timely fashion. We thank all applying members for their continued cooperation. This will enable the Administrative Office and the Board of Trustees to perform their jobs more efficiently.

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 12:30 pm. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is January 14, 2015.

APPROVED By:



DATE:

