

**Volunteer Firefighter, EMT, and Search & Rescue Pension Fund Board Meeting**  
**Svilar's Steak House, Hudson, WY**  
**January 6, 2022**

A meeting of the Volunteer Firefighter, EMT, and Search & Rescue Pension Fund Board was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at Svilar's Bar & Dining Room in Hudson, Wyoming.

Board members participating:

Mr. Gene Diedtrich (Chairman) (Newcastle)  
Mr. Lanny Applegate (Vice-Chair) (Cheyenne)  
Mr. Tracy Brown (Lingle)  
Mr. Kim Lee (Riverton)  
Mr. Jerry Munger (Wheatland)  
Mr. Eric Quinney (Evanston)  
Mr. Clint Becker (Douglas)

Board members absent and excused: None

Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) Staff members participating:

Mr. David Swindell, Executive Director  
Mr. Mike Bleakley, Deputy Director

Others in attendance: Mr. Donny Munger and Mr. James Curren (Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department), Mr. William Scherp and Mr. Jeff Kehl (Riverton Fire Department)

Chairman Diedtrich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1) Board Meeting Minutes from September 29, 2021.** The Volunteer Firefighter, EMT, and SAR Pension Fund minutes from September 29, 2021 Volunteer Meeting were considered.

**MOTION 01-06-2022 (#1):** Mr. Applegate moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Quinney seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2) Review of Financial Reports.** The financial statements for the months ending August 2021, September 2021 and October 2021 were reviewed, noting that plan assets as of October 31, 2021 totaled \$104,776,750.52.

**MOTION 01-06-2022 (#2):** Mr. Quinney moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Mr. Lee seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Premium Tax Transfers. Mr. Swindell provided the Premium Tax Transfer balance as of November 22, 2021 of \$1,019,751.68.

**3) Review of Membership Reports.** The membership reports as of August 31, 2021 contained the following highlights:

Active Contributing Members: 2,383

Retirees: 1,362

Survivor pensions: 285

Monthly pension total: \$589,600.34

Smallest monthly pension: \$35.14

Largest monthly pension: \$752.17

Participating Departments. The Board reviewed the participating department report, noting 120 participating agencies.

Service Purchase reports. The Board reviewed the service purchase reports for the quarter, with no pending or completed service purchases during the September through December 2021 timeframe.

Newly refunded and retired report. The Board reviewed the refunded accounts and new retirees for the September through December 2021 timeframe. There were 12 new retirements and 4 members refunded their accounts during the period.

Deceased members by plan report. The report shows 8 retirees and survivors who passed.

**MOTION 01-06-2022 (#3):** Mr. Brown moved to approve the membership reports. Mr. Becker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**4) Review of Pending Legislation – 22LSO-0125, Fireman’s pension plan benefits.** The Board discussed potential legislation forthcoming sponsored by the Joint Appropriations Committee. This legislation reduces the share of the fire insurance premium tax that goes to the Volunteer Pension Plan from 100% to 60%. The end result is decreased funding for the Volunteer Pension Account and achieving 100% funding by 2034 instead of 2028 compared to the status quo, according to projections from WRS’ actuary.

**MOTION 01-06-2022 (#4):** Mr. Lee moved to that the Volunteer Board opposes the legislation as it is currently written. Mr. Quinney added a friendly amendment that the Board disagrees with the 40% decrease in the fire insurance premium tax, specifically. In addition, Mr. Quinney stated that the Board supports leaving the funding at 100% until the fund is 107% funded in 2028. Motion carried unanimously.

**5) Definition of less than full-time for volunteer membership purposes.** Mr. Diedtrich led a discussion about what should constitute part-time for members of the plan. Mr. Diedtrich suggested an average of 29 hours per week. Mr. Quinney asked about the time period this figure would be averaged over. Mr. Diedtrich suggested WRS check with their internal audit department and instructed staff to develop draft rules regarding the definition of part-time.

**6) Other Matters.**

Mr. Diedtrich brought up board membership for discussion as there is currently a vacant board seat as well as a couple of board members who are up for reappointment.

**MOTION 01-06-2022 (#5):** Mr. Becker moved to support the reappointment of Mr. Lee and Mr. Munger as continuing board members for another term. Seconded by Mr. Quinney. Motion carries with Mr. Lee and Mr. Munger abstaining.

Discussion ensued regarding the vacant seat and potential members of the plan who might be able to serve. Mr. Lee said this would be discussed at the next Wyoming State Fireman's (WSFA) Convention to be held later this weekend. In addition to the recommendation from our board, Mr. Lee and Mr. Applegate said they would recommend to Governor Gordon the board's support for Sheriff Becker and his reappointment as well as the support from the WSFA.

**MOTION 01-06-2022 (#6):** Mr. Applegate moved to support the recommendation to Governor Gordon. Seconded by Mr. Munger. Motion carries.

**7) Date and Location of Next Meeting.** Chairman Diedtrich led a discussion resulting in a proposal for the next meeting to be on Friday, April 1, 2022 at Svilar's Steak House, Hudson Wyoming at 7:00 p.m. The rest of the Board agreed.

**8) Adjournment.** There being no further business, the Volunteer Board adjourned at 8:56 p.m.