



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

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April 19, 2013

The 235<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 1:00 P.M. in Suite #112 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Jay Hughes, Board Member Mark Watenpaugh, Board Member Miland Walling, Board Member Martin Spani, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Assistant Attorney General Tsering Kheyap, Pension and Payroll Specialist Irene Keiffer, Claims Analyst Julie Foreman, Office Assistant Kaylene Hennigar, and Executive Secretary Brigitte Smith present.

The Board reviewed the January 18, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes. It was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that the minutes be approved with a correction to the name "Spani" in the approval of the retirements section.

### FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No public was present.

### OLD BUSINESS

The Board went into executive session from 1:05 to 1:18 to discuss litigation.

Secretary Smith updated the Board on current legislation. For all practical purposes, HB 1120 regarding chaplains was dead for the year because it did not pass out of committee. SHB 1180 was still alive, and had been passed out of both the House and the Senate. Unfortunately, there was a last minute amendment to the bill in the house that struck the automatic COLA. So, while the LODD benefit would increase for the firefighters, they would begin behind the career staff because their LODD would grow every year, but the volunteer's would remain the same. It was decided amongst the fire service organizations to not fight the change this year so that we could at least have an increase and create sibling parity, and they could try to re-energize and go after the COLA in the next session. Bills involving the BVFF budget have held no surprises. There are the usual cut-backs, but nothing that the staff can't budget through.

Secretary Smith updated the Board regarding the James Ballif case. There have been no major changes in the case except that the courts did issue a restitution order for the assailant in the case.

Secretary Smith informed the Board that the majority of the Long Beach Investigation was complete and that the findings and recommendations have been issued. She will continue to work with the department to make adjustments to records when, and if, more documentation is found.

Secretary Smith discussed the Appeals WAC that was developed a few years ago. While it was developed, and much of the initial work and filing had been completed, the work was placed on hold because Governor Gregoire had issued a moratorium on all new WAC development. Now that there is no longer a moratorium, and because it is likely that there will be more appeals than usually coming up as a result of the Long Beach Investigation, Secretary Smith and Assistant Attorney General Tsering Kheyap thought it would be a good idea to re-start the process. It was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that Secretary Smith and Assistant Attorney General Tsering Kheyap be directed to research the process and try to schedule a hearing in conjunction with the July Board Meeting, if at all possible.

### NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed Pension Participation Exemptions submitted since the last meeting. It was moved by Spani, seconded by VanCamp, and carried, that the following members be granted an exemption:

- Jarrod Powell, Burlington Fire, for the period of 10/1/12 through 12/31/12
- Kenneth D. Williams, Lewis Co. FPD #2, for the period of 2/1/13 through 4/30/13
- John Henterly, Lakewood Police Department, for the period of 9/1/12 through 12/31/12

The Board reviewed Secretary Smith's leave and pay records. Secretary Smith asked the Board if she could take a month's vacation leave in July of 2014. The Board approved the leave and would adjust the July's Board Meeting when scheduling the 2014 meeting dates in October.

The Board reviewed and approved (Watenpaugh moved, VanCamp seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered (00249 through 00300) and various travel vouchers.

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

		<u>Effective</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ahart, Paul	San Juan #3	5/29/11	59.50
Anderson, Donald	Whatcom #1	2/16/13	252.00 @ age 63
Arbeiter, Phillip R.	Clallam #1	12/30/12 J/S	246.90
Archibald, Mike	Skamania #4	6/24/11	3,128.33 Lump
Barnhill, Clifford	Chelan #9	2/5/13	180.00
Beisel, Robert W.	Grant #4	5/9/11 J/S	152.25
Bell, Joyce	Whitman #8	1/1/13	290.00
Benjamin, Betty	Cle Elum	1/21/13	4,090.89 Lump
Betten, Dora (Steven)	Klickitat #9	11/1/12 SURV	2,214.96 Lump
Blocher, Paul Scott	Tumwater	3/24/13	300.00
Bond, John M.	Kent	8/2/11 J/S	104.93
Boots, John G.	Spokane #3	11/23/12	4,090.89 Lump
Bridgeford, Jr., Emory	Oak Harbor	6/9/12	3,311.50 Lump
Broscheit, Howard	East County	4/13/13	189.00 @ age 63
Brownell, Kenneth	Thurston #12	12/18/12	1,860.95 Lump
Child, James	Spokane #3	8/14/10 J/S	120.89
Claassen, Gene	Grant #5	12/11/12	300.00
Cogar, John	Brewster	11/21/12 J/S	172.83
Cosner, Louis	Klickitat #5	5/10/11 J/S	248.70
Crosby, Stanley	Issaquah	8/3/12	300.00
Currie, Merwin	Spokane #3	1/1/13	210.00
Dekoker, Maria	Lewis #6	2/25/13	187.50
Dickson, George	Mason #3	5/12/13	172.50 @ age 64
Dobbyn, Ed	Mercer Island	3/24/11	66.50
Doumit, J. Phillip	Cathlamet	2/10/03	70.00
Evans, Harry	King #39	3/29/08	3,960.70 Lump
Goodpaster, Jim	Mason #1	1/1/13 J/S	250.50
Green, Patrick	Vashon Island	8/16/11	2,165.77 Lump
Hanson, Gary	Lincoln #7	3/1/13	73.50
Guinn, Robert (Linda)	Klickitat #8	4/13/12 SURV	125.32
Haase, James	Adams #2	1/1/13	142.50 @ age 62
Hamilton, Geraldine	Lincoln #4	10/1/12	300.00
Harmony, David	Whatcom #11	12/27/12	172.83
Hatcher, Terry	Eatonville	1/25/13	58.52 @ age 62
Hayes, Thomas	San Juan #4	10/25/12 J/S	57.04
Hill, Bradley	North Bonneville	1/23/11	6,144.64 Lump
Hill, Michael	Pierce #23	1/1/13	195.00

Hodel, John	Pacific #3	6/2/12 J/S	187.64 @ age 62
Hoeye, Keith	Snohomish #18	3/15/13	70.00
Hughey, Dale	West Thurston	9/3/11	105.00
Jacobs, Kurt	San Juan #4	7/19/12	127.50
Johnston, Lloyd	Clallam #1	2/3/13 J/S	245.40
Kana, Doreen	San Juan #4	1/1/13	3,376.40 Lump
Kirk, Jr., John	Douglas/Okan #15	10/12/11	84.00
Klemmer, Donald	Adams #2	1/1/13	300.00
Kuck, Gary	Spokane #9	3/22/13 J/S	245.40
Locati, Richard	Walla Walla #4	3/25/13	300.00
Lund, Philo	San Juan #2	12/16/12	5,865.34 Lump
Macrae, Ian	King #27	10/20/12	77.00
Mankus, Gary	Kittitas #7	9/14/12	159.60 @ age 62
Marlow, Deborah (Bradley)	Spokane #11	11/29/12 SURV	70.03
Martin, Richard	Pomeroy	1/17/13	300.00
McGee, Allen	Clallam #4	3/1/13 J/S	242.10
McLean, Carl	Yakima #1	1/15/13	5,895.70 Lump
Meinzinger, Carl	Skagit #17	3/13/13	137.70 @ age 61
Merdian, Myra	Pierce #21	11/29/11 J/S	153.38
Messmer, James	Mason #17	3/18/13 J/S	248.70
Miller, Ernest	Colfax	3/11/13	2,713.22 Lump
Minnitti, Bart	Fircrest	12/3/12	3,701.09 Lump
Moffett, Gary	Snohomish #25	10/26/12	228.00 @ age 62
Morrison, Dan	Klickitat #7	10/20/11	202.50
Oostra, Kenneth	Whatcom #3	11/15/50 J/S	114.14 @ age 62
Owen, John	Benton #1	9/4/11	73.50
Patterson, Charles	Whatcom #14	2/5/13	300.00
Peterson, Gary	Almira	6/26/11 SURV	4,487.95 Lump
Peterson, Thomas	Whatcom #10	12/1/12 J/S	138.04
Poole, H. Thomas	Douglas #5	11/16/11 J/S	246.90
Reiber, Leroy	Okanogan #6	2/1/13 J/S	248.70
Rickard, Wayne	Spokane #4	3/30/13	228.00 @ age 62
Robinson, Gennes	Riverside FA	1/13/13	4,331.53 Lump
Roche, Guy	Kitsap #2	12/8/12	300.00
Rutgers, Dale	No. Whatcom	4/26/13 J/S	243.60
Salkeld, Douglas	Whatcom #16	2/1/13 J/S	232.80
Sandstrom, Donald	Kitsap #7	3/7/13	300.00
Sanford, George	Douglas #3	11/27/12	3,609.61 Lump
Sarkinen, Roger	Clark #3	2/21/13 J/S	242.10
Schroeder, Kenneth	Whatcom #13	8/10/11	300.00
Schut, Merlin	Union Gap	1/10/11	70.00
Sheehy, Carl	Electric City	12/4/13 J/S	250.50
Singleton, Ronda	Spokane #4	1/9/13	228.00 @ age 62
Steinbach, Kurt	Jefferson #1	2/5/13	142.50 @ age 62
Skill, Brent	Skamanla #4	6/6/11	56.00
Steinmetz, Richard	Pierce #12	7/12/11	148.20 @ age 62
Stevens, Gary	King #10	8/9/11	6,144.64 Lump
Tensfeld, William	Spokane #12	1/1/13 J/S	243.60
Thibert, Ludy (Merrill)	Skagit #13	6/21/06 SURV	120.06
Tillett, Russell	Yakima #1	3/8/13	228.00 @ age 62
Turner, James	Grant #5	10/6/12 J/S	243.60
Van Dyk, Thomas	Whatcom #14	1/20/13	70.00
Van Dyken, Paul	No. Whatcom	2/5/13	276.00 @ age 64
Van Hook, David	Clarkston	6/8/12	4,572.18 Lump
Victor, Edward	Adams #4	12/13/12	300.00
Walter, James	Klickitat #7	4/1/13	186.30 @ age 64
Wege, James	Thurston #6	1/11/13	300.00

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Secretary Smith shared an article published in the Seattle Times regarding Washington's pension systems and their funding status. The article pointed out that many experts believe that public pension systems are valuing the rate of stock market returns too high, resulting in an inability to pay out the promised benefits, making the systems unfunded. Secretary Smith pointed out to a section in the article where it said that all Washington State retirement systems, except one, have adopted a rate of return of 7.9%. Experts have urged to use a more realistic rate and lowering the expected rate of return to at least 7.5%. As far as the one pension system that has the lower rate of return that is in line with what the experts are recommending...it's the BVFF. Secretary Smith stated that the Board made the policy decision to lower their expected rate of return a couple of years ago when they saw the stock market crash and the slow economic recovery. Because of the Board's foresight and planning, the BVFF fund is one of the only completely solvent retirement systems in the state.

Secretary Smith introduced Kaylene Hennigar to the Board. Kaylene has been hired as a part-time temporary office assistant to help the staff for the next six months while they work through posting the annual remittances. Kaylene Hennigar is a volunteer firefighter/EMT with Grays Harbor Fire District #5, and has experience working with the City of Elma Police Department as the Deputy Record Clerk. Secretary Smith informed the Board that this is the first time since Former Executive Secretary Joe Faubion was training her that there have been two firefighters working in the office.

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No public was present.

There was a motion by Spani, seconded by VanCamp, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



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Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary