



STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS
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April 17, 2015

The 241st regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #106 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Jay Hughes, with Board Member Mark Watenpaugh, Board Member Martin Spani, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Executive Secretary Brigette Smith, and Assistant Attorney General Tsering Cornell. Board Member Miland Walling was excused.

The Board reviewed the January 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. It was moved by VanCamp, seconded by Spani, and carried that the minutes be approved.

FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

There was no public present.

OLD BUSINESS

Secretary Smith and AAG Cornell briefed the Board regarding their work on developing a policy to set a minimum amount payable for buy-backs. Secretary Smith reviewed a drafted policy with the Board, but discussed that there are still some things that need to be worked out, such as requiring proof of additional service prior to a buy-back. The cost to the staff time and the agency for preparing buy-back costs multiple times for the same member was discussed. Secretary Smith said the staff would start to document the re-requests. If there appears to be a need for it, the members stated they would consider implementing a fee for multiple requests. Secretary Smith stated she would continue to work with AAG Cornell to complete the draft, finalize it, and send it out to departments.

Secretary Smith and AAG Cornell discussed their research so far into the issue of presumptive diseases. AAG Cornell informed the Board that she has set a meeting with the LEOFF Board and will ask them questions such as the cost per member, the types of physicals, the costs and frequency of those physicals, and questions such as that. She also pointed out that the current legislation only applies to fire departments with more than 50 full-time firefighters. If there is good cause that a firefighter's condition could have been caused by things outside of their fire service duties (such as smoking or family history), the presumption can be rebutted. In addition, the cancer presumptions only apply to firefighters with at least 10 years of service. Secretary Smith told the Board that she took advantage of her time at the Benefit Summit to talk about presumptive diseases with other states and was able to bring back research, laws from other states, and information about what is happening across the country. One state had assembled documentation electronically, and Secretary Smith informed the members that she would send the link to them so they could read some of it. Ms. Smith told the Board that presumptive disease research and legislation take a while to sort through. While researching and working on presumptive diseases is important, it is only part of the solution. It's not enough to just ensure that firefighters are taken care of once they have cancer; it's equally as important to try to prevent cancer. Her idea was to approach other fire service organizations and work jointly on developing a brochure that specifically targets volunteer firefighters and educates them on some of the research into what increases their risk of cancer, and give them some practical ways to try to protect themselves and their families. The Board requested that Secretary Smith contact the Washington State Firefighters Association, the Washington Fire Commissioner's Association, and the Washington Fire Chiefs and try to develop a brochure as suggested.



The Board discussed the idea of members having their own state email accounts. Secretary Smith told them that it would only cost about \$5 a month per member for email accounts. Some of the members stated that they already had public email accounts, and didn't really need to add another one. Ms. Smith requested that the members decide whether they'd like to have an account or not. Any member wishing to have an account should contact her and she'll get one set up for them.

The Board reviewed the most recent versions of the Senate and House Budgets. Their proposals were lower than the agency budget request and the Governor's. Most notably, no funding for the audit mandates was included. However, Secretary Smith felt that the agency could manage to the proposals as long as no additional unfunded mandates were enacted, such as Senate Bill 6026. SB 6026 would add nonprofit ambulance companies into the pension and relief fund. Secretary Smith said that she is trying to research the bill some more, but the agency would need to hire additional staff if the bill were to pass next session.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed a request for a PPD award for Donna Manchester, Clarkston Police Department, for an injury sustained on February 24, 2014. After reviewing the Independent Medical Examination results, it was moved by Spani, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried that Donna Manchester be granted a PPD Award of \$3,150.04.

The Board reviewed the following Pension Participation Waivers:

- Tracy Lesser, Grant County FPD #12, January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015
- Raechel Ehlers, Vashon Island Fire and Rescue, March 12, 2015 through June 3, 2015
- James Groebner, Lewis Co. FPD #2, January 1, 2015 through March 27, 2015

The Board noted that Tracy Lesser requested an Exemption Request based on a Board for Volunteer Firefighters injury. However, Mr. Lesser has not filed a BVFF injury claim in the last year. It was moved by VanCamp, seconded by Watenpaugh, and carried, that Pension Participation Waivers be granted for Raechel Ehlers and James Groebner, but denied for Tracy Lesser on the basis that he does not have an accepted BVFF claim, and therefore cannot be granted an exemption on that basis.

The Board reviewed an Interagency Agreement entered into with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services by Secretary Smith for Technology Acquisition Services.

Secretary Smith talked to the Board about her attendance at the National Benefit Summit in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Summit has been an excellent opportunity to network and learn about benefits throughout the country and how different states have obtained benefits. Attendance enabled her to learn a lot about presumptive diseases and even receive copies of legislation from other states. The next Summit is tentatively scheduled for October of 2016, and Secretary Smith will bring more information to the Board at its next meeting.

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

The Board reviewed and approved (Watenpaugh moved, Spani seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered #00693 through #00746 and various travel vouchers.

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

| | | <u>Effective Date</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Anderson, Kenneth J | Snohomish #4 | 12/2/2013 | 80.50 |

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|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Austin, Joanne (David Foley) | Garfield | 9/22/2014 SURV | 2331.55 Lump |
| Aydelotte, John M | North Whidbey F&R | 5/12/2012 | 3368.97 Lump |
| Bergstrom, Richard W | Stevens #5 | 12/1/2014 J/S | 248.70 |
| Beusan, William | Stevens #11 | 10/29/2014 | 3394.73 Lump |
| Bliss, William T | Whatcom #4 | 9/12 /2014 | 4331.53 Lump |
| Callahan, Robert C | Skamania #1 | 11/25/2014 | 204.00 @ age 61 |
| Chalmers, Terry | Chewelah | 1/20/2015 | 217.50 |
| Chellson, Robert Mark | Whatcom #18 | 3/13/2015 | 300.00 |
| Coleman, Cara (Mark) | Clallam #1 | 5/19/2014 | 2855.12 Lump |
| Coleman, Dave | Morton | 10/19/2014 | 3609.61 Lump |
| Crutcher, Ronald K | Whatcom #16 | 4/23/2015 J/S | 230.46 @ age 64 |
| Davis, Jerry | Selah | 1/31/2015 | 4090.89 Lump |
| Donaldson, Frederick A | Enumclaw | 3/6/2015 | 300.00 |
| Drake, Kenneth D | McCleary | 2/13/2015 | 228.00 @ age 62 |
| Everts, Charles I | Okanogan #7 | 1/13/2015 | 172.50 |
| Fallon, Patrick J | Clallam #3 | 3/17/2015 J/S | 123.45 |
| Faubion, Thomas K | Pierce #21 | 7/8/2014 J/S | 245.40 |
| Fisher, Gary | Okanogan | 3/29/2015 | 228.00 @ age 62 |
| Fisher, William | Stevens Co. Sheriff | 2/17/2011 | 3850.25 Lump |
| Friend, Larry E | Skagit #3 | 1/26/2015 | 300.00 |
| Gabelein, Gary R | Island #3 | 1/1/2015 J/S | 255.60 |
| Garcia, Lori (Ernie) | Grand Coulee | 12/16/2013 SURV | 2036.51 Lump |
| Garza, Jr. Juan M | Yakima #5 | 9/2/2013 J/S | 154.25 |
| Glondo, Charles J | Cle Elum | 2/8/2015 | 300.00 |
| Goble, Lonnie | Lewis #10 | 3/12/2011 | 6528.33 Lump |
| Graham, Clarence | Grays Harbor #1 | 2/3/2015 | 300.00 |
| Hadley, Kenneth | Camas | 10/23/2001 J/S | 227.10 |
| Hanger, IV, James A | Columbia #3 | 2/3/2014 J/S | 228.60 |
| Hansen, Chris | Douglas #5 | 1/28/2015 J/S | 203.36 @ age 63 |
| Hansen, Willis C | SO Pierce F&R | 10/31/2010 | 66.50 |
| Hanson, Burl B | Walla Walla #6 | 4/5/2015 J/S | 245.40 |
| Heller, Joseph C | Thurston #3 | 9/14/2014 J/S | 229.04 |
| Hess, Daniel L | Mason #6 | 3/3/2015 J/S | 158.65 @ age 62 |
| Heydlauff, Jr. Robert L | Pierce #8 | 12/19/2014 J/S | 184.00 @ age 62 |
| Higby, Randy L | Cowlitz #6 | 2/7/2015 | 228.00 @ age 62 |
| Hill, Jim E | Klickitat #7 | 12/1/2014 | 300.00 |
| Hodel, Frank L | Pacific #3 | 10/22/2013 | 228.00 @ age 62 |
| Holmgren, Richard J | Skagit #9 | 10/11/2014 | 195.00 |
| Horter, Steven | Almira | 12/11/2014 | 228.00 @ age 62 |
| Hutchens, Robert A | Columbia #3 | 5/12/2014 | 300.00 |
| Jennings, Ronald O | Lewis #18 | 12/24/2014 | 159.60 @ age 62 |
| Jensen, Donald G | Yakima #5 | 12/13/2014 | 300.00 |
| Johanson, Ronnie L | Grays Harbor #5 | 3/27/2015 | 180.00 @ age 60 |
| Kinzel, Kurt A | Grant #13 | 2/18/2015 | 228.00 @ age 62 |
| Korb, Randy | Kitsap #18 | 12/30/2014 | 80.50 |
| Lahde, James R | Spokane #4 | 4/27/2015 | 250.00 |
| Mackey, W. Clay | Prosser #3 | 2/5/2014 | 70.00 |
| Malecki, Sandra | Grant #7 | 1/1/2015 | 300.00 |
| McHatton, Shannon (Steven Hora) | Westport | 2/2/2015 SURV | 237.30 |
| McLaskey, Donald | San Juan #3 | 2/1/2015 | 187.50 |
| Nelson, Kim E | Skagit #12 | 1/28/2015 | 300.00 |
| Neu, Markham H | Spokane #9 | 3/20/2015 | 55.86 @ age 62 |
| Nolta, Gary L | Kitsap #2 | 2/1/2015 J/S | 230.10 |
| Ogden, James F | Island #3 | 1/29/2015 J/S | 101.54 @ age 62 |
| Paintner, Lawrence E | Spokane #9 | 4/2/2015 J/S | 242.10 |
| Potter, Richard H | Skamania #3 | 5/1/2013 | 2524.71 Lump |

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|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Purdy, James R | Yakima #5 | 1/1/2015 J/S | 208.91 @ age 63 |
| Quaschnick, Michael | Spokane #4 | 12/25/2014 | 4331.53 Lump |
| Rhoads, Robert L | Clallam #3 | 9/1/2014 | 2872.82 Lump |
| Richter, Douglas E | Skagit #9 | 4/1/2015 | 300.00 |
| Royle, Cara (Perry) A | Morton | 12/9/2014 SURV | 3770.70 Lump |
| Seekins, William D | Camas | 3/25/2015 J/S | 245.40 |
| Smith, Richard J | Skagit #8 | 3/7/2015 | 300.00 |
| Sowers, Evelyn L | Yakima #14 | 9/1/2014 | 70.00 |
| Sparrow, John M | Grandview PD | 1/6/2015 | 87.50 |
| Stephens, Troy W | Chelan #6 | 12/20/2014 | 276.00 @ age 64 |
| Streubel, Marvin D | Whatcom #1 | 11/28/2014 | 252.00 @ age 63 |
| Sulgrove, Robert A | Stevens #4 | 1/10/2015 J/S | 248.70 |
| Suomi, Eino E | Cowlitz #1 | 1/1/2015 J/S | 250.50 |
| Templin, Stephen D | Mabton | 2/14/2015 | 252.00 @ age 63 |
| Trimble, James R | Farmington | 1/1/2015 | 200.00 |
| Valenzuela, Jr. Esiquio V | Yakima #5 | 12/10/2014 | 300.00 |
| Wilde, Carol | Stevens #1 | 1/15/2015 | 2713.22 Lump |
| Williams James | Whatcom #14 | 1/23/2015 J/S | 118.99 @ age 62 |
| Winterhalter, Mark J | Snohomish #19 | 1/31/2015 | 300.00 |
| Wolfe, Frank A | Pacific #1 | 5/16/2014 | 63.00 |
| Woodbury, Jolynn | Skagit #5 | 1/1/2015 | 58.52 @ age 62 |
| Young, Richard J | South Bend | 9/24/2013 | 6423.94 Lump |
| Zimmerman, Donald C | Benton #1 | 7/15/2014 | 117.00 @ age 60 |

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Secretary Smith informed the Board that she recently increased John McHugh's hours to 20 and he now has benefits as well.

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 10:30 am.

Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary