



# Wyoming Retirement System

*Partnering to Build Financial Security for Members and their Families*

**Mark Gordon**  
Governor

**David Swindell**  
Executive Director

## **Volunteer Firefighter, EMT, and SAR Pension Fund Board Meeting Via Zoom**

**12:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

A meeting of the Volunteer Firefighter, EMT, and Search & Rescue Pension Fund Board was held at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 via Zoom.

Board members participating:

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

Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) Staff member participating via Conference Call:

Mr. David Swindell, Executive Director  
Mr. Mike Bleakley, Deputy Director  
Ms. Rachel Kelley, Staff Development & Executive Administrator  
Ms. Rachel Meeker, Audit Manager  
Mr. Adam Waddell, Principal Auditor  
Mr. Michael Vuyk, Information Officer

Chairman Diedtrich called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**1) Board Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2020.** The Volunteer Firefighter, EMT, and SAR Pension Fund minutes from August 21, 2020 were considered.

**MOTION 01-20-2021 (#1):** Mr. Lee moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Session seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2) Review of Financial Reports.** The financial statements for May, June, July, August, September, October and November 2020 were reviewed, noting that plan assets as of November 30, 2020 totaled \$107,059,541.15.

**MOTION 01-20-2021 (#2):** Mr. Brown moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Mr. Applegate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**3) Review of Membership Reports.** The membership reports as of December 31, 2020 contained the following highlights:

Active Contributing Members: 2,396

Retirees: 1,329

Survivor pensions: 141

Participating Departments. The Board reviewed the participating department report, noting 121 participating agencies with the addition of Converse County Search & Rescue; to begin participating March April of 2021.

Service Purchase reports. The Board reviewed the service purchase reports for the quarter, with one pending service purchases during the October - December timeframe.

Newly refunded and retired report. The Board reviewed the refunded accounts and new retirees for the October - December timeframe. There were 14 new retirements, and 5 members refunded their accounts during the period.

Deceased members by plan report. The report shows 6 retirees and survivors who passed.

**MOTION 01-20-2021 (#3):** Mr. Lee moved to approve the membership reports. Mr. Munger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bleakley explained a current dual service situation to the Vol Board. The question originated from Campbell County regarding someone who is in Paid Fire B and the Volunteer Plan. WRS' Employer Relations Department brought the question to Audit for review. The WRS Audit Team made a recommendation that the individuals cannot pay into the volunteer plan and their active plan. Mr. Bleakley asked for any historical thoughts or comments from the Vol Board. Mr. Brandes, WRS General Counsel, had reviewed the situation and provided some historical AG opinions on the matter. Discussion ensued. Mr. Diedtrich stated that Campbell County was entirely volunteer at the beginning and then formed the Joint Powers Board. Those that stayed are a combination of career and volunteer members. Mr. Diedtrich feels that those members should be able to complete their retirement in both plans and pay it like other members on their own if they have the 10 years in the Plan. Mr. Quinney feels that it is important to honor the time that the volunteers have committed to the plan even if they step away from the Volunteer Plan; especially since the Volunteer Plan has changed a lot over the last 25 years.

**4) Review of Results and Recommendations on Fire Department Meeting Attendance Audits.** Mr. Waddell and Ms. Meeker reviewed the IAD report which included five individuals who were not in compliance. Mr. Waddell discussed each individual member's case as identified by their RAIN ID

**MOTION 01-20-2021 (#4):** Mr. Quinney moved to suspend the five delinquent individuals. Mr. Applegate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WRS will continue to verify active members' attendance requirements.

**5) Other Matters**

Mr. Bleakley discussed the Bighorn County training question that was provided to the Vol Board for consideration on January 19, 2020. The Bighorn County volunteer members had missed several trainings due to COVID in 2020. The volunteer group intend to make up the missed training in 2021. The Vol Board members requested some clarification on trainings versus meetings and noted there could be some confusion between the two. Mr. Swindell stated that it is within the Vol Board's authority to accept and approve the completed trainings to meet the requirement for 2020.

**MOTION 01-20-2021 (#5):** Mr. Quinney motioned that if a department did not hold any trainings and/or meetings due to the COVID -19 pandemic during a particular month, that those meetings will not held against them for audit purposes and/or participation in the Volunteer Fire, EMT and Search & Rescue plan. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Deidtrich asked for any other matters for Board discussion.

**6) Date and Location of Next Meeting.** Chairman Diedtrich led a discussion resulting in a proposal for the next meeting to be potentially May 2021 in Riverton, Wyoming at a TBD location. The rest of the Board agreed. The following meeting will be June 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Newcastle at noon.

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

**MOTION 01-20-2021 (#5):** Mr. Quinney moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lee seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the Board adjourned at 1:57 p.m.