

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:

**May 13, 2020
2401 Westbend Parkway
Suite 3001
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

This meeting was held via zoom.

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

Also present:

**Pam Meyer
Louis Robein, Board Attorney
Paul Mitchell**

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

COMMUNICATIONS

None

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the March 2020 Regular Board minutes. There was no April 2020 meeting due to COVID19.
Motion passed.**

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

None

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

None

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

Meagher noted that all disability applicants have provided the necessary documentation supporting their disability to our office. Members have visited with Dr. Lutz and his report is included in folders provided to Board members.

Gregory Matusoff: Mr. Matusoff was terminated by the department on December 18, 2018. He is applying for a 66 2/3% Service Connected disability effective on January 20, 2020, his 50th birthday. Mr. Matusoff has not provided any information supporting his disability, thus the Board can only approve a Regular Benefit pension at this time.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve a Regular Service pension 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. The member reserves the right to have his pension adjusted once the appropriate medical records have been provided to the Fund.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Jeffery L. Clark: New Fund Fire Captain, age 59 with 30 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability effective May 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsk to approve a 50% service Connected Disability pension 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

PLOP APPROVALS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the 60 month PLOP election for Mr. Matusoff.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the 24 month PLOP election for Mr. Clark.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS:

Zachary G. Kahler: New Fund Firefighter who resigned on July 24, 2018 with 12 years of service. Mr. Kahler is eligible for a regular service benefit at the age of 50 which is May 21, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the Regular Service Pension Benefit 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

George T. Smith: New Fund Fire operator, age 53 with 12 years of service is applying for a Regular Service Pension effective May 23, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the Regular Service Pension Benefit 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

DROP APPLICATIONS

Victor J. Lacava: a New Fund Fire District Chief, age 54 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

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Pensioners:

Raymond Burke: Mr. Burke died on March 30, 2020 at the age of 81 , leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on October 17, 1967 and retired on January 25, 1992 after 25 years of service. He spent 28 years on pension.

Terry R. Hendrix died on April 2, 2020 at the age of 70. He entered the department on November 5, 1968 and retired on June 14, 2000 after 31 years of service. He spent 19 years on pension.

Forest J. Lacombe, III died on April 8, 2020, at the age of 62 leaving no widow or minor children. He entered the department on July 31, 1978 and retired on June 9, 1999 after 20 years of service. He spent 20 years on pension.

William J. Chick died on April 16, 2020 at the age of 79, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on February 1, 1996 and retired on July 17, 1984 after 18 years of service. He spent 35 years on pension.

Henry P. Bentel, Jr. died on April 23, 2020 at the age of 84, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on April 28, 1959 and retired on September 20, 1984 after 25 years of service. He spent 35 years on pension.

Warren J. Duncan died on April 1, 2020 at the age of 91 leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on July 6, 1954 and retired on January 16, 1977 after 22 years of service. He spent 43 years on pension.

Widow:

Marion R. Hemsteter died at the age of 92 on April 1, 2020. Her benefits began on June 1, 2018

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Louise Hahn is applying for a Non duty Widow's benefit effective March 1, 2020.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Barbara Burke is applying for a Line of Duty Widow's benefit effective April 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the Line of Duty Widow's Benefit effective April 1, 2020 for Mrs. Burke.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATION FOR CHILD BENEFITS

None

APPLICATIONS PENDING

None

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

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 IX 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Related Party Questionnaire: Board members were reminded to turn in their related party questionnaires.

Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire: Mitchell noted that the Legislative auditor requires completion and adoption by the Board of its Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire annually. The questionnaire has been included in Board member packets for review and approval. The Board by resolution authorizes its President and Secretary Treasure to sign the document before forwarding to the Fund's auditors.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by White to authorize Mr. Meagher and Gaal to execute the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Digicom agreement: Mitchell provided the Board with background information on Digicom, and the Fund's search for a new system. The current pension system is 20 years old and written in outdated languages. He noted that Digicom has proposed to perform the programming for

\$176,000, which was significantly lower than other bids received. We will own the software , which will run on the Fund's server. It will not be cloud based.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve programming fees for the new software system with Digicom for \$180,000.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

LEGAL:

Triche trial is moved to August 2020.

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. Meagher III **Date** 6/9/2020