

HAILEY BLANKENSHIP
Executive Secretary



Martin Spani
Board Chair

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

The 244th 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 Miland Walling and Executive Secretary Hailey Blankenship, Board Member Haglin joined via Teams. Also present via Teams, Michael Harbour and Kevin Lee of the Office of the State Actuary.

It was request that Michael Harbour and Kevin Lee be able to address the Board prior to old business items.

The Board reviewed the April 22, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. It was moved by Board Member Walling, 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. While early delays and development changes pushed the implementation back to a three phased approach beginning in May of 2024, the first phase, Line of Business, for use by BVFF staff was implemented and is now the system of record as of May 28th. This portion of the system completely replaces the use of the previous Microsoft Access Database. The municipality portal will be implemented in July of 2024 followed by the Payroll piece in November of 2024. Currently, BVFF staff members are continuing to update their processes and post the remittances that were submitted and not posted in access. In addition, Secretary Blankenship and Julie continue to complete the final days of user acceptance testing for the municipality portal.

As reviewed at the April Board meeting the IRS provided their verification of the VFFRO plan status and positive review allowing BVFF to implement the benefit changes that were passed through legislation in 2020. Staff is continuing to manually recalculate monthly beneficiary records along with the payroll system. It is expected to be completed by the end September.

Secretary Blankenship updated the Board on the Allan Basso LODD benefit appeal. The appeal had been tabled after the opposing council requested records from a federal benefit that was awarded. Those records have since been provided and BVFF is waiting on a copy for their review. If the current denial is upheld a hearing with the Board will be scheduled. If it is reversed no further action will be required.

Secretary Blankenship updated on the Board on the tabled appeal for Gregory Laycock and his appeal to not receive long term disability benefits and his decision to not accept the permanent partial disability award that was approved and offered. Staff is still waiting to receive medical records for a secondary review.

NEW BUSINESS

Michael Harbour and Kevin Lee with the Office of the State Actuary presented to the Board. Through their presentation they discussed the funding for EMSD's and RLEO's and how their contributions are determined. This led into the discussion of the funding methodology and approach used and different funding sources. Ninety percent of BVFF funding is received from the Fire Insurance Premium tax, nine percent is from firefighter fees and the remaining one percent is received from reserve law enforcement officer fees. Michael reviewed what an Actuarial Funding Method is. Noting that in the 2000's, Entry Age Normal (EAN) was used for pension funding and Pay-as-you-go was used for Relief funding. In 2010 there was a transition to aggregate method for Relief with pension being prioritized and remaining funds being applied for relief benefits. After a 2020 audit of OSA's methodologies a decision needs to be made to update the methodologies used for BVFF's funding methods. There is a recommendation to transition to the Entry Age Normal methods for EMSDs as well as Reserve Law Enforcement Officers assuming their fund will still receive a percentage of the Fire Insurance Premium Tax each year. It is expected that the Board will make a decision at the October Board meeting at the October Board meeting. It will also be discussed and decided at the October meeting if fees paid by RLEOs and EMSD will continue to be set annually or move to a biennial time frame.

Secretary Blankenship provided the Board with an overview of items to be included in the 2025 legislative session. A supplemental budget request would be submitted for the funds to complete the database project change orders. The 25-27 biennial budget requests would include a request for the increased maintenance and operations cost and in a combination request with WaTech, a request for small agency IT supports funding.

The Board reviewed the Secretary's leave and pay records

The Board reviewed and approved (Smith moved, Haglin seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered #03179 through #03236 and various travel vouchers.

There was a motion by Haglin 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
Timothy Albers	Snohomish 5	7/23/2021	91.00
David Allenbaugh	South Cle Elum	5/17/2024	322.00
Daillene Argo	Carbonado	2/26/2023	350.00 @64
Thomas Argo	Carbonado	2/19/2024	293.65 J/S
Dale Bailey	Whatcom 7	4/26/2024	85.16 J/S
Bryant Bezdicek	Whitman 5	6/22/2024	91.00
Randy Billick	Kitsap 12	4/26/2024	87.50
Douglas Bishop	Pierce 18	10/20/2023	2839.95 LUMP @ 60
Jim Boaz	Skamania 3	3/25/2024	165.90 J/S
DeWayne Bradley	Chelan 3	3/18/2024	350.00
Gerald Brown	Pierce 18	2/1/2024	187.40 J/S
Gary Christensen	Grant 10	3/1/2024	350.00
Kenneth Colombo	Riverside FA	4/4/2024	167.87 J/S
William Crippen	Clallam 1	6/13/2022	350.00
Peggy Daling	Douglas 1	1/1/2024	6431.65 LUMP @60
Dale Dawson	East Co. F&R	5/21/2024	247.50
Mike Dennis	Electric City	5/28/2024	350.00
Duane Desrosier	Snohomish 17	2/7/2024	80.50 @64

Mike Desrosier	Snohomish 17	2/15/2023	84.00
Colleen Deveraux	King 47	1/1/2023	350.00
Alan Disotell	Medical Lake Police	5/22/2022	4589.22 LUMP
Kimberly Farmer	King 50	4/6/2024	350.00
Christina Ferrell	Malden	1/1/2024	182.40 @62
Brian Finkbeiner	Odessa	4/25/2024	350.00
Jeff Francis	Skagit 12	3/31/2024	98.00
Martin Grote	Mason 6	1/1/2023	4192.78 LUMP
Daniel Gunkel	Klickitat 7	1/1/2023	285.25 J/S
Cynthia Harris	Columbia 1	6/6/2024	350.00
David Herrington	E. Jefferson F&R	12/26/2021	94.50
Dale Hille	Ephrata	4/5/2024	350.00
Bradley Hodges	Stevens 4	4/3/2021	87.50
Gary Hooker	Whatcom 7	2/9/2024	360.00
Jack Hughes	Oroville	3/4/2023	277.90 J/S
Ollie Hurley	Farmington	6/20/2024	202.50
James Jespersen	Wahkiakum 1	5/20/2023	247.50
Donald Johnson	Okanogan 4	3/12/2024	350.00
Gary Johnson	Kittitas Valley	3/1/2024	232.50
Ronald Johnson	Klickitat 2	1/1/2022	350.00
Michael Kmet	Skagit 12	2/1/2024	225.00
Marvin Knudson	Arlington	4/2/2021	87.50
Brian Koelzer	Franklin 4	6/6/2024	260.00
Terry Kurtzbein	E. Jefferson F&R	6/11/2024	350.00
Michael Kytta	Lewis 13	3/7/2024	297.50 J/S
Kenneth Lamb	Douglas 2	2/21/2024	195.30@63
Mike Laplant	Grant 5	4/1/2024	350.00
William Lawson	Douglas 15	1/18/2024	294.00@63
Catherine Linn	West Thurston	2/1/2024	360.00
Bryan Linse	Yakima 1	1/1/2024	287.00 J/S
Carlos Lopez	Bridgeport	11/1/2023	173.40@61
Craig Lutz	Snohomish 21	2/15/2024	197.63
Roger Mansur	Cowlitz 6	10/5/2022	274.05 J/S
Bradley Marcus	Adams 4	5/28/2023	350.00
Randy Martin	Skagit 19	4/7/2020	280.00
Susan McClintock	Benton 6	12/1/2023	105.00
Mike McKenzie	Adams 7	5/17/2024	287.00 J/S
Kevin Medaska	Lynnwood	11/6/2020	87.50
George Moon	Benton 5	1/1/2024	350.00
Noel Morley	Pacific 1	5/15/2021	4844.18 LUMP
Brian Murril	Snohomish 26	2/14/2022	232.50
Rick Nauman	Stanwood	8/5/2023	87.50
Roger Nelson	Yakima 5	4/7/2024	350.00
Maria Nutt	San Juan 2	4/26/2024	360.00
Paul Ostrand	Clark Cowlitz F&R	8/24/2023	301.00 J/S
Tim Pilz	Lewis 16	8/25/2023	350.00
Gordon Polinkus	Whatcom 4	12/12/2023	94.50
Alan Quigley	Clallam 1	1/19/2024	350.00
Anthony Ramirez	Thurston 6	4/4/2024	98.00
Dan Roseburg	Grant 5	1/1/2018	260.00
Leonard Sanders	Electric City	4/20/2024	350.00
Gerald Sands	Grand Coulee	1/1/2024	232.50
Gary Sayers	Benton 4	4/27/2023	3824.35 LUMP
Rick Scharff	Spokane 10	7/24/2021	160.00
Rick Schaaf	S. Pend Oreille	2/13/2023	3824.35 LUMP
Katheryn Seymour	E. Pierce F&R	4/25/2024	225.00

David Shideler	Port Angeles	5/10/2024	350.00
Gregory Smith	Central Kitsap	3/30/2024	270.00
David Stephenson	Long Beach	11/25/2023	225.00
Robert Stevens	King 45	11/25/2023	69.16 @62
Les Stokes	Okanogan 6	11/5/2023	255.75 J/S
Rebecca Stokoe	Coulee City	12/28/2023	5736.53 LUMP@62
Stephen Stout	Skagit 10	3/27/2024	350.00
Thomas Thielen	Pasco Police	2/9/2024	238.00 @61
Valerie Turner	Columbia 3	2/19/2024	350.00
Donald Visser	Whatcom 18	3/5/2024	350.00
Cynthia Walters	Spokane 10	5/3/2024	262.50
James Wascisin	Whatcom 7	3/13/2024	297.50 J/S
Dennis Waters	Walla Walla 5	11/4/2018	290.00
Douglas Weimerskirch	Douglas 5	7/7/2024	91.00
Craig Wemp	Lynden	5/17/2024	91.00
David White	Wahkiakum 3	4/2/2024	217.50
Richard Wilkie	Ferry/Ok	5/5/2023	80.50
Rick Wood	Lewis 8	1/28/2024	290.15 J/S

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The next meeting date is October 21, 2024. There still have not been any applicants for the open board seats.

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None

There was a motion by Walling, seconded by Smith, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:35 am.

Hailey Blankenship
Hailey Blankenship, Executive Secretary