Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund Board Meeting
February 25, 2016
9:00 AM

The Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, met at 9:00 AM in the Sister Cities Conference Room located at 500 West Markham Street, City Hall. In the absence of Chairman Bruce Moore, Mr. Sherwood called the meeting to order.

1. Roll Call:
   Members Present: Bernard Sherwood; Johnny Chiaro; Bill Ellington; Joel Woolf; and Susan Langley
   Members Absent: Havis Jacks and Bruce Moore
   City Personnel Present: Sara Lenehan; Debbie Pharr; Kathy Lindsey; and Kim Chavis.
   Other's Present: Larry Middleton from the Stephens Group and Larry Bentley

2. Approval of Minutes from the January 28, 2016, Meeting: It was noted that there were a few scribbler’s errors and that they would be changed. Mr. Woolf made the motion, seconded by Mr. Chiaro, to approve the minutes of January 28, 2016, meeting. By unanimous voice vote of the Board Members present, the minutes of the January 28, 2016, meeting was approved.

3. Stephens, Inc., Report (Copy of Financial Report filed in the City Clerk’s Office): Mr. Larry Middleton presented the report for January. For January, the Total Fund Balance as of January 31, 2016, was $55,373,338.00. The total Drop Balance as of January 31, 2016, was $10,932,591.90. The Fund was down 3.76% for the month.


5. Other Business:
   A. Age Sixty (60) Back Pay: Ms. Chavis provided an overview of the issue regarding the age sixty (60) back pay. Mr. Chiaro asked how far back the calculations should go for those individuals that were identified as being owed money. Mr. Chavis stated July 1, 1987. Ms. Pharr stated that originally staff thought that there were only four (4) individuals that had been affected; however, after additional calculations, staff determined that seven (7) individuals had been affected. Staff asked LOPFI to double-check their calculations to determine if they were estimated correctly. Ms. Pharr stated that LOPFI determined that the seven (7) individuals were
owed money. Ms. Chavis stated that as Board Members, they had the fiduciary responsibility regarding any large expenditures and to ensure that those expenditures did not affect the soundness of the Fund. Ms. Chavis stated that her advice would be to have an opinion made to determine if a large payment would affect the soundness of the Fund. Mr. Woolf asked if the original four (4) individuals that were identified could be paid and then obtain a legal opinion of the others. Mr. Ellington stated the wanted to see all individuals paid that were owed money; however, he would was uneasy making that decision without receiving a legal opinion. Ms. Chavis stated that she had not talked to David Clark, or LOPFI legal counsel regarding the issue, and if the Board wanted her to obtain a legal opinion on the other three (3) individuals that had been identified as being owed money. Mr. Chiaro made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ellington, to obtain a legal opinion and table the item until the March Meeting. By unanimous voice vote of the Board Members present, the item was tabled until the March Meeting.

B. Retiring Mid-Month: Ms. Lenehan stated that recently there was an individual that retired mid-month and had questioned the amount of their benefit as it wasn’t the full monthly benefit times the number of months. Ms. Lenehan reported that he had received payment from the City for the first half of the month and his pension benefit prorated for the remainder of the month, staff was told by the Pension Review Board that they could not pro rate their pension benefit had to pay them for the full month. Ms. Pharr stated that individuals cannot be paid if they are still on the City payroll; therefore, the pension benefit would not start until the next month. Ms. Chavis stated that before the Board took the step to deny someone from enrolling in the Pension when they had met the years of service requirement, she thought it needed additional study. Mr. Chiaro made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ellington, to table the item until the March Meeting. By unanimous voice vote of the Board Members present, the item was tabled until the March Meeting.

Mr. Chiaro made the motion, seconded by Mr. Woolf, to adjourn the meeting. By unanimous voice vote of the Board Members, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 AM.

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Susan Langley
Secretary, Firemen’s Relief and Pension Fund