

**Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Pension Fund
Board Meeting – Hudson, WY
April 1, 2016**

A meeting of the Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Pension Fund Board was held at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 1, 2016 at Svilar's Restaurant in Hudson, Wyoming.

Board members participating:

Mr. Gene Diedtrich (Chair) (Newcastle)
Mr. Lanny Applegate (Vice-Chair) (Cheyenne)
Mr. Jerry Munger (Wheatland)
Mr. Tracy Brown (Lingle)
Mr. Eric Quinney (Evanston)

Board members absent and excused:

Mr. Kim Lee (Riverton / Cheyenne)
Mr. Alan Sessions (Afton)

Staff members participating:

Ms. Ruth Ryerson, Wyoming Retirement System.

Others in attendance:

Nick Hudson, Lander Volunteer Fire Dept.
Shad Cooper, Sublette County Unified Fire District
M.L. Baxley, Sublette County Unified Fire District
Chris Kocher, Worland Fire Department
Donny Munger, Newcastle Volunteer Fire Dept.
Patrick Martinez, Riverton Fire Department
Ray Weidenhaft, Retired – WSFD
Mark Young, DFPES
Willy Watsabaugh, JHF/EMS
Russ Wenke

Chairman Diedtrich called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and welcomed the guests to the meeting.

1) Board Meeting Minutes from January 7 2016. The Volunteer Firefighters and EMT Pension Fund minutes from January 7, 2016 were considered.

MOTION 4-1-2016 (#1): Mr. Applegate moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Munger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Review of Financial Reports. The financial statements for December 2015, January 2016 and February 2016 were reviewed.

MOTION 4-1-2016 (#2): Mr. Brown moved to approve the monthly financial reports as presented. Mr. Quinney seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION 4-1-2016 (#3): Mr. Applegate moved to approve the premium tax transfer report. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION 4-1-2016 (#4): Mr. Brown moved to approve the asset growth charts as presented. Mr. Quinney seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Review of Membership Reports. The membership reports as of February 29, 2016 contained the following highlights:

Active Contributing Members: 2,371
Retirees: 1,085
Survivor pensions: 214
Smallest monthly pension: \$44.88
Largest monthly pension: \$719.70

Participating Departments. The board reviewed the participating department report, noting 118 participating agencies.

Service Purchase reports. The board reviewed the service purchase reports for the quarter, noting one completed service purchase during the December – February timeframe, indicated in red on the detailed listing.

Newly refunded and retired report. The board reviewed the refunded accounts and new retirees for the December – February timeframe. There were 15 new retirements, and 6 members refunded their accounts during the period.

Chairman Diedtrich noted the inclusion of the detailed listing of all retiree and survivor pensioners, stating that it was for information and no board action was necessary. He also asked Ms. Ryerson to be sure that the headings on the membership reports were corrected for the next meeting. The current ones are titled “Volunteer EMT Plan”.

MOTION 4-1-2016 (#5): Mr. Quinney moved to approve the membership reports. Mr. Munger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Update on Rulemaking process for the new combined volunteer plan. Ms. Ryerson reviewed the memo from WRS General Counsel Ben Brandes regarding the rulemaking status. The final rules were filed with the Secretary of State’s Office on February 12th and are now active and carry the force and effect of law. No further action is necessary on the Board’s part.

5) Lander “late contribution” discussion. Ms. Ryerson reviewed the memo from WRS’ General Counsel, Ben Brandes, regarding a question from the Lander Volunteer Fire Department as to whether it could pay back contributions for two volunteers they enrolled in 2009, about 2-1/2 years after they actually began volunteering. Highlights of the memo included:

- There is no mechanism for departments to make back contributions for members
- The service purchase provisions currently in the new volunteer plan rules allow for members to purchase prior service
- Current rules allow for the purchase of the greater of actual service or the additional 5 years of “air time”, but not both

- The Board would need to approve the draft language presented for Section 6 (b) of the volunteer rules to allow members to purchase both types of service credit.
- Lander would need to work out something with its 2 members if they wanted to pay for the service, since WRS can only accept service purchase monies from members (not employers).

MOTION 4-1-2016 (#6): Mr. Munger made a motion to begin the rulemaking process to permit both the purchase of prior volunteer service plus the purchase of up to 5 years of “air time” for members who joined the volunteer plans prior to their combination on July 1, 2015. He also requested that the rule be considered an emergency rule, if possible. Ms. Ryerson said she would check with the WRS General Counsel regarding the emergency rule request, but would proceed with the regular rulemaking process if that wasn’t possible. Mr. Brown seconded Mr. Munger’s motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Other Matters. Nothing to discuss.

7) Date and Location of Next Meeting. Chairman Diedtrich proposed the next meeting to be on Wednesday, June 15th at 11:30pm in Riverton. He indicated he would reserve a room at a local restaurant for the meeting.

8) Adjournment. There being no further business, Chairman Diedtrich asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION 4-1-2016 (#7): Mr. Applegate moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Munger seconded. Motion carried unanimously and the Board adjourned at 7:35pm.