

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:

**September 9, 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, Al Tervalon, McConnell and Norman White.

Also present:

Pam Meyer

Louis Robein, Board Attorney

Paul Mitchell

A quorum being present, the Board President called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Meagher noted that all disability certifications have been received.

Additionally the OIG has submitted an additional request for information which includes a request for biographies of each Board member. Meagher requested that the biographies be forwarded to Paul Mitchell.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by White to approve the August 2020 Regular Board minutes.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

None

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

Thomas Coogan, Jr has made changes to his beneficiary forms.

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

None

PLOP APPROVALS

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

REGULAR RETIREMENT APPLICANTS

Rodrick L. Robinson: New Fund Fire Operator, age 52 with 19 years of service is applying for a Regular Service Pension effective August 18, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve 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.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

DROP APPLICATIONS

Danny J. Simon, a new Fund Fire Captain, age 52 with 30 years of service is applying for DROP effective September 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a DROP application

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Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Larry White, a New Fund Deputy Fire Chief, age 56 with 30 years of service is applying for DROP effective October 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a 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

Stephen Pagart, New Fund Fire Operator, age 57 with 30 years of service is applying for DROP effective November 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a 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:

Alvin AP. Faessel: died on August 20, 2020 at the age of 67 leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on September 29, 1975 and retired on December 2, 2009 after 34 years of service. He spent 10 years on pension.

Widows:

Joyce Gomez died on August 5, 2020 at the age of 90. Her benefits began on May 1, 1987. She received benefits for 33 years.

Elizabeth M. Hetrick died on August 30 2020 at the age of 84. Her benefits began on November 1, 2019. She collected benefits for 9 months.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher 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 Krsak to go into executive session to discuss medical records of line of duty and disability benefit applicants and to allow Deputy Nelson to witness the discussion.

Motion passed.

Gaal objected.

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

Motion passed.

No Objections

Mrs. Tracy Delao (John) is applying for a Line of Duty Widow's Benefit effective August 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by White to approve a non-duty death benefit and deny the line of duty widow's benefit, in addition to notifying the applicant of the right to appeal the decision.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Linda D. Hendrix(Terry) is applying for a Line of Duty Widow's benefit effective May 1, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to deny the line of duty widow's benefit and approve a non-duty widow's benefit effective May 1, 2020.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Gregory Matusoff: Mr. Matusoff was approved for a regular pension effective January 20, 2020 pending receipt of additional medical information supporting a 66 2/3% disability application. Medical documentation was provided to the Board for review.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the application for a 66 2/3% disability pension effective January 20, 2020 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 or 66 2/3% of his last month's pay, whichever is higher.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Building Update: Mr. Meagher noted that he is seeking bids from four contractors interested in construction of the office site.

NEW BUSINESS

OIG update: We have received a second request for information regarding our investment from the OIG. Mitchell is working on the response. Bios from each board member were requested as well as education credits from McConnell and White.

Fiduciary insurance the non-recourse coverage for each Board member was paid by the Fund.

LEGAL:

Triche trial has moved again to November.

The SEB litigation is pending trial in October.

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: 10/7/2020