

NEW ORLEANS FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

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 8, 2020
2401 Westbend Parkway
Suite 3001
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Thomas Meagher, Martin Gaal, Stephen Roy, Branden Krsak, and Al Tervalon. Norm White and Superintendent McConnell were absent.

Also present:

**Pam Meyer
Louis Robein, Board Attorney
Paul Mitchell
Emma Short, Board Attorney
Robert Tarcza, Board Attorney
Chief Nelson, active firefighter**

A quorum being present, the Board President called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher reminded Board members that LATEC/OPEL is hosting a pension conference in New Orleans on Feb 19-21, 2020. Members attending include Gaal, Meagher, Mitchell, Krsak and Roy. Registration is free and all Board members have been registered.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the December 2019 Regular Board minutes.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

None

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

None

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

None

PLOP APPROVALS

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS:

None

DROP APPLICATIONS effective November 1, 2019

None

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Pensioners:

Lynn A. Wattigny: Mr. Wattigny died on December 17, 2019 at the age of 84, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on December 9, 1962 and retired on July 17, 1989 after 26 years of service. He spent 30 years on pension.

Glenn J. Barras: Mr. Barras died on December 1, 2019 at the age of 80, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on May 30, 1967 and retired on June 18, 1981 after 14 years of service. He spent 38 years on pension.

Raymond J. Daly: Mr. Daly died on December 12, 2019 at the age of 84, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on July 19, 1957 and retired on February 16, 1978 after 21 years of service. He spent 41 years on pension.

Robert M. Burger: Mr. Burger died on December 29, 2019 at the age of 73, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on March 4, 1974 and retired on March 17, 1987 after 13 years of service. He spent 32 years on pension.

Widows:

Nora F. Beckham: Mrs. Beckham died on December 11, 2019 at the age of 91. Her benefits began on January 2001 and lasted 18 years.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to go into executive session to discuss disability issues.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to come out of executive session.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Judith Melancon is applying for a Non-duty widow's benefit effective January 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective January 1, 2020 for Mrs. Melancon.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Elnora St. Germain is applying for a Line of Duty Widow's benefit effective December 1, 2019.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to deny a Line of Duty Widow's benefit and approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective December 1, 2020 and inform the widow of her right to appeal the decision.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Marlene Wattigny is applying for a Non-duty widow's benefit effective January 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective January 1, 2020 for Mrs. Wattigny.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Harriet Sanders is applying for a Non-duty widow's benefit effective December 1, 2019.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective December 1, 2019 for Mrs. Sanders.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Rose Daly is applying for a Non Duty widow's benefit effective January 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the Non Duty Widow's Benefit effective January 1, 2020 for Mrs. Daly.

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 August and September 2019.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

NEW BUSINESS:

Rule IX notifications, terminations and resignations: Mr. Meagher requested that the Superintendent and his staff include the pension fund on all correspondence to members regarding Rule XI notifications, terminations and resignations. Advance notification would allow the Fund to contact members and discuss retirement options. Mr. McConnell agreed to provide same at an earlier meeting. Mr. Nelson agreed to look into the matter.

Sick Leave adjustments: Mr. Meagher noted that the appellate court ruling permitting 100% of salary for 30 years of service affected a few members on DROP. Because of the reversal decision, members who used sick and or annual days to reach a 100% pension benefit (33 years of service) will be due a credit of the sick and annual time used now that the threshold has changed to 30 years of service. McConnell agreed to notify his staff of the benefit change. Mr. Nelson agreed to look into this matter.

LEGAL:

Lakeview property update: Mr. Meagher noted that:

- He is continuing discussions with NORA representatives regarding acquiring the proposed Lakeview property. NORA is drafting a purchase agreement.
- The use agreement with the DOT is a 14 step process, 8 steps are completed.
- A meeting with the Lakeview improvement association zoning committee went well. Board members confirmed to the association that no zoning changes were required, no outside rentals planned and parking was being acquired from the DOT, which would eliminate some of the dumping occurring in the area among other matters, including size of the building and intended use. A second meeting is planned with the full association.

The Board is currently developing a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the New Orleans Firefighters Local 632 for the purpose of memorializing their mutual understanding and cost sharing agreements. Local 632 and The Board currently share rented space and wish to continue a shared arrangement in a building on the proposed site.

The parties through the CEA will:

- Identify their mutual requirements for office space,
- Develop drawings and plans to meet office space requirements,
- Establish a construction oversight committee with 3 members from each party and a 7th member, preferably a construction professional, who will be responsible for all phases of construction, including approvals and progress payments, fees for professional services, permits, etc., hire and fire of architect, general contractor, etc.,
- Make construction payments as requested by the oversight committee,

- Establish ownership percentages in the building,
- Establish method of allocation of operating costs of the building. (Most costs are deemed to be shared equally, other than repairs to equipment, furniture and fixtures owned separately)
- Establish rules should a party to this agreement cease operations or cease to exist.

Members noted that the building construction should be limited to \$1,500,000. Discussion followed regarding the adoption and staffing of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (“CEA”) between the Board of Trustees of the Firefighters’ Pension and Relief Fund for the City of New Orleans (“NOFFPRF”) and the New Orleans Fire Fighters Local 632 Building Corporation of the International Association of Fire Fighters to purchase land and build a building for their mutual use.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak that Martin Gaal, President, and Thomas F. Meagher, III, Secretary-Treasurer, have authority to execute the CEA on behalf of the NOFFPRF and that The NOFFPRF appoints its President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Director to serve on its behalf on the Committee which will oversee construction under the CEA. Currently, those positions are filled by Martin Gaal, Thomas F. Meagher, III, and Paul C. Mitchell, Jr., respectively.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Lakewood Development matter:

The renovation of the pro shop is on schedule and under budget. We have advanced funds to meet requirements of the construction.

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; 2/12/2020