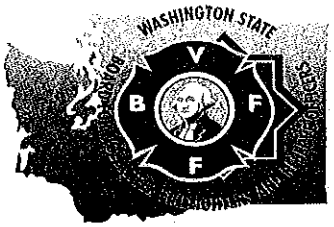
BRIGETTE K. SMITH
Executive Secretary



RONALD AYRES
Board Chair

STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

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April 17, 2009

The 218th regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #207 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Board Member Ken Boad, Board Member Jay Hughes, Board Member Mark Watenpaugh, Board Member Martin Spani, Assistant Attorney General Kyle Crews, Executive Secretary Brigette Smith, Confidential Secretary Tracy Thornburg, and Chair Ronald Ayres appearing by phone.

The Board reviewed the February 20, 2009 regular meeting minutes. It was moved by Watenpaugh, seconded by Spani and carried that the minutes be approved.

The agenda was reviewed.

FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No one asked to speak.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the CR-103 that was filed, which will make the proposed WAC effective as of July 1, 2009.

Member Ken Boad updated the Board on the first meeting of the Administrative Volunteer Committee. He felt that the meeting was really productive and a good learning experience for everyone. All the representatives present seemed anxious to work together. It was interesting to hear where all of the different organizations stood on the different issues. The first order of business seems to be trying to come to some kind of consensus on who should be included in the system and what benefits they should receive. Each representative was going to return to their respective organizations and bring back their group's recommendations at the next meeting on April 30, 2009.

Secretary Smith updated the Board on the status of the new database. While the database was originally stated to be in production the end of April, Secretary Smith stated it was behind. She is working closely with the developer and it looks like the database will now be released in two phases. The first phase should be released the beginning of June, and the second release will be the end of June. Because the project will run late, it will cost more money to extend the contracts for TSG (for project management) and Case Associates (for Quality Assurance). Since the delayed schedule is the fault of Brewer Consulting (the developer), Brewer has consented to reduce the amount they are charging to build the database so that the other two contracts can be extended and still be within our budgeted amount.

The Board reviewed an agreement that was entered into by Assistant Attorney General Kyle Crews in the case of Michael Puhan, North Whatcom Fire and Rescue. In the agreement, Firefighter Puhan was given a 19% impairment rating for the upper left extremity for an injury received on April 26, 2005 . According to the L&I charts for impairment ratings, his settlement equates to $17,616.43. It is agreed upon by all parties that this settles all outstanding issues as a result of Mr. Puhan's April 26, 2005 fire service injury.

The Board discussed the current legislative session. As of the meeting, the only bill, other than budget bills, that looked like it had a chance of passing was EHB 1547, which would increase the Line of Duty Death benefit for volunteer firefighters from $152,000 to $177,000. The last day for session is April 26, so any bills not passed by

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that date will be "dead" for the year. Of the many budget related bills that have been introduced, the three main ones currently in consideration were the Governor's budget proposal, which proposed a BVFF biennial budget of $1,059,000, the House proposed $1,062,000, and the Senate proposed $1,042,000.

At the October 17, 2008 Board meeting, the Board discussed increasing Secretary Smith's salary. While they wanted to increase it at that time, it was decided it would be better to hold off and revisit the increase at the April 2009 meeting. After discussion, the Board said that they still hoped to increase her salary, but felt that they should continue to hold off because of budget concerns. Secretary Smith stated that she was in agreement with that decision and felt it was the best for the agency. The Board requested that Secretary Smith place an item on the October 2009 agenda to revisit the idea of a wage increase and review her performance.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Smith informed the Board that the State Actuary's Office called her and offered to attend the June meeting to update the Board on what effects the recent stock market fluctuations have had, and were likely to have, on the BVFF & RO Fund. In the meantime, Chris Jasperson, Associate Pension Actuary, met informally with Secretary Smith and told her that the BVFF & RO Fund was actually doing better than anticipated. In 2008, most of the State's other retirement systems loss approximately 1.2% of their value. During that same time, the Board's return from investments was 0%. In the first quarter of 2009, the other retirements systems lost an average of 25%. The Board's loss was around 19 or 20%. There are several factors that account for the difference. First, the Board had a larger cash balance in the State Treasury. When the market crashed, the money provided a good cushion. Also, the Board adopted a longer smoothing method, which smooths the losses over a greater period of time. The change in some of the Board's assumption rates also helped. It is because of the Board's pro-active stance that the BVFF & RO system has fared better than others.

Mr. Jasperson also informed Secretary Smith that some of the mortality rates that the Actuary uses will be changing. Those rates will effect the Lump Sum retirement payments, Joint Survivor rates, and surviving spouse retirements (for early deaths NOT related to a member's duties) and the buy back costs for Reserve Officers. The Actuary's Office will calculate the changes, but Secretary Smith informed the Board that it would need to adopt any changes in the Lump Sum Calculation Tables into WAC. Finally, Mr. Jasperson inquired as to whether the Board planned to ask for Benefit Improvement Pricing this year or not. After some discussion, it was decided by the Board that they would not be asking for pricing this year. With the economy's volatility and the fluctuations in the stock market, they did not feel that it would be wise to seek any enhancements that could potentially be detrimental to the system at this time. However, they all felt very strongly that the Board should continue to monitor the economy and seek benefit enhancement as soon as it is fiscally responsible to do so.

Board Member Jay Hughes posed a question to the Board regarding the coverage of Reserve Officers while assigned to special details. Reserve Officers, who are normally volunteers, are sometimes assigned to pull paid shifts at special events such as (but not limited to) dances, concerts, fairs, sporting events, races, etc. In these cases, the event sponsors usually contract with the municipality, who then pays the office to stand-by at the event. His question was whether officers being paid to stand-by in cases such as these are still covered by the BVFF & RO. The Board discussed that EMT's often stand-by at events, and firefighters work at state mobilizations. It was moved by Ayres, seconded by Spani, and carried that Reserve Officers are covered when they work at paid stand-bys as long as they are being paid by the municipality they reserve for and so long as they do not meet the participation requirements for PERS or LEOFF. They are ineligible for coverage if they are employed/paid by an employer other than their municipality.

Secretary Smith informed the Board that she had received a request from Chief Shane Heston, Grant Co. FPD #13, that the Board reconsider its policy to investigate anonymous reports of fraud or abuse of the BVFF & RO system. He was concerned that disgruntled members could unduly burden both the BVFF Staff and the departments' staffs by lodging anonymous complaints that would, ultimately, be ruled to be unfounded. After much discussion and informal consultation with Kyle Crews, the staff's Assistant Attorney General, it was their consensus that the Board continue to investigate all complaints of potential misuse. Should the complaints received begin to overwhelm the available staff, the Board will revisit the issue.

The Board reviewed a contract entered into with Technology Solutions Group (TSG) to provide additional hours for Project Management by Secretary Smith.

The Board reviewed amended contracts for TSG, Brewer Consultants, and Case Associates to reflect the contract changes discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Board reviewed Secretary Smith's leave and pay records.

The Board reviewed and approved (Boad moved, Spani seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered (1914-1949, with number 1933 being on hold and number 1908, which was on hold from the previous meeting, also being approved) and various travel vouchers.

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

		Effective Date	Amount
Anderson, Byron	Grays Harbor #10	2/05/08	1,760.31 Lump
Anderson, Philip	Pullman	5/06/09	228.00 @ age 62
Bacus, Trudy	South Pierce	11/26/06	5,711.00 Lump
Bannon, Michael D.	Pierce #6	9/10/08 J/S	195.40 @ age 62
Bauman, Jim	Grant #12	2/20/09	70.00
Beerbower, Riley R.	Grays Harbor #5	3/13/09	73.50
Bennett, Patrick S.	Snohomish #11	11/5/08	3,300.58 Lump
Bosco, Alfred N.	Okanogan #6	7/30/07	4,235.75 Lump
Broers, Frank	Okanogan #2	9/17/08	2,420.43 Lump
Brouillette, Dean A.	Benton #1	10/1/08	3,740.66 Lump
Buckendahl, Douglas W.	Cowlitz #5	11/13/08	176.40 @ age 63
Casselman, Arlene P.	Spokane #4	1/01/09 J/S	263.40
Casselman, Derris	Spokane #4	1/01/09 J/S	258.60
Coffman, Harvey L.	Wilbur	12/10/08 J/S	211.00 @ age 63
Coleman, Douglas H.	Whatcom #7	12/16/08	3,960.70 Lump
Coleman, Richard A.	Pierce #6	9/21/07	5,838.13 Lump
Dalbey, Steve	Island #3	2/27/09	3,740.66 Lump
Dick, Jr., Maurice W.	Thurston #1	4/06/09	170.10 @ age 63
Dickerson, Michael L.	East County	1/17/09	228.00 @ age 62
Dickson, Christina	Mukilteo	11/8/08	202.50
Dickson, William	Mukilteo	1/05/09	217.50
Elwick, John L.	Skagit #16	6/28/08	3,300.58 Lump
Fish, Dale	Benton #1	2/18/09 J/S	215.96 @ age 63
Gentry, Curtis	Kitsap #7	10/26/08	228.00 @ age 62
Goodenough, Allan	Grays Harbor #10	10/26/08	1,320.23 Lump
Goucher, Charles A.	Asotin #1	9/29/08	3,371.15 Lump
Graham, Anita	Grant #5	3/01/09	187.50
Griffith, Fritz	Chelan #5	2/23/09	228.00 @ age 62
Halsch, Jack C.	Thurston #7	2/13/09 J/S	195.40 @ age 62
Harris, Bruce	Lincoln #7	2/25/09	2,755.89 Lump
Haugstad, Jerry	Stanwood	2/24/09	77.00
Hughes, Dale	Pacific #2	12/9/08	228.00 @ age 62
Jess, Earl D.	Douglas #3	8/12/08	210.00
Johnson, John H.	Grant #5	11/13/07	165.00
Klein, Dan J.	Kitttitas #1	1/15/09	77.00
Klepps, Charles R.	Clallam #1	3/04/09	276.00 @ age 64
Lewis, Gary	Central Kitsap	3/22/09	172.50
Lindal, Jeryl	Whatcom #13	10/26/46	3,371.15 Lump

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Lininger, Richard L.	South Pierce	10/11/43		3,300.58	Lump
Longfellow, Joyce	Ferry/Okanogan #14	12/24/08	SURV	109.91	
Lunstad, C. Steven	Kittitas #7	9/22/08	J/S	58.80	
Martin, Kent	Wahkiakum #2	4/25/09	J/S	253.20	
Masterson, Tad	Stevens #11	3/27/09		3,300.58	Lump
Mattix, Wanda K.	Oroville City EMSD	1/01/09	J/S	137.29	@ age 63
McClellan, Sr., Dennis	Spokane #2	4/10/09		300.00	
Mierke, Gordon	Pierce #15	8/03/08		2,200.39	Lump
Mitcham, Jr., Clarence E.	Spokane #4	1/20/09		300.00	
Moore, Douglas	Grays Harbor #8	3/08/09		202.50	
Morrison, Jr., William H.	Benton #1	9/26/08		3,740.66	Lump
Ogden, Monte B.	Colville	1/24/09		180.00	@ age 60
Paus, Steve	Skagit #17	9/22/08		3,520.62	Lump
Peterson, Terry L.	Whatcom #8	2/15/09		228.00	@ age 62
Polk, Larry D.	Snohomish #8	2/01/09		70.00	
Pollock, George	Vancouver	1/12/07	J/S	96.98	
Pruiett, Jerry L.	Whatcom #4	11/16/08	J/S	196.54	@ age 62
Rohde, Theodore K.	Spokane #3	9/27/08	J/S	125.26	@ age 62
Safford, Dave D.	Snohomish #21	4/10/09	J/S	244.20	
Scheurich, Ray S.	Cowlitz #2	2/24/09	J/S	221.51	@ age 63
Schneider, Jess G.	North Bend	9/02/08		4,180.74	Lump
Shields, Gary	Spokane #4	9/23/08		159.60	@ age 62
Short, Dennis M.	Spokane #4	2/14/09		64.68	@ age 63
Stanton, James L.	Yakima #5	1/22/09		228.00	@ age 62
Stinson, Diana R.	Jefferson #4	9/10/08		4,180.74	Lump
Sullivan, Frank E.	Island #3	10/12/08		3,960.70	Lump
Taylor, Michael	Pe Ell	4/12/09		4,180.74	Lump
Thompson, Harry	Whatcom #5	12/7/08		3,740.66	Lump
Toepelt, Donald	Lewis #16	3/05/09	J/S	205.43	@ age 62
VanHollebeke, Jerry	Franklin #2	4/01/09	J/S	263.70	
Wherry, Darwin	Lewis #1	1/21/09	J/S	192.43	@ age 62
Wherry, Dennis M.	Lewis #1	1/21/09	J/S	250.80	
Wilson, Terry E.	King #27	3/05/09		3,371.15	Lump
Wiyrick, William A.	Coulee Dam	3/10/09	J/S	252.00	
Wutke, Janita L.	Sunnyside Police	12/8/08		300.00	
Yann, Garry L.	Pend Oreille #4	1/01/09		300.00	

<u>SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC</u>

No public was present.

There was a motion by Watenpaugh, seconded by Hughes, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary

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