

# **CITY OF LAUDERHILL FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

## **FIRE PENSION MEETING**

October 11, 2016

### **I. Call to order**

Sean Henderson called to order the regular meeting of the CITY OF LAUDERHILL FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM at 4:35PM on October 11, 2016 at Lauderhill Fire Headquarters, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1980 NW 56 Avenue, Lauderhill, Fl. 33313.

### **II. Roll call**

The Plan Administrator conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Sean Henderson, Chairman  
Michael Taussig, Vice Chairman  
Karen Pottinger, Secretary  
Ryan Gabner, Trustee  
Brent Chudachek, Rice Pugatch Robinson Storfer & Cohen, PLLC

ABSENT: Matthew Newman, Trustee

### **III. Approval of minutes from meeting dated September 13, 2016**

The minutes were reviewed by the trustees.

**Motion to approve minutes by Ryan Gabner, seconded by Karen Pottinger. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **IV. New business**

1. Review and Discuss-Draft Disability Re-Examination Policy and Procedure

The Policy was handed out at the prior meeting for review and to be put on the next agenda for discussion.

This policy pertains to a situation where a member has been granted a disability retirement pursuant to Section 2-44, whether it is service incurred or non-service incurred. The Board as it deems necessary shall periodically review the status of a disability retirees who may be eligible to return to employment with the City of Lauderhill as a Firefighter. The Board may have reason to believe that a disability retiree's disability condition may have changed. The Board may require that a disability retiree undergo a reexamination in order to confirm the continued existence of the disability condition pursuant to Section 2-44 (h). The reason for a reexamination is to determine whether the member remains totally and permanently disabled; and, the Board shall act in accordance with and may take any and all action as it deems necessary.

Surveillance of disability retirees to be arranged by the Board's Counsel may be authorized by any Trustee who reasonably believes that such surveillance will assist the Board of Trustees in determining whether a disability retiree has recovered from his or her disability and is again able to perform useful and efficient service as a firefighter. Neither the trustee who authorized the arrangement of the surveillance of a disability retiree or the Board's General Counsel is required to bring it before the Board of Trustees for authorization. The cost of any surveillance authorized by any trustee shall not exceed a certain amount. The amount was left blank until discussion. After some discussion, a motion was entertained.

**MOTION by Michael Taussig to authorize an amount not to exceed \$4,500 for surveillance authorized by any one trustee. If additional surveillance is necessary after the initial \$4500 cap, the trustees will meet and discuss it further to make a decision by way of motion.**

**SECONDED by Ryan Gabner.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Approve Warrant in the amount of 41,939.04

**Motion to approve the warrant by R. Gabner, seconded by K. Pottinger. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **V. Attorney's report given by Brent Chudachek**

1. GSK has been the plan auditor. They have been merged with BDO. The auditor agreements were sent to be reviewed under the name of GSK. The attorney reviewed those documents and made revisions. New documents were sent to Barbara under the name of BDO, without the revisions. The attorney explained he had not received the new documents until Barbara forwarded them. He has to review a new 13 page document. Mr. Chudachek also explained that they have several other clients that use GSK, now BDO. He will continue to work with BDO to make the revisions and merge them into the BDO agreement. There seems to be a disconnect in communication between BDO departments since the merger. Hopefully, that will improve. He will keep the board informed. The administrator said she has a good working relationship with the people at GKS/now BDO. The same key people are working on the Lauderhill Fire Plan. She would like to see the communication between the legal department and the accounting department at BDO be resolved, and continue the working relationship.
2. Supplemental Benefit-Ron Cohen has been working with Bret Schneider and the Union. There is a new proposed Memorandum of Understanding as to how the supplemental benefit will be treated. The way the Ordinance reads at present, it reads that the supplemental benefit goes to retirees and beneficiaries of retirees when they are deceased.

A question was asked if they can eliminate paying the beneficiaries of the retirees that are still active (alive), so if the retiree dies the supplemental benefit payment stops. The attorney said there is a Florida Supreme Court case that says eliminating beneficiaries of active retirees would not be allowed. It reads that once a member retires he vests immediately and the beneficiary does as well. A lengthy discussion ensued. Ryan Gabner questioned the ability to use the old formula to calculate the benefit for retirees already retired. The new 50/50 rule splitting the Chapter money with the City will have a new formula for new retirees. These are items pertaining to how the supplemental benefit is to be distributed to retiree and future retirees that continue to need discussion and clarified. Ron Cohen was asked to comment on the changes and will be writing a letter to the Union giving his views and concerns on certain legal issues which may arise from the MOU.

3. Ipad policy-the attorney put the draft policy in the group Dropbox for the meeting. Additionally, hard copies were handed out for review. The policy is a general guideline and can be revised if necessary.

#### **VI. Plan Administrator's report**

The administrator received notice that the Division of Retirement will have an electronic portal by the end of the year which will make reporting convenient and efficient.

The administrator presented a new meeting pension calendar for 2017.

The administrator continues to work on the issue regarding the lower amount of revenue that came in which lowered the Premium Tax amount. She is working with the Chairman for best approach to review credit being applied to Lauderhill.

The administrator continues to work on the annual budget. She will contact the Police fund administrator to see what format they are using this year and follow up with the Chairman in the interim.

#### **VII. Old Business**

#### **VIII. Communications**

#### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:44.