

HAILEY BLANKENSHIP
Executive Secretary



Martin Spani
Board Chair

STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS
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May 19, 2023

The 239th regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in the Event Hall of the Wenatchee Event Center by Chair Martin Spani, with Board Member Debora Smith, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Board Member Miland Walling, Board Member Phin Haglin and Executive Secretary Hailey Blankenship present. Also joining the meeting was guest TJ Nedrow, Dave Neff and Gerry Pettit all of WSFFA as well as Michael Harbour of OSA via Zoom.

Secretary Blankenship requested the order of Agenda item #1 of Old Business (Discussion with the State Actuaries Office) be moved to the top in consideration of Mr. Harbour's time.

The Board reviewed the January 23rd, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. It was moved by Board Member VanCamp, seconded by Board Member Haglin 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 2023 legislation. Secretary Blankenship reviewed HB 1336 which was passed and signed into law allowing the split of the current principle fund to create a separate benefits plan fund 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 laws. The effective fund split will take place in August of 2023. Secretary Blankenship is continuing to work with the Ice Miller Law Firm for the IRS submittal process. The new Plan Document and PLR submittal Document (including the removal of the RO's from the plan document) has already been drafted and is under review with an anticipated submittal to be done in early July.

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 April 2023 project status and independent quality assurance risk assessment. While the projects overall status remains yellow moderate risk highlighting budget and schedule. The project is tracking underspent currently and the procurement delays are going to move the final "go live" date into the 23-25 biennium. The project is currently in development stage and expects to begin testing in late May early June. Part this effort included data clean up which will help reduce risk during the data migration. A municipality advisory council (MAC) has been established to bring some department administrators together to get their feedback on communications and product updates. The first meeting was held to provide an early demonstration, introduction and set expectations. These meetings are expected to happen on a regular basis to assist with implementation and effective communication throughout the project.

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

Michael Harbour addressed the Board to provide and update on upcoming changes as a result of the recent legislation and the effective splitting of benefit funds. Since the tax implications and how the proportionate fund split will occur is still uncertain OSA has not been able to fully determine how the upcoming valuation will look. However, since it has been decided that WSIB will move forward with the same asset investment strategy that is currently in place they will be able to use the same investment return rate to determine the accrued liability and actuarial value of benefits. Currently OSA is working on the 2022 valuation that will be presented in October of 2023; the goal is to include in more detail reserve officer information to be able to serve as a consultant where needed in order to implement the bill and also establish an ongoing funding policy for the new RLEO plan. It is expected that in the future the reports will separately identify the plan information including assets and liabilities for both.

The Board was provided a copy of an anticipated timeline from the Washington State Investment Board outlining next steps up to the splitting of the benefits fund. As outlined, in April the new reserve office account was established within WSIB's custody bank, in June WSIB will then consider any needed revisions to the VFFRO Relief and Pension Fund Investment policy. By completing initial efforts early in July WSIB will be able provide a detailed outline to the Board and then finalize all transfer details prior to the effective split on August 1st 2023.

Secretary Blankenship provided the Board with a breakdown of the 23-25 biennial budget. The budget included the carry forward proviso for the continued work on the database replacement project as well as several maintenance and policy level adjustments. Maintenance level adjustments were focused on the central service models (other state agency cost) while policy level adjustments also included incentives to staff salaries. There were two lump benefits included, one for employee retention while the other incentivized a covid-19 booster. Also, centered around staff salaries was a general wage increase of 4% for all non-represented employees.

The Board reviewed the Secretary's leave and pay records

The Board reviewed and approved (VanCamp moved, Walling seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered #02786 through #02895 and various travel vouchers.

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

<u>PARTICIPANT</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
MICHAEL ALLISTON	SELAH	1/8/2023	143.00 J/S @64
JAMES ANDERSON	WHATCOM 7	6/20/2022	6849.62 LUMP @61
PAM ANDERSON	WAHAKIUM 3	8/25/2022	6523.45 LUMP @61
LARRY ANGER	SPOKANE 8	5/25/2022	4004.89 LUMP @63
ALAN BAIRD	YAKIMA 3	3/1/2023	250.20 J/S
TIMOTHY BALDING	EAST PIERCE	3/17/2023	211.43 J/S @63
JERRY BECKNER	FRANKLIN 2	2/6/2023	300.00
DELORES BEDILION	KITSAP 7	2/4/2020	79.80 @62
FRED BELL II	LINCOLN 5	5/24/2023	300.00
LEONARD BERNSDORF	SPOKANE 9	4/1/2023	223.44 J/S
MARC BLOSS	LINCOLN 4	12/30/2022	280.00
JOHN BOFENKAMP	PALOUSE	1/1/2018	77.00

TIM BOND	SNOHOMISH 23	2/24/2023	300.00
KENNETH BORDERS	DOUGLAS 1	10/1/2022	210.00
KENNETH BOSTICK	GOLDENDALE	9/20/2022	80.50
LARRY BREMGARTNER	LEWIS 15	9/1/2022	195.00
FRANK BREN	ADAMS 2	1/1/2023	300.00
RUSSELL BROCK	WHATCOM 1	1/29/2023	300.00
SCOTT BROGAN	STEVENS 5	1/28/2023	300.00
BYRON BROMILEY	WHITMAN 11	4/4/2023	253.20 J/S
MICHAEL BROWN	CENTRAL MASON	10/24/2022	110.40 @64
KENNETH CAMPBELL	CLARK 12	11/21/2022	253.20J/S
SCOTT CARTER	COLVILLE	3/1/2023	300.00
MARTIN CLARK	SAN JUAN 4	6/13/2017	56.00
MICHAEL CLERF	ELLENSBURG	1/3/2023	73.50
BRUCE COUSINS	LINCOLN 4	2/1/2023	300.00
JAMES COX	LEWIS 16	1/20/2023	4844.18 LUMP
LEWIS DANFORTH	RIVERSIDE FA	1/11/2023	300.00
PHILLIP DART	OKANOGAN 11	1/9/2023	300.00
RICHARD DERUITER	SKAGIT 14	8/28/2022	77.00
GEORGE DIMICH	SAN JUAN 2	8/2/2022	80.50
DANIEL DOYLE	GRAYS HARBOR 16	6/7/2022	300.00
JEFF DRUFFEL	WHITMAN 12	7/29/2022	300.00
LAURIE DUDA	FERRY 3	8/23/2022	3114.91 LUMP @63
HOWARD EDWARDS	COWLITZ 3	4/15/2022	3482.91 LUMP @62
JOHN EDWARDS	HARTLINE	3/12/2023	211.43 J/S @63
STEVEN EVANS	GRANT 3	2/1/2023	300.00
DENNIS FENSTERMAKER	DARRINGTON 24	8/1/2022	300.00
LAUREEN FORBIS	MASON 16	7/30/2022	52.36 @61
AL FORTIER	GRANT 3	2/3/2023	180.00
THOMAS FREEMAN	GRANT 11	1/1/2023	253.20 J/S
DUANE GETTYS	COLVILLE	10/30/2022	4589.22 LUMP
CHESTER GRIFFITH	SKAGIT 8	5/2/2023	300.00
DENNIS GROAT	CLARK 12	9/10/2022	300.00
FRANK GUZMAN	KLICKITAT 7	3/8/2023	270.00
BOBBETTE HALTERMAN	SKAGIT 8	11/10/2022	3824.35 LUMP
RODNEY HEIMBIGNER	SPOKANE 5	12/7/2022	270.00
DAVID HOPKINS	WHITMAN 6	7/1/2022	165.00
DAN HUFF	CLALLAM 2	1/1/2021	300.00
JEFF HUGHES	SKAGIT 3	2/22/2023	300.00
BILL HUNSAKER	WHITE SALMON	12/3/2022	300.00
JOHN HUNT	ADAMS 1	12/2/2022	276.00 @64
KENT HUNTINGTON	THURSTON 9	12/10/2022	230.00
WENDY JARCHOW	SPOKANE 3	10/25/2022	187.50
JERRY JASMAN	GRANT 5	11/7/2022	197.32 J/S @63
RYAN JOHNSON	SKAGIT 3	5/23/2023	172.50
CLIFFORD JONES	BENTON 1	4/12/2023	195.00
MICHAEL JONES	SPOKANE 11	3/2/2023	73.50
EMMIE JORDON	BENTON 1	12/16/2022	187.50
KELLY KINZER	ASOTIN 1	11/17/2022	250.20 J/S
RICK KOELZER	FRANKLIN 4	2/7/2023	175.14 J/S
RICHLEY KOWSKY	WHATCOM 10	3/8/2023	4844.18 LUMP
FRANCIS KURKOWSKI	ADAMS 2	2/1/2012	300.00
STEVE LADWIG	ALMIRA	7/11/2022	4334.27 LUMP
GAIL LARSON	WHITMAN 6	12/13/2022	105.00
MIKE LARSON	ARLINGTON	9/5/2022	300.00

MIKE LASHAW	SPOKANE 11	11/8/2022	300.00
BERNT LEHN	WHITMAN 10	3/16/2023	300.00
STEVE LESLIE	OKANOGAN 11	1/1/2023	240.00
RICHARD LONG	COL. WALLA WALLA 2	1/1/2023	247.50 J/S
KEITH LUDINGTON	WHITMAN 7	4/8/2023	300.00
DANIEL LUNDY	STEVENS 5	1/2/2023	3587.96 LUMP @64
DAVID MARGESON	SKAGIT 17	12/1/2022	77.00
PAUL MARTHE	GRAYS HARBOR 15	11/7/2021	248.70 J/S
DENISE MARX	KITSAP 18	4/9/2023	276.00 @64
MONTY MATTSON	GRAYS HARBOR 2	4/1/2023	300.00
ANDREW MATUSIK	SPOKANE 10	12/1/2022	6095.10 LUMP @62
MATT MCDANIEL	N. WHATCOM F&R	3/6/2023	2982.15 LUMP @61
BRIAN MELLERGAARD	KITTITAS VALLEY	1/1/2023	300.00
MICHAEL METCALF	SPOKANE 8	1/1/2022	2533.56 LUMP
KEVIN MOHAN	KITTITAS VALLEY	1/1/2023	300.00
DONALD MONGER	MASON 13	11/10/2022	6431.65 LUMP @60
KENNETH MOREFIELD	THURSTON 9	2/1/2023	66.50
GARY MULLENDORE	DOUGLAS 1	10/31/2022	4334.27 LUMP
WILLIAM MYERS	OKANOGAN 11	1/1/2023	80.50
BARRY ORTH	BENTON 2	5/10/2022	6197.27 LUMP @61
GARY OWENS	SKAGIT 10	8/18/2022	300.00
ARTHUR PATTERSON	WHATCOM 14	11/27/2022	210.00
MICHAEL PETEK	SNOHOMISH 14	4/11/2023	3824.35 LUMP
MITCHELL PHILLIPS	ADAMS 2	8/6/2021	77.00
STEPHEN PHILLIPS	SNOHOMISH 4	6/26/2022	66.50
WAYNE PLESHA	ROSLYN	6/28/2022	80.50
GENE PYKE	KLICKITAT 13	12/27/2021	70.00
CHESTER RENSKERS	N. WHATCOM	10/20/2022	80.50
DAVID REYNOLDS	GRANT 3	11/24/2022	300.00
RALPH RISE	OKANOGAN 2	2/15/2023	240.00
NANCY ROBINSON	SPOKANE 3	1/1/2023	300.00
WARREN RUST	CLARK 3	11/29/2022	84.00
THOMAS RYAN	MASON 4	3/31/2023	87.50
TERRY SALO	STEVENS 9	9/12/2022	300.00
MERLIN SCACCO	COLVILLE	1/17/2023	4844.18 LUMP
WILLIAM SCHANZENBACH	CHEWELAH	1/13/2023	4844.18 LUMP
MICHAEL SCHELL	EAST PIERCE	8/4/2022	162.00 J/S
ALAN SEE	PACIFIC 4	7/4/2022	212.50 J/S
DOUGLAS SHIELDS	SKAMANIA 1	2/14/2023	300.00
RONALD SMITH	THURSTON 17	4/1/2023	77.00
LAWRENCE SPOOR	SOUTH BEND	1/1/2023	174.71 J/S @64
JOHN STEELE	STEVENS 2	3/1/2023	300.00
JAMES STUCKY	GRANT 13	11/14/2022	300.00
STEPHEN SWEM	GRANT 13	11/14/2022	8300.00
MARK SWENSON	SOUTH WHATCOM	9/25/2022	170.10 @63
MARK SYRIA	WENATCHEE POLICE	9/26/2022	67.94 J/S
THOMAS TRIPP	COLVILLE	8/28/2022	251.70 J/S
DAVE UPDIKE	WHATCOM 4	11/7/2022	4079.31 LUMP
ANTONIUS VERHULST	CLALLAM 6	3/4/2023	300.00
RON WALDRON	FRANKLIN 4	12/14/2022	S180.00
KATHLEEN WARREN	OKANOGAN 3	2/1/2023	255.00 SURV
MONICA WATCHIE	PIERCE 13	11/1/2022	276.00 @64
MICHAEL WEBSTER	DOUGLAS OK. 15	1/27/2023	300.00

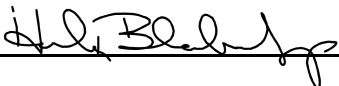
DANIEL WEISSER	COWLITZ 1	2/7/2023	202.50
JOCELYN WHIDDEN	CLALLAM 6	2/25/2023	287.50
DONALD WHITEHEAD	CLALLAM 1	3/23/2022	300.00
RONALD WILLEY	WHITMAN 7	4/2/2023	300.00
MARK WILLIAMS	YAKIMA 1	11/25/2022	241.80 J/S
BRADLEY WILLS	ADAMS 2	4/23/2022	300.00
DANIEL WITT	RIVERSIDE FA	7/9/2022	4079.31 LUMP
ROBERT YOUNG	LYNWOOD POLICE	9/26/2018	4079.31 LUMP
JOHN ZESIGER	OROVILLE	11/9/2022	300.00
FORREST ZAHN	DOUGLAS OK 15	12/5/2022	260.00
EDWARD ZURCHER	FRANKLIN 4	1/10/2023	2599.50 SURV LUMP

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dave Neff addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to co-locate the meeting with their conference. This year marks 100 years for the Washington State FireFighters Association and in celebration he presented each of the Board members with a commemorative coin. Dave also introduced Gerry Pettit as the new WSFFA president.

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

There was a motion by Haglin, seconded by VanCamp, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 am.



Hailey Blankenship, Executive Secretary