



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

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April 20, 2012

The 231<sup>st</sup> 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 Chair Jay Hughes, Board Member Mark Watenpaugh, Board Member Martin Spani, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Actuarial Analyst Michael Harbour, Actuarial Analyst Kyle Stineman, Pension and Payroll Specialist Irene Keiffer, and Executive Secretary Brigette Smith (appearing by phone) present. Board Member Miland Walling was excused.

The Board reviewed the January 27, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes. It was moved by VanCamp, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that the minutes be approved.

Secretary Smith asked that the Board adjust the agenda to move the executive session to the end of the agenda and to add a "Good of the Order" to the agenda.

### FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

There were no requests to speak.

### OLD BUSINESS

Secretary Smith informed the Board that there had been no progress on the WSFFA workgroup, but that she will follow up with TJ Nedrow regarding the workgroup now that session is over.

Secretary Smith reviewed the following legislation with the Board:

**Budget:** The budget passed as anticipated. The agency's administrative budget was cut \$25,000, but cuts have already been made to make up the loss, so it should not be a problem.

**SB 5365 (The Buy-Back Bill):** The bill was signed and will take effect in June. Michael Harbour will work on the actuarial cost to buy back the payments. Secretary Smith will research whether the Board will have to adopt WAC's to set the cost, or whether the Board will need to have a special meeting to adopt the fees. Once the fees are set, the office will mail out a letter explaining the change, the fees, and the procedure for buying back the payments and/or credit. Michael Harbour said that he was going to check with the Actuary's Office to see if it was possible for the Actuary to have the calculations ready by June 1<sup>st</sup> so they could be ready in time for the effective date of the legislation. Mr. Harbour and Mr. Stineman both left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Secretary Smith discussed a drafted pain management policy with the Board. She explained that the policy was drafted with input from Claims Analyst Julie Foreman. Together, they looked at the policies created by Labor and Industries, the Department of Health, and DSHS. Using these as a guideline for consistency, they made a few changes based on the uniqueness of the BVFF's members. The draft of the policy was then sent to Assistant Attorney General Kyle Crews for review. Upon his review, he noted that the draft drew a little more of a "bright line" for the BVFF constituents, but that that may be preferable. The BVFF policy also deviated from the other agencies policies because those policies stated that narcotic drugs could not be covered by the other agencies once constituents reached their Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI). Secretary Smith explained that the term "Maximum Medical Improvement" is not mentioned anywhere in RCW 41.24 and is not defined. As a result, she thought it would make more sense to state that the BVFF cannot pay for narcotic drugs once a Permanent Partial Disability Award (PPD) is granted. Once a PPD is granted, a person may continue receiving narcotic drugs, but they would be responsible for paying for them. Secretary Smith did note that a change would need to be made to the final draft on page 3. Under 7.e.i., the statement should read "Negative for the opioid(s) the physician prescribed". It was moved by Spani, seconded by VanCamp, and carried that the Pain Management Policy be adopted with the correction to page 3.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed a request from Cowlitz Co. FPD #5 to allow them to substitute their Volunteer Coordinator for the "other commissioner" on their local board of trustees to ensure that there is no chance for an open public meetings act violation since they only have a three member board of commissioners. It was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that they be allowed to make the substitution as requested.

Secretary Smith explained that Board Member Spani had asked that the Board have a discussion regarding volunteer firefighters and Regional Fire Authorities (RFA's). He has heard of some volunteers feeling displaced once an RFA is formed with a career or part-career department. Secretary Smith told the Board that Chief Dave Ralston, South Whatcom Fire Authority called her regarding this matter and he stated that his department has not seen a decline in volunteerism since the inception of the fire authority. After much discussion, the Board felt that there may be regional issues, personnel issues, and even leadership issues that play into the fluctuation of volunteers in fire authorities. Secretary Smith suggested that she dialogue with the Washington State Firefighters Association regarding the concern. Since TJ is already forming a group to look at volunteer firefighter benefits, maybe the group could expand and look into all aspects of volunteer recruitment and retention, which would include this issue. Member VanCamp also informed the Board that he was scheduled to be a part of a panel discussion regarding volunteer firefighter issues for the Fire Chief's Association the last week in May.

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

- Genessa A. Rose, King Co. FPD #27 for the period of 12/1/11 through 2/23/12
- Maureen Painter, Stevens Co. FPD #1 for the period of 3/1/12 through 5/23/12

The Board reviewed the following interagency agreement entered into by Secretary Smith:

- Department of Enterprise Services – Technology Acquisition Services for leasing the agency's computer equipment

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

The Board reviewed and approved (Walling moved, Spani seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered (000038 through 00089) and various travel vouchers.

There was a motion by Watenpaugh, seconded by VanCamp, 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>
Alverdes, Richard E.	Snohomish #16	1/1/12 J/S	237.22
Anderson, James C.	Central Mason	4/4/12	3,609.61 Lump
Atchison, Steven D.	Cashmere	1/29/12 J/S	208.91 @ age 63
Bachmann, David R.	Selah	3/20/12	180.00
Baker, Clinton L.	Douglas/Okan #15	2/19/12 J/S	92.57 @ age 62
Blumenshein, John C.	St. John	3/1/12 J/S	186.50 @ age 62
Bozarth, Michael J.	Douglas #3	3/24/10	84.00
Brachmann, Monte A.	Camas	3/3/12	180.00 @ age 60
Burgess, Larry E.	Lacrosse	2/23/12	187.50
Byrne, David	Garfield	3/28/12	112.50
Carey, Michael D.	Yakima #5	4/10/10	2,647.05 Lump
Casperson, Richard K.	Snoqualmie	3/2/12	3,506.29 Lump
Colyar, Cecil R.	Whitman #2	7/6/11 J/S	170.09 @ age 62
Cooper, William S.	Clark #10	6/30/11	3,368.97 Lump
Cox, Daniel C.	Pe Ell	3/12/12 J/S	189.01 @ age 62
Cross, William D.	Snohomish #28	1/23/12	3,850.25 Lump
Davies, Patrick M.	Snohomish #11	2/13/12	73.50

Day, David L.	Skagit #5	10/24/11	210.00
Deaton, Walter	Skagit #13	4/3/12 J/S	208.75
Dence, Jr., Erwin A.	Jefferson #2	8/24/11	5,865.34 Lump
Durrah, Walter	Wahkiakum #4	1/1/12	300.00
Edwards, David	Grays Harbor #1	2/17/12 J/S	246.90
Eelkema, Ken H.	Oak Harbor	12/4/11	180.00 @ age 60
Elder, Patrick K.	Garfield	1/21/11	114.00 @ age 60
Evavold, Tom J.	Odessa	7/30/11	300.00
Golladay, Richard L.	East County	2/23/12 J/S	222.90
Grasher, Jerry R.	Adams #5	8/15/11	276.00 @ age 64
Griffith, Russell	Chelan #8	1/1/12 J/S	245.60
Gruener, Daniel	Stevens #11	1/1/11	4,232.52 Lump
Hannon, James L.	Kitsap #2	3/30/12	300.00
Hartman, Faith A.	Clark Co. F&R	10/7/09	1,760.31 Lump
Haveman, Vern K.	Whatcom #3	11/2/11 J/S	203.36 @ age 63
Hays, Raymond L.	No. Bonneville	3/10/12	228.00 @ age 62
Heyser, Carol D.	Whatcom #14	1/29/12	4,572.18 Lump
Holford, Larry G.	Okanogan #2	1/1/12	66.50
Horst, Donald V.	Thurston #2	1/6/10	77.00
Hutsell, David D.	Mason #5	6/11/11	3,368.97 Lump
Jonson, Lowell	Skagit #15	6/14/11	4,090.89 Lump
Lemon, James C.	Colfax	4/22/10	2,887.69 Lump
Manhart, Thomas R.	Pierce #12	5/28/10 J/S	60.49
Muhleman, Robert D.	Central Kitsap	11/18/11 J/S	246.90
Nichol, Robert G.	Whatcom #1	3/6/12 J/S	245.40
Nickerson, Michael C.	Douglas/Okan #15	2/23/12 J/S	51.55 @ age 63
Ninnis, Josephine	Steilacoom	3/25/10	3,850.25 Lump
Oakes, Shirley	Stevens #1	11/20/11	2,553.62 Lump
Olson, Carol	Arlington	2/24/96 SURV	131.51
Parker, Richard	Clarkston	3/26/10	3,609.61 Lump
Pehl, Brian G.	Montesano	3/8/12	70.00
Read, Curt	Pierce Co. Sheriff	12/24/11	52.36 @ age 61
Richardson, Ben A.	Pierce #12	12/1/11	3,850.25 Lump
Rushton, Carl L.	Clallam #2	12/28/11	3,850.25 Lump
Sampson, Larry	East County	6/22/11	3,197.55 Lump
Sampson, Susan	East County	9/24/11	3,506.29 Lump
Sanchez, Nicolas	Yakima #5	2/16/12 J/S	243.60
Scheib, James	San Juan #2	1/1/12	3,165.02 Lump
Seraphinoff, Michael	Cent. Whidbey	12/2/11	3,609.61 Lump
Shannon, Jeremiah	Clallam #3	7/29/09	66.50
Sinnema, Lynn H.	King #10	1/14/12	3,850.25 Lump
Skillman, Sr., Robert	Thurston #13	9/6/90	1,697.62 Lump
Skillman, Stuart	Skagit #12	2/28/10	3,609.61 Lump
Smith, Richard	College Place	11/5/11	3,609.61 Lump
Southern, Charles W.	Spokane #8	11/25/11	187.50
Spahr, Glenn C.	Lewis #2	1/11/12	300.00
Stevens, Dennis	Grays Harbor #10	3/12/12	5,586.03 Lump
Stritmatter, Larry	Raymond	12/11/11	4,572.18 Lump
Vandorn, Jerry	Whatcom #17	1/1/12	3,580.63 Lump
Victor, Rae A.	Adams #4	1/12/12	153.90 @ age 62
Walker, Jr., Melvin H.	Klickitat #3	4/16/10	1,925.13 Lump
Winther, Roger	Tumwater	4/10/10	2,647.05 Lump
Wright, Alex M.	Thurston #8	1/1/12	300.00
Wright, Rick	Kittitas Valley	3/31/10	4,331.53 Lump

The Board recessed from 9:55 a.m. through 10:05 a.m. for a small break.

The Board recessed from 10:05 a.m. through 10:20 a.m. to discuss litigation and personnel issues.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 10:20 a.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chair Hughes expressed condolences on behalf of the Board to Secretary Smith and her family for the recent loss of her grandfather in Wisconsin. Secretary Smith thanked the Board for allowing her to appear by phone to the meeting, which enabled her to return "home" to her family to help them through this difficult time.

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No one present wished to speak.

There was a motion by Spani, seconded by Walling, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:25 a.m.



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Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary