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Executive Secretary



JAY HUGHES
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STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS
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The 242nd regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #106 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Jay Hughes, with Board Member Mark Watenpugh, Board, Board Member Martin Spani, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Board Member Miland Walling, Senior Actuarial Analyst Michael Harbour, Actuarial Analyst Kyle Stineman, Executive Secretary Brigette Smith, and Assistant Attorney General Tsering Cornell present.

The Board reviewed the April 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes. It was moved by VanCamp, seconded by Spani, and carried that the minutes be approved.

Secretary Smith asked that the Board change the agenda order to accommodate the guests. An informational session with the State Actuary to discuss and review the results of the experience study move from the first item under new business to take place during the first hearing of the public. In addition, the discussion about legal advice regarding PERS eligibility and stipends be moved to an executive session.

FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

There was no public present.

SAA Michael Harbour told the Board that the Actuary's Office looked at many things when preparing the experience study, including the mortality assumptions. They sometimes have to look to other retirement systems that have a larger pool of members in order to draw more accurate conclusions. Things like mortality rates come from PERS, but things such as termination rates are very specific to volunteer emergency workers. Since volunteers are not paid, it changes their retirement behavior. Mr. Harbour did note that the termination rates were higher than anticipated. Normally, when members retire earlier, it results in a savings to the system. The Board asked why the Actuary's Office uses PERS for some assumptions rather than LEOFF. Mr. Harbour stated that the reason for that is because LEOFF does not have as large of a dataset as PERS. In addition to other things that will influence the study, Mr. Harbour stated that the Actuary has noted that more retirees are participating in the retire/rehire program than was originally anticipated. All of this information will be presented in a final form at the October meeting for the Board to review in anticipation of updating the administrative factors. Secretary Smith confirmed that changing the administrative factors is done using the WAC process. The Actuary's Office also anticipates updating the relief experience study in about two years.

Finally, Mr. Harbour and Mr. Stineman updated the Board on changes happening within the Actuary's Office. They will now be working with the Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) and the Health Care Authority (HCA), so they are hiring additional staff and restructuring their agency's organizational chart. Although it is a work in progress, so far they have hired two additional staff members and Lisa Wan has been promoted to the position of Deputy State Actuary. This change will help the relief plan valuation because they will not need to contract outside of the agency for as often for consultations. Mr. Harbour and Mr. Stineman then left the meeting at 9:30 am.

OLD BUSINESS

Secretary Smith and AAG Cornell presented the Board with the final draft of the Buy-back policy. The Board reviewed it and requested that Secretary Smith send it out to all departments and report back to the Board at the October meeting and update them on any feedback received.

Secretary Smith and AAG Cornell discussed their research so far into the issue of presumptive diseases. AAG Cornell told the Board that she met with the LEOFF 2 Pension Board, but it was felt that the exposure for presumptive diseases between the volunteers and career firefighters would be very different because of the different nature of the two groups. AAG Cornell felt that it would be really incumbent upon the different constituent groups to try to research and present the science behind presumptive diseases in regards to volunteers.

Secretary Smith informed the Board that she had reached out to President TJ Nedrow from the Washington State Firefighters Association to discuss developing a cancer awareness and prevention brochure with him. Unfortunately, the Association was very busy with preparing for their annual conference at the time. Since that time, a new president was elected, so Secretary Smith was going to give them a little time to settle into the new position before approaching them again. In the meantime, she developed some contacts with the local chapter of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and plans to network with them to help with research information and brochure development.

The Board reviewed the BVFF budget as passed in the last session and signed into law. There were no real surprises in the budget. The Board discussed that they were looking forward to reviewing the valuation at the next meeting to see if the fund is in a position to support any type of benefit enhancement. In anticipation of that discussion, the Board asked Secretary Smith to see if the benefit enhancement estimates provided last year were still accurate.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board read and discussed a letter from Jerry Hayes asking the board to consider an increase in the monthly pension amount. They voiced their appreciation for the feedback and asked that Secretary Smith contact him and let them know that they appreciated it and were going to look more into the potential for an increase after October's valuation.

Secretary Smith informed the Board that Mr. John Caston's request for an appeal was withdrawn to allow him the opportunity to submit additional documentary evidence to the staff for their reconsideration of their decision. He will have until October 7th, 2015 to submit additional information. If it is not submitted by that date, his appeal window will be closed. As a result of the withdrawal, the hearing scheduled for the afternoon was cancelled.

The Board went into executive session at 10:30 am for about 10 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding part-time participants and stipends. At 10:40 am, the Board recessed for a short break.

The Board reconvened at 10:45 am.

The Board reviewed the following Pension Participation Waivers:

- Richard Lamm, City of Westport Fire, March 26, 2015 through June 17, 2015
- Joyce Tuerck, Pacific County FPD #1, February 3, 2015 through April 26, 2015

It was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that the above pension participation waivers be granted.

The Board reviewed an Interagency Agreement entered into with the State Actuary's Office for actuarial services for the 2017 Biennium and a contract entered into with the Washington Fire Commissioner's Association for leased office space for July 1, 2016 through July 1, 2021.

The Board reviewed Secretary Smith's leave and pay records.

The Board reviewed and approved (VanCamp moved, Spani seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered #00747 through #00797 and various travel vouchers.

There was a motion by Spani, seconded by Walling, and carried that the retirement pensions and lump-sum settlements listed below be approved effective on the listed dates:

		<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ball, David D.	Orting	10/29/2014	4572.18 Lump
Baunsgard, Charles	Redmond	9/13/2014	2647.05 Lump
Beals, JR, David	Morton	7/15/2015	230.00
Bond, Hershel M.	Lewis #7	4/8/2015 J/S	243.60
Browning, Terry L.	Pierce #6	3/11/2015	228.00 @age 62
Buitenbos, Beverly J.	Klickitat #7	8/19/2014	77.00
Cameron, Sandra (Walter)	King #10	1/1/2015 SURV	237.30
Casey, Ted	Snohomish #5	1/2/2012	5586.03 Lump
Christian, John F.	Pierce #15	5/2/2015	270.00
Collins, Donald	Skamania #6	6/9/2008	1540.27 Lump
Dahmen, James T.	Whitman #14	6/1/2015 J/S	183.70
Decker, Garry L.	Yakima #5	5/1/2015 J/S	243.60
Dewey, Leslie L.	Klickitat #3	12/31/2014	3268.51 Lump
Dixon, Richard M.	Goldendale	10/12/2014	5113.34 Lump
Dobrauc, John D.	Grandview	5/25/2015	300.00
Faubion, William J.	Cathlamet	5/24/2015	300.00
Garber, Jay	Lincoln #4	5/15/2015	300.00
Garrison, SR, Ronald D.	Jefferson #4	4/1/2015	195.00
Gearns, Ronald A.	Central Kitsap F&R	7/1/2015	240.00
Grafstrom, Donald	Clallam #1	4/7/2015	157.50 @age 63
Greenwood, JR, Clyde	Bonney Lake	2/14/2014	3128.33 Lump
Grimm, Bruce	Island #3	12/24/2014	5454.23 Lump
Heindselman, David	Lewis #6	5/2/2015	300.00
Hobbs, James	Spokane #3	6/30/2015	300.00
Holz, Edward	Stevens #4	5/2/2015	300.00
Johnson, Vertta A.	Jefferson #4	4/7/2015	250.00
Jones, Alan D.	Pend Oreille #5	12/31/14	582.42 Lump
Koenig, James R.	Chelan #5	3/17/2015 J/S	246.90
Lash, Donald B.	Island #3	4/10/2015	52.36 @age 61
Lentz, Martin T.	Palouse	5/1/2015 J/S	135.80
Madson, JR, Wayne E.	Zillah	2/7/2014	300.00
Marion, Fred	Kittitas #7	5/11/2015	300.00
McCollim, Brian	Stevens #9	6/10/2015	81.41
McKenzie, Donald C.	Chelan #6	6/16/2015 J/S	245.63
Monroe, Gerald L.	Yakima #5	7/5/2014 J/S	187.64 @age 62
Morehouse, Ronald G.	Whatcom #8	1/11/2015	300.00
Newman, Lonnie	Grand Coulee	1/20/2015	187.50
Noggles, Kenneth	Coulee City	6/10/2015	252.00 @age 63
Oliver, Thomas W.	Spokane #12	7/19/2014	180.00
Oesterhaus, Roy Evan	Central Kitsap F&R	3/15/2015	3701.09 Lump
Ormsby, William	Central Kitsap F&R	3/10/2015	3506.29 Lump
Powell, Charles A.	Thurston #1	7/28/2013	4331.53 Lump
Powell, Vern E.	Cowlitz-Lewis #20	12/5/2015	2590.75 Lump
Prince, Jimmy	Chelan #1	7/1/2015	195.00
Ritter, Steven L.	Thurston #12	2/1/2015 J/S	161.66
Ross, Robert D.	Ephrata	6/2/2015	165.00
Scott, Dale H.	King #10	4/5/2015	53.70 @age 62
Steed, Edward G.	Castle Rock	4/20/2015	63.84 @age 62
Takko, Dean A.	Cowlitz #2	7/9/2015	300.00
Thomson, Duane C.	Walla Walla #8	4/1/2015	300.00
Tobian, Richard L.	King #27	6/8/2015	73.50
Una, Allen A.	King #28	5/6/2015	250.00
Warfield, Anthony D.	Skagit #16	10/14/2014 J/S	186.50 @age 62
Wilkins, Fred A.	Klickitat #2	1/1/2015 J/S	211.75

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chair Jay Hughes informed the Board that Mike Mattson, the long-time lobbyist for the Washington State Reserve Law Enforcement Association passed away last month. He was an amazing asset to that association and will be greatly missed.

Secretary Smith notified the Board that Member Miland Walling was just reappointed to the Board for another six year term.

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No public was present.

There was a motion by Spani, seconded by VanCamp, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 11:41 am.

Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary