

# 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:**

**January 9, 2019  
3520 General DeGaulle  
Suite 3001  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

**The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Thomas Meagher, Angelo Marchese, Nick Lavene, Norm White, Tim McConnell and Martin Gaal . Derrick Muse was absent.**

**Also present**

**Pam Meyer**

**Louis Robein, Board Attorney**

**Paul Mitchell**

**Dean Felch, active firefighter**

**Brandon Krsak, active firefighter**

**Steve Roy, active firefighter**

**Kenny Prevost, retired firefighter**

**A quorum being present, the Board President called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.**

Mr. Meagher opened the meeting with the Pledge and a moment of silence for fallen firefighters.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher noted that the LATEC Conference is scheduled for February 27-29, at the Royal Sonesta in New Orleans. There is no charge to attend as the Fund is a member of LATEC. He encouraged Board members to sign up for the conference.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to allow board members and staff to attend the LATEC conference.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Marchese to approve the December 2018 Regular Board minutes.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

**REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

None

**CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY**

Jerry Whitson. has updated his beneficiary forms.

**DROP WITHDRAWAL**

Stephen Schmitt and Terrance Morris have terminated DROP effective November 30, 2018.

**REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS:**

None

**DROP APPLICATIONS**

None

**REPORTS OF DEATHS**

**Pensioners:**

**Frank J. Zorn:** Mr. Zorn died on December 8, 2018 at the age of 70 leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on October 19, 1969 and retired on July 12, 2000 after 31 years of service. He spent 18 years on pension.

**Louis C Bouchoux, Jr.**: Mr. Bouchoux died on December 11, 2018 at the age of 69, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on March 9, 1989 and retired on November 3, 2004 after 35 years of service. He spent 14 years on pension.

**Henry H. Gibson**: Mr. Gibson died on December 14, 2018 at the age of 69, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on April 19, 1971 and retired on January 1, 1966 after 18 years of service. He spent 26 years on pension.

**Paul J. Girard, Jr.** Mr. Girard died on December 13, 2018, at the age of 92, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 26, 1946 and retired on August 1, 1966 after 20 years of service. He spent 52 years on pension.

**John H. Wild, Jr.**: Mr. Wild died on December 22, 2018, at the age of 85, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on March 3, 1958 and retired after 20 years of service on June 26, 1983. He spent 35 years on pension.

**Avery E. Kolb, III**: Mr. Kolb died on December 26, 2018 at the age of 77, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 7, 1967 and retired after 33 years of service on January 4, 2000. He spent 18 years on pension.

**Alvis C. Dunne**: Mr. Dunne died on December 12, 2018 at the age of 95. He entered the department on October 20, 1949 and retired after 21 years of service on February 1, 1970. He spent 48 years on pension.

**Alan B. Bock**: Mr. Bock died on December 23, 2018 at the age of 71. He entered the department on August 2, 1971 and retired after 27 years of service on August 12, 1988. He spent 20 years on pension.

**Widows:**

**Mrs. Sherry M. Kohler (Lester)**: Mrs. Kohler died on November 23, 2018 at the age of 71. Her benefits began on August 1, 2000.

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

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

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

None

**WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS**

**Mrs. Gail Boesch (George):** Mrs. Boesch is applying for a Non-Duty Widow's effective December 1, 2018.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by White to approve the Non Duty Widow's benefit effective December 1, 2018 for Mrs. Boesch.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**Mrs. Monica S. Zorn (Frank):** Mrs. Zorn is applying for a Non-Duty Widow's Benefit. Effective January 1, 2019.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective January 1, 2019 for Mrs. Zorn.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**Mrs. Katherine Bouchoux (Louis):** Mrs. Bouchoux is applying for a Joint and Survivor Annuity Option (which was selected at retirement) effective January 1, 2019.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gaal and seconded by Marchese approve the Joint and Survivor Annuity Option effective January 1, 2019 for Mrs. Bouchoux.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**Mrs. Mary Gibson (Henry):** Mrs. Gibson is applying for a Non-Duty Widow's benefit effective January 1, 2019.

**MOTION:** Moved by Meagher and seconded by Lavene to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective January 1, 2019 for Mrs. Gibson.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**APPLICATIONS PENDING**

No action necessary

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old system for November 2018. We were not provided with total active membership at December 31,, 2018.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2019 Longevity payment:** Distribution of Longevity payments set for February 12 and 13, 2019. Members have been offered the opportunity to receive checks by mail, provided they meet certain criteria. Members discussed succession issues.

**Expense Committee:** Mr. Meagher notified the Board that the Expense Committee met prior to the board meeting to review Board member expense vouchers and credit card expense payments made during 2018. The committee was chaired by Mr. Marchese, who noted that members of the committee reviewed expense reimbursement forms, credit card invoices and supporting documentation noting no unusual expenses or lack of supporting documentation.

Mr. White inquired about the total dollar value of the expenditures being reviewed. Mr. Mitchell noted that total expenses reviewed amounted to \$23,653. He requested that future reviews also include a summary of expense totals being reviewed. Members voted to accept the report of the Expense committee without exception.

**Personnel Committee:** Mr. Meagher notified the Board the personnel committee met prior to the Board meeting to review staff performance and compensation. Mr. Meagher moved, seconded by Mr. Lavene, to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the current compensation of Pension Fund staff. The Trustees unanimously concurred. The executive session ended at 11:36 o'clock a.m. and the Board meeting was reopened as a public meeting. Mr. Meagher reported on the study and analysis conducted by the Personnel Committee, which reviewed the history of compensation to Fund staff, comparable compensation data for statewide and state systems, and the City's recently conducted citywide pay study. Mr. Meagher advised that any proposed increase in pay or salary to Fund staff would not include the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Gaal, seconded by Mr. Lavene to implement, effective January 1, 2019, a 10% increase in the base pay of Fund's three staff employees.

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**2019 Budget presentation**

Mr. Mitchell led a presentation on the 2019 Pension and Relief Fund's Budget. He noted that combined anticipated revenues are projected to fall due to a decrease in the fire insurance payment and employer contributions for a total of approximately \$800,000. Benefit payments are anticipated to fall slightly as well due to fewer anticipated employee refunds for employee turnover and transfers to other systems and a reduction in payments to members of the Old Fund. On the investment expense side legal expenses are expected to fall by \$1.5 million with respect to the Citco and other investment litigation. Investment consultant fees have been reduced by an additional \$35,000, while cash needs of certain investments, particularly Lakewood may require an influx of \$350,000 to provide for clubhouse repairs and updates. Administrative expenses are expected to increase by \$150,000 over prior year as a result of the purchase of new computer software and employee pension costs.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to adopt the proposed budget for the 2019 calendar year as presented.**

Motion passed.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**LEGAL:**

Mr. Robein noted the following:

**Lakewood:** Depositions are scheduled for March 2019.

**Fletcher:** Meagher noted that the Fletcher litigation went to mediation without resolution to date. Meetings continue with a court date set for January 28, 2019.

**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. Humphrey II Date: 2/13/19