

HAILEY BLANKENSHIP
Executive Secretary



Martin Spani
Board Chair

STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS
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January 23, 2023

The 238th regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #207 of the JR Larson Forum Building by Chair Martin Spani, with Board, Board Member Debora Smith, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Board Member Miland Walling and Executive Secretary Hailey Blankenship present.

The Board reviewed the October 28th Board Meeting Minutes. It was moved by Board Member VanCamp, seconded by Board Member Smith and carried to approve the previous meeting minutes with no noted corrections.

FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None

OLD BUSINESS

Secretary Blankenship provided the Board an update on current/proposed 2023 legislation. Secretary Blankenship reviewed HB 1336 which was proposed by the Board in order to split the current principle fund in order to create a separate benefits plan for the Reserve Law Enforcement Officers. Doing so will allow the Board to resubmit to the IRS bringing the largest number of participants into alignment with IRS tax. By qualifying the volunteer firefighter and EMSD pension plan and the Board will be able to implement the benefit changes passed in 2020. HB 1336 is sponsored by Representative Stokesbary with Rep. Springer also signed on. The bill is scheduled for public hearing on Thursday, January 26th, in House Appropriations Committee. Secretary Blankenship will continue to work on getting a companion bill dropped in the Senate.

Secretary Blankenship updated the Board on the database replacement project and provided a demonstration of the prototype that has been built during ongoing work sessions with the solution vendor, Pension Technology Group (PTG). Secretary Blankenship reviewed the December 2022 project status and independent quality assurance risk assessment. While the projects overall status is in yellow moderate risk due to early delays in vendor procurement, the project team is building momentum in the development stages. The project is tracking underspent currently and the procurement delays are going to move the final "go live" date into the 23-25 biennium. Secretary Blankenship submitted a project decision package to carry the funding from the current biennium into the next in order to complete implementation. It is expected that BVFF staff will start using the new system mid fall of 2023 with a full implementation in January 2024 as benefit payments cannot be started in the new system until the first of the year due tax reporting needs.

Secretary Blankenship a quick reminder on the discussion regarding the LODD Benefit under review for Alan Basso. The records requested by Mrs. Basso and her attorney have not been received to date, Secretary Blankenship asked that the discussion be tabled until the next meeting, the Board agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Blankenship provided the Board with a cost comparison spreadsheet for IT services. The current vendor that is contracted for as-needed services is going out of business and Secretary Blankenship will either need to find a new vendor or join the State's Small Agency Support Group. WaTech provides IT services for small state agencies but the cost is FTE driven billed monthly and significantly higher than a contracted vendor that can be paid as needed. Currently with four full time employees the monthly cost is roughly five thousand where-as the as-needed contractor has been averaging under two thousand for a year. Secretary Blankenship explained that she has had several conversations with the WaTech liaison regarding their services and while they would be beneficial the cost would have a significant budget impact. The Board agreed with the budget concern and recommended pursuing another contracted vendor.

The Board reviewed the Secretary's leave and pay records

The Board reviewed and approved (Walling moved, Smith seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered #02722 through #02785 and various travel vouchers.

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

PARTICIPANT	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE	AMOUNT
BRIAN ANDERSON	PIERCE 5	4/30/2021	4589.22 LUMP
MICHAEL BRAZIL	OKANOGAN 4	9/17/2022	211.43 J/S @63
DEAN BURT	ADAMS 1	8/28/2022	5354.09 LUMP
DAVID COLEMAN	MORTON	11/23/2022	252.00 @ 63
PAUL COZAD	LEWIS 7	5/9/2022	3482.91 LUMP @62
DOUGLAS DODSON	SPOKANE 3	9/30/2022	240.60 J/S
CHRIS ELLIS	WHITMAN 10	9/20/2022	4589.22 LUMP
JACK FOGLESONG	GRANT 3	12/31/2022	300.00
GEORGE GOMEZ	YAKIMA 5	11/1/2022	300.00
EDMUND GRADDON	MAPLE VALLEY	9/28/2021	3059.48 LUMP
GERALD HAGEN	SNOHOMISH 4	12/9/2022	105.19 J/S @61
CLIFTON HALL	SPOKANE 9	11/7/2022	290.00
CRAIG HELHELAND	CAMANO ISLAND	9/2/2022	59.50
STEVEN HESBY	SNOHOMISH 27	10/1/2022	213.20 J/S
WILLIAM HOPPER	CLALLAM 2	5/13/2022	180.00
NORMAN JOHNSON	SNOHOMISH 26	7/6/2022	3109.56 LUMP @64
DALE JORDAN	DOUGLAS 1	10/1/2022	300.00
HARRY LESLIE	OKANOGAN 11	11/1/2022	210.00
ELIZABETH MALINOFF	SAN JUAN 4	8/24/2022	202.50
TIM MCGUIRE	THURSTON 3	8/20/2014	3128.33 LUMP
MARIE MILLER	KLICKITAT 2	9/1/2022	300.00
CRAIG MUGARTEGUI	TUMWATER	9/21/2022	4589.22 LUMP
ROBERT PAUL JR	KITTITAS VALLEY	11/3/2022	157.50 @ 63
BRUCE REATHAFORD	CHELAN 1	2/17/2021	300.00
MITCHELL SIMON	GRANT 3	12/19/2022	3114.91 LUMP @63
RICK SPENCER	THURSTON 1	10/13/2020	4844.18 LUMP
WILLARD WEBSTER	KITTITAS VALLEY	10/27/2022	77.28 @64
JAMES WILSON	CHELAN 1	10/1/2022	300.00
PHILLIP ZIMMERMAN	SKAGIT 9	9/16/2022	3330.24 LUMP

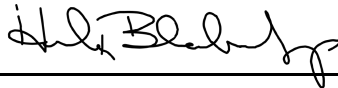
GOOD OF THE ORDER

Secretary Blankenship apologized for not adding the conversation earlier in the agenda but asked the Board to discuss and confirm the currently tentative date and location of the April Board meeting. Following discussion it was moved by Board Member Walling and seconded by Board Member VanCamp to move the meeting date to May 19th to be co-located with WSFFA Fire School at the Wenatchee Convention Center.

Board Member Walling offered his assistance to continue to the conversation with the Senators Office to try and correct the IRS definition of Bona Fide Volunteer to include Reserve Law Enforcement Officers. Secretary Blankenship will provide the background information to get those conversations going.

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

There was a motion by VanCamp, seconded by Walling, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 9:59 am.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hailey Blankenship", written over a horizontal line.

Hailey Blankenship, Executive Secretary