

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:

March 11, 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, Norm White and Al Tervalon. McConnell was absent.

Also present:

Pam Meyer
Louis Robein, Board Attorney
Paul Mitchell
Bob Tarcza, Board Attorney

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

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to take items out of order. Mr. Tarcza is present to discuss the St. Margaret property purchase.

Motion passed

NO OBJECTIONS

Tarcza noted that the St. Margaret property representatives will seek an extension and pay \$50,000 due to the delay in closing. The \$50,000 will offset the purchase price. The buyers also request that Lakewood Development consent to allow them to begin the resubdivision of the property before closing. Tarcza noted that the Board has consent rights under its agreement with Lakewood Development.

MOTION: Move the allow the Board President and Secretary Treasurer to execute a resubdivision request on the property sold to St. Margaret's.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

None

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Tervalon and seconded by Krsak to approve the February 2020 Regular Board minutes.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Braxton Fore and Earl W. LeBlanc are requesting refunds of employee contributions.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the refund of employee contributions to Mr. Fore and LeBlanc.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

Fredrick Knight, Jr. has completed a change of beneficiary forms.

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

None

PLOP APPROVALS

Nicholas Lavene has requested to PLOP on his monthly retirement benefit.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the PLOP election for Mr. Lavene.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS:

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

Dean J. DeSalvo : a New Fund Fire District Chief, age 52 with 30 years of service is applying to enter DROP effective March 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the DROP application which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has beyond 30 years of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

John M. Cardinale: a New Fund Fire Operator, age 57 with 30 years of service is applying to enter DROP effective March 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the DROP application which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has beyond 30 years of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Jay C. Fielding : a New Fund Fire District Chief, age 55 with 30 years of service is applying to enter DROP effective April 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the DROP application which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable

compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has beyond 30 years of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Timothy A. McConnell : a New Fund Fire Superintendent, age 58 with 35 years of service is applying to enter a reverse DROP with the DROP date effective March 1, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the DROP application which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has beyond 30 years of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Pensioners:

Harold F. Hahn died on February 28, 2020 at the age of 92, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 16, 1948 and retired on September 22, 1968 after 20 years of service. He was on pension for 51 years.

Widow:

None

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

None

APPLICATION FOR CHILD BENEFITS

None

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Mr. Riney Blount has provided the Fund with additional medical information, which has been forwarded to Dr. Lutz for review.

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

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a 50% Service Connected Disability for Mr. Riney Blount. A regular service pension was approved late last year. This motion designates his retirement as a disability due to receipt of the supplemental medical information provided to the Board and concurrence by Dr. Lutz of the member's disability.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old system for February 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Building Update: Mr. Meagher noted that NORA's staff is drafting sale documents.

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 prior meetings.

Sick Leave adjustments: Mr. Meagher informed Mr. McConnell that members affected by the appellate court ruling reversing the 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 at a prior meeting. McConnell indicated the change was delayed by the cyber-attack.

LEGAL:

No matters discussed

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: 5/13/2020