



STATE OF WASHINGTON

BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

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July 20, 2012

The 232nd regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #207 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Jay Hughes, Board Member Mark Watenpaugh, Board Member Martin Spani, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Board Member Milland Walling, Firefighter Harry Oestreich (King #45), TJ Nedrow (WSFFA), Tamara Warnke (WSFFA), and Executive Secretary Brigitte Smith present.

The Board reviewed the April 20, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes and the June 7, 2012 Special Meeting Minutes. It was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that the April 20 minutes be approved. It was moved by Walling, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that the June 7 minutes be approved.

Secretary Smith asked that the Board adjust the agenda to move the executive session to the end of the agenda, to add a "Good of the Order" to the agenda, and to change the order of business to accommodate guests. Since Mr. Nedrow and Ms. Warnke have a meeting to attend, they were moved to the first order of business, and Firefighter Oestreich's request to be granted additional service credit would follow second.

FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

TJ Nedrow and Tamara Warnke both addressed the Board regarding the Washington State Firefighters Association (WSFFA) request to organize a workgroup to discuss a variety of benefit enhancements for volunteer firefighters. Mr. Nedrow thanked the Board for all their hard work and dedication, and thanked the board for allowing Secretary Smith to travel to the WSFFA Conference in Wenatchee. The WSFFA has spent time working hard at developing a "Volunteer Wish List". The wish list is a list of about 34-35 items that the WSFFA Board has suggested would be ideas for volunteer incentives. They have shared the list with Secretary Smith and have asked for her aid in "tweeking" the list. Their hope for the next step is to set up a workgroup to include members of many of the major fire service organizations to review and provide input into the list. They would like to see the Board provide two representatives, in addition to Secretary Smith. The representatives would be asked to give a couple hours of their time for each of two meetings. The WSFFA would eventually like to post the list on their website.

Member Walling said that he would be unable to represent the Board because he would probably have to represent the Washington Fire Commissioner's Association (WFCA). Members VanCamp and Spani said they would be interested in attending. Member Watenpaugh said he would be interested as well, but would be unable to commit to any meetings in August.

Mr. Nedrow said that he would also be talking with the Washington Fire Chief, the WFCA, and Kelly Fox from the Washington State Council of Firefighters. Member VanCamp asked for clarification that the workgroup would just be refining the list, but would it also be determining who would seek the legislation? Mr. Nedrow said that the workgroup may actually narrow the list to the top five priorities, but may ask that the Washington State Fire Service Leadership Forum (Forum) help to decide who seeks the legislation.

It was their hope that the first workgroup meeting could be in August so that the final document could be ready for distribution to the Forum at their September meeting, since many organizations will be setting their legislative priorities around that time.

Prior to leaving the meeting at 9:45, Mr. Nedrow and Ms. Warnke told the Board that they would notify the Board of the upcoming meeting dates so it could choose representatives.



The Board reviewed a request from Harry Oestreich, King Co. FPD #45, to grant him additional service for the years 1973 through 1975. Firefighter Oestreich provided the Board with several documents to review and thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them. He explained that he was with the City of Redmond from 1970 until half-way through 1972. He then moved to the DuVall area. He joined the DuVall fire department immediately and started his EMT training in September of 1972. At that time, he was one of only two EMT's. After listening to the testimony, reviewing the documents, and soliciting Executive Secretary Smith's opinion, it was moved by Walling, seconded by Spani, and carried that the evidence presented was sufficient enough to prove service from January 1, 1973 through December 31, 1975. Secretary Smith was directed to bill the department for the fees plus the statutory interest. Mr. Oestreich left the meeting at 10:05 am.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed the implementation of SB 5365. Secretary Smith stated that the agency has been receiving many requests to buy-back service. In fact, she estimated that every staff member is spending about two hours a day every day calculating the buy-backs. It is a lot more labor intensive than anticipated, and she is concerned that it will only get worse when departments learn that it is cheaper to not make the first several years of payments and buy-them back later. She explained that, had everyone anticipated that problem, the legislation would have been written so that the fee would never be less than the fee plus interest as provided in RCW 41.24.040. It was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that Secretary Smith formally ask the WFCOA and the WSFFA to seek legislation to change the RCW. Secretary Smith added that she would even be happy to help draft the legislation to make it easier for them.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed documentary evidence attempting to prove service for Charles Spani, City of Lynnwood, from December 1985 through April 6, 1986. It was moved by VanCamp, seconded by Walling, and carried that the evidence provided was sufficient enough to prove service from December 1, 1985 through April 6, 1986. Member Spani abstained from the vote. Secretary Smith was directed to bill the city for the required disability fees plus the statutory interest.

The Board reviewed documentary evidence attempting to prove service for Susan Risser, Town of Friday Harbor, for 1987 through April 9, 1989. After reviewing the evidence, it was moved by Watenpaugh, seconded by Spani, and carried that the documentation was not sufficient enough to prove additional service. Secretary Smith was directed to request additional documentation so the Board could review it at the October meeting.

The Board reviewed a request to grant Tyson Boling, City of Elma, a Permanent Partial Disability Award (PPD) for an injury he sustained on June 16, 2011. It was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that Firefighter Boling be awarded a PPD Award of \$9,008.55.

The Board reviewed a request to grant Carrie Pennington, Lewis Co. FPD #15, a Permanent Partial Disability Award (PPD) for injuries she sustained on May 27, 2005 and June 11, 2009. It was moved by Watenpaugh, seconded by VanCamp, and carried that Firefighter Pennington be awarded a total PPD Award of \$11,078.91.

Secretary Smith discussed a proposed stipulated agreement between James Ballif and the Conconully Fire Department to allow BVFF staff to manage Mr. Ballif's accident claim. Secretary Smith stated that the agreement was at Ballif's request, but that she agreed with it. She felt that there were no concerns on her part with the local board managing the claim, but she felt that the State Board Staff handling the claim may enable him to recover from his injury more quickly. It was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that the State Board accept the Stipulated Agreement.

There was additional discussion regarding the Board's management of claims. Secretary Smith suggested that the Board consider offering departments the option of paying a higher fee to have the State Board manage injury claims. Many small departments have small, or no, staffs to handle the plethora of paperwork that comes with an injury claim. Departments would have the option to pay the higher fee in the annual reporting process. If a member was injured, the Board would handle all of the injury paperwork after the Report of Accident. Stipulated Agreements would become obsolete, and departments that did not opt into the higher fees would not be allowed to have Stipulated Agreements. The extra revenue generated from the fees would pay for the additional personnel it would take to manage the claims. The Board asked that Secretary Smith do some additional research and place another discussion regarding this on the October agenda.

The Board recessed for 10 minute from 11:00 to 11:10.

Secretary Smith discussed an ongoing investigation into a fire department's reporting practices. She informed the Board that, in her experience, the majority of the departments that she has to investigate have two main problems. They do not report members immediately upon them joining the department, and they do not inform the Board when they leave the department. Both of these errors result in additional pension service credit being granted to members who didn't earn it, which give the appearance of fraud. Secretary Smith stated that this department appeared to have some of the same issues, and she hoped to have the investigation completed by the next Board Meeting.

Member VanCamp and Secretary Smith informed the Board that they were invited to present at the next Washington Fire Chiefs Conference in May of 2013. Executive Director Mike Brown discussed the possibility with both Member VanCamp and Secretary Smith. He was thinking it would be good if they could talk about changes that the BVFF was making and future legislation that may be upcoming. The Board supported the idea of presenting at the conference, especially since it is the first time the agency has been invited to do so since Secretary Smith started working for the BVFF.

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

The Board reviewed and approved (Walling moved, Spani seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered (000090 through 00134) and various travel vouchers.

There was a motion by Watenpaugh, seconded by Spani, and carried that the retirement pensions and lump-sum settlements listed below be approved effective on the listed dates (Hughes abstained from the vote on Michael C. Ellsworth and Rande A. Kummer, Watenpaugh abstained from the vote on Bernle Stalp, and Spani abstained from the vote on Teresa San Diego because of potential conflicts):

		<u>Date</u>	<u>Effective Amount</u>
Angus, David L.	Douglas #5	4/11/12	228.00 @ age 62
Barquist, Gary E.	Lincoln #7	4/1/12 J/S	208.91 @ age 63
Bates, Sr., Roger D.	Benton #2	4/28/12	239.20 @ age 64
Bazzel, Sr., Ronald J.	Klickitat #7	4/1/12	300.00
Bean, Margaret	Tumwater	4/5/10	3,128.33 Lump
Bergman, David	Stevens #4	3/20/12	58.52 @ age 62
Blickar, William D.	Grays Harbor #2	1/23/12	61.18 @ age 62
Blume, Robert W.	Kittitas #7	1/1/12 J/S	155.44
Boxx, Diana L.	Black Diamond	7/27/11	300.00
Braithwaite, Duncan	South Cle Elum	6/15/12	300.00
Brazda, Lonny	Pierce #11	2/24/12	4,572.18 Lump
Britton, Lynn R.	King #2	3/26/11	300.00
Buitenbos, Dick	Klickitat #7	4/8/12	142.80 @ age 61
Cavalli, Jr., Ben F.	Walla Walla #4	4/1/12 J/S	227.40
Christensen, Robert J.	Snoqualmie	3/9/12	153.90 @ age 62
Coleman, Mickey	Darrington	9/7/11	3,019.91 Lump
Comer, Danny A.	McCleary	6/5/12	228.00 @ age 62
Davis, Roger	Lincoln #7	1/1/12	3,442.79 Lump
Derry, Hugh W.	North Whidbey	5/26/12	300.00
Dow, James E.	Kitsap #2	4/1/12	252.00 @ age 63
Dziubak, Robert	Grays Harbor #8	6/1/12	300.00
Ellsworth, Michael C.	Spokane #4	3/23/12	300.00
Erickson, Gary A.	Hartline	6/1/12	300.00
Everson, Mark	Elma	5/27/12	66.50 @ age 62
Faechner, Dennis R.	Adams #1	5/23/12	142.50 @ age 62
Feetham, Robln L.	Concrete	4/12/12	3,701.09 Lump
Fisher, Steven A.	Whatcom #13	4/22/12	228.00 @ age 62
Garrison, Jennifer	Lewis #8	6/13/12	187.50
Garrison, Robert J.	Okanogan	3/5/12	300.00
Gregerson, Gerald L.	Omak	4/27/12 J/S	243.60

Harrison, Cecil A.	Columbia #1	1/11/12	J/S	184.00 @ age 62
Hasenoehrl, Tom F.	Garfield	5/21/12		85.50 @ age 60
Hill, Kenneth	Klickitat #7	2/27/12	J/S	62.14
Hiltwein, David R.	Benton #1	2/26/12		180.00 @ age 60
James, Steven R.	Omak	6/22/12	J/S	248.70
Jensen, Adrienne C.	Yakima #5	4/18/12		6,071.94 Lump
Kehm, Thomas E.	Yakima #5	6/16/12		228.00 @ age 62
Kestner, Penelope A.	Pierce #21	3/13/12		73.50
Kirkland, Kenneth C.	Clark #6	6/18/12		300.00
Knight, Bonnie J.	Central Mason	4/1/12		187.50
Kolterman, Keith R.	Odessa	4/24/12	J/S	235.80
Koontz, Elbert L.	Ferry/Okanogan #13	1/1/12		142.50
Koorn, Marvin D.	North Whidbey	3/7/12	J/S	206.14 @ age 63
Kratzer, Lawrence	Pacific #1	7/11/12		202.50
Kruger, Bennie L.	Yakima #12	5/28/12		300.00
Kummer, Rande A.	Spokane #4	3/13/10		3,609.61 Lump
Linden, Terry L.	Klickitat #5	3/1/12	J/S	237.30
Lommers, Matthew L.	Yakima #5	3/10/12	J/S	250.50
Mason, Dennis E.	Clark Co. F&R	5/8/12		2,872.82 Lump
McCalden, Dale G.	Lewis #16	2/20/12		228.00 @ age 62
Merritt, Conley R.	Whitman #8	2/1/12		66.50
Meyer, Jim	White Salmon	5/13/11		204.00 @ age 61
Montgomery, Thomas G.	Yakima #14	6/1/12		300.00
Munden, Dennis R.	Walla Walla #5	5/26/12		190.00 @ age 62
Neher, James F.	Okanogan	9/29/11		3,850.25 Lump
Nelson, Steven W.	Spokane #10	4/29/12		157.50 @ age 63
Nelson, Susan J.	Clark Co. F&R	7/22/12		195.00
Olson, Edward M.	McCleary	4/5/12		228.00 @ age 62
Peck, Carl S.	Waitsburg	5/1/12	J/S	257.40
Pierson, Donald	Franklin #1	3/12/12		290.00
Pottratz, Ronald O.	Spokane #12	3/16/12		300.00
Pruett, Fred C.	Spokane #12	6/5/12	J/S	246.90
Ringwood, Samuel J.	Lincoln #1	3/1/12	J/S	245.40
Rohring, Terry	Port Townsend	2/24/12		77.00
Rudolph, Fred	Yakima #6	1/18/12	J/S	246.90
Russell, James D.	King #45	5/2/12		4,220.50 Lump
Russell, Roy	Stevens #1	11/7/11	J/S	111.11
Sanders, Gregory J.	Colfax	1/30/12		163.80 @ age 63
San Diego, Teresa (Mark)	Lynnwood PD	2/22/12	SURV	122.89
Schoepflin, Bill R.	Whitman #10	4/16/12		300.00
Scholz, Ronald J.	Sumner	4/12/12		252.00 @ age 63
Spies, Mike	Chelan #6	8/28/11		162.00 @ age 60
Stalp, Bernie	Cowlitz #3	4/23/12		70.00
Sturtz, John J.	No. Whatcom	3/6/12		252.00 @ age 63
Townsend, Dennis	Walla Walla #8	2/1/12	J/S	218.32 @ age 64
Tracy, Ronald B.	Coulee Dam	2/25/12	J/S	165.80
Vincent, Edward	Montesano	3/30/12		3,701.09 Lump
Walker, Roger D.	Clark #12	5/12/12		66.50
Wallace, Daniel E.	Lewis #2	8/13/11		61.18 @ age 62
Wasko, Paul J.	Ephrata	4/3/12		195.00
Wigen, Marvin R.	Whitman #10	2/25/12		202.50
Wright, Donald J.	Grays Harbor #17	1/16/12	J/S	59.68
Zentner, Darold	Okanogan #7	12/29/10		5,906.58 Lump

The Board recessed from 11:45 a.m. through 12:05 p.m. to discuss litigation.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Secretary Smith informed the Board that she had hired a temporary, part-time, non-permanent employee to help the full-time staff while they try to complete the annual posting. The new employee is Lisa Strange and she will be working Monday through Thursday mornings.

The Board asked Secretary Smith to talk with the WSFFA and see if they would be willing to add an item to their list. The Board thought that it would be helpful to the firefighters if they could be allowed more self-service access to the Board's database through the website.

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No one present wished to speak.

There was a motion by Walling, seconded by Spani, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 12:10 p.m.



Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary