

HAILEY BLANKENSHIP
Executive Secretary



Martin Spani
Board Chair

STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS
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January 22, 2024

The 242nd regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite 206 of the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Martin Spani, with Board Member Debora Smith, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Board Member Miland Walling and Executive Secretary Hailey Blankenship, Board Member Haglin joined via Teams. Also present were Dave Neff and Andrew Schaffran of the Washington State Firefighters Association

There were no corrections to the agenda.

The Board reviewed the October 23, 2023 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 an update on the database project. There was an original implementation date scheduled for January 1, 2024; however development delays have pushed implementation of line of business to March 29th with the municipality portal and payroll to follow in the summer and fall of 2024. Currently, BVFF staff are continuing data clean up and are beginning the testing of the validation environment with BVFF data migrated into Pension Pro+. The project is holding at a moderate risk due to budget and implementation delays that have occurred. In addition to BVFF staff, Linea has three individuals assisting with product testing. We will have a system demonstration available during the April meeting.

The private letter ruling requesting status change to a Length of Service Award Plan (457 (e)) under IRS law has been submitted and it has been under review for approximately four months. During the previous review they provided an approximate review time of six months to two years. We are hopeful, since it is a secondary review it will be on the shorter end of that time period.

Secretary Blankenship provided the Board with a review of the PTSD claim for Gregory Laycock. A PPD award was approved during the October Board meeting. Mr. Laycock denied the PPD award and is appealing the denial of long term disability benefits under BVFF. He was granted Long Term Disability through the Social Security Administration. Secretary Blankenship is working with the Assistant Attorney General to request additional medical records to re-review his claim.

NEW BUSINESS

Andrew Schaffran and Dave Neff, both of the Washington Firefighters Association joined the conversation to discuss presumptive disease benefits for volunteer firefighters. After a multitude of phone calls in regards to the recent cancer diagnosis of a volunteer turned career firefighter and the lack of benefits available for similar cases the legislature is moving into action. There is a proviso proposed in the amount of fifty thousand dollars for the department of commerce to complete a study on data sources for presumptive disease cases for volunteer firefighters. BVFF and WSFFA looked into how other states approach the topic and eight of the eighteen states that have benefits run them through their state's workers compensation programs. The proposed study will determine the potential data sources and where funds should and could come from to cover the benefits.

Secretary Blankenship also discussed with the Board another budget item that was proposed by OFM to spend twenty thousand on small agency IT services. While Secretary Blankenship had previously elected to not enroll in these services because of a higher cost, this proposed proviso amount will allow for enrollment and staff will have the needed desktop support.

The Board reviewed the Secretary's leave and pay records

The Board reviewed and approved (Walling moved, Smith seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered #03020 through #03088 and various travel vouchers.

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

PARTICIPANT	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE	AMOUNT
SAM AROLA	CLARK 10	1/1/2023	300.00
ALBERT BURROWS	COSMOPOLIS	11/21/2023	225.00
RICHARD CARTER	SAN JUAN 4	8/27/2023	253.20 J/S
CHARLES CATO	PEND OREILLE 2	10/1/2023	251.70 J/S
ROGER DEBRUIN	WHATCOM 14	9/1/2023	251.70 J/S
LEE DRUFFEL	WHITMAN 12	8/14/2023	253.20 J/S
DANA (JAMES) EGBERTDOUGLAS 3		5/5/2023	7118.55 SURV
JOHNNIE ENGELSON	PACIFIC 4	9/23/2017	300.00
RAYMOND ENSLEY	SKAGIT 10	10/24/2023	300.00
CRAIG GINNETT	MOUNT VERNON	6/29/2021	80.50
PETER GREENSTREET	KING 45	1/18/2022	70.00
DEREK HARNDEN	S. BEACH RFA	10/17/2023	247.50 J/S
RICHARD HAYS JR	ASOTIN 1	10/12/2023	300.00
MARK HEHN	N COUNTY RFA	7/19/2023	144.36 J/S
BILL HOLLIBAUGH	WHATCOM 14	1/7/2023	125.08 J/S @62
DUANE HUBBARD	GRANT 3	9/22/2023	300.00
JEFFREY JONES	OKANOGAN 6	10/19/2023	300.00
RICHARD JUSTICE	LEWIS 16	1/1/2023	187.50
TIM KEYES	KLICKITAT 5	1/1/2023	70.00
KEITH LANGHORN	N MASON RFA	11/30/2023	300.00
RUSSELL LARSON	LEWIS 15	9/1/2023	276.00 @64
GALE LINGLE	CLARK COWLITZ	8/8/2021	4589.22 LUMP
JAMES MACOMBER	E GRAYS HARBOR	9/20/2023	55.86 @62
JOSEPH MADSEN	CHENEY	7/25/2023	172.50
STEVE MONROE	JEFFERSON 2	4/7/2019	6523.45 LUMP @61
FRANK MUELLER	N WHIDBEY F&R	8/6/2023	248.70 J/S
THOMAS MUSKTHEL	WALLA WALLA 4	10/22/2023	217.50

KEVIN OVERLAND	PIERCE 5	6/29/2023	4079.31 LUMP
DAVID PEARSON	BENTON 5	8/31/2023	250.00
FRED PRITCHARD	SAKGIT 10	6/28/2023	212.69 J/S @63
MARK PRITCHARD	CONCONULLY	8/12/2023	4004.89 LUMP @63
CARLA RAILSBACK	CONCONULLY	9/1/2023	4004.89 LUMP @63
TIMOTHY REANDEAU	PORT TOWNSEND	10/8/2023	255.00 J/S
TRACY RHETT	STEVENS 1	8/7/2022	4334.27 LUMP
WILLIAM RINDAL	SKAGIT 3	8/31/2023	300.00
ELLIOT ROLAND	PIERCE 8	10/23/2023	228.00 @62
TIMOTHY RYBKA	WHATCOM 7	5/1/2023	77.00
STEPHEN SNYDER	SKAGIT 2	8/1/2023	261.00 J/S
FRED ST HILAIRE	YAKIMA 5	4/5/2023	84.00
BARRY STOKKE	PIERCE 5	5/27/2023	77.00
CHRISTINA VANDERHOOF	THURSTON 16	11/17/2023	195.00
JAMES WELCH	SNOHOMISH 21	7/17/2023	251.70 J/S
NANCY WHITE	SKAGIT 17	6/16/2023	258.00 J/S
JEROME WHITMAN	ADAMS 6	10/1/2023	300.00
DENNIS WILDE	KLICKITAT 9	/20/2023	2884.51 LUMP
STEPHEN WOOD	SNO. PASS F&R	7/1/2023	300.00
RICHARD WOODALL	YAKIMA 1	9/10/2023	246.00 J/S
STEVEN WOODSTER	LEWIS 16	4/21/2023	251.70 J/S

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The next meeting is schedule for April 22, 2024

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None

There was a motion by VanCamp, seconded by Walling, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 am.

Hailey Blankenship

Hailey Blankenship, Executive Secretary