

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 12, 2021
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, Norman White and Roman Nelson. Alcide 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 11:25 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher noted that Board member Financial Disclosure Forms are due in the State Ethics office by May 15, 2021. He also thanked everyone who completed the related party disclosures requested by our auditors.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the April 2021 Regular Board minutes.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

None

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

Staff noted that George Ricks, Jr. updated his beneficiary forms.

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

Wesley J. Thibodeaux: New Fund Fire District Chief, age eligible with 35 years of service is applying for a 50% Service Connected Disability effective May 12, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak 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.

Robert Henderson, Sr. New Fund Fire Fighter, age eligible, with 22 years of service is applying for a 66 2/3% Service Connected Disability effective May 12, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to deny the 66 2/3% application request and 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

REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:

Kenneth P. Ackermann, Jr: New Fund Fire Operator, age eligible, with 36 years of service is applying for a 50% Regular Service Pension effective May 5, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a Regular Service Connected 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

Wesley Thibodeaux has elected to PLOP a portion of his retirement benefit.

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

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REVERSE DROP

Mr. Kenneth Ackermann, Jr. has elected to reverse DROP.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the reverse DROP for Mr. Ackermann.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

DROP WITHDRAWAL

Mr. Kenneth Ackermann, Jr. have ended his DROP elections effective April 30, 2021

DROP APPLICATIONS

Herman Franklin: New Fund Fire District Chief, age eligible, with 30 years of service is making an application to enter DROP effective April 1, 2021.

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:

Mr. Harold A. Bernier, died on April 24, 2021 at the age of 86 leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on March 4, 1959 and retired on August 2, 1984 after 24 years of service. He spent 36 years on pension.

Mr. Charles Crain died on April 17, 2021 at the age of 73, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on August 23, 1971 and retired on May 4, 2011 after 39 years of service. He spent 10 years on pension.

Mr. Robert J. Pons died on April 17, 2021 at the age of 78, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on September 7, 1969 and retired on February 9, 2000 after 30 years of service. He spent 21 years on pension.

Widows:

Mrs. Dolores H. Bayard died on April 12, 2021 at the age of 95; Her benefits began on February 1, 1987. She spent 34 years on pension.

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

Mrs. Lessie N. Martin is applying for a disabled dependent benefit effective March 1, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a disabled dependent benefit effective March 1, 2021.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Carol J. Pons is applying for a Non-Duty Death Benefit effective May 1, 2021

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a non-duty death benefit

effective May 1, 2021.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Mary B. Webb is applying for a Line of Duty Death benefit effective April 1, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to approve a line of duty death benefit effective April 1, 2021.

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 April 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Office Building update: Mr. Meagher noted that a zoning variance hearing is set for this Monday May 17, 2021. The zoning application was submitted timely.

Summit (Westwego Property)

Mr. Meagher noted that during our settlement negotiations with Summit regarding outstanding FNBC loan balances purchased by Summit from the FDIC, the fund had the loan cancelled in exchange for cash and our Westwego property. A review of the property records noted that property description of the transferred property requires correction. Mr. Meagher is seeking authorization to execute the necessary documents to properly reflect the transfer of the property. Mr. Tarcza is assisting in this matter.

MOTION: Moved by Krsak and seconded by Roy to authorize Mr. Meagher and/or Mitchell to execute the necessary documents to complete the transfer of the Westwego property.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

NEW BUSINESS

None

LEGAL:

The **SEB litigation** will be briefed on May 3, 2021.

Citco matter appeal was denied.

Triche matter is delayed until August 2021.

Mwendo QDRO

Nilima Mwendo former wife of Ukali Mwendo, retired fighter, has submitted a QDRO for board approval.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to accept and acknowledge the QDRO filed by Ms. Mwendo.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

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:** 6/9/2021