

Minutes
Firemen's Pension and Relief Fund
April 27, 2005
9:00 A.M.
Little Rock, Arkansas

The Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, met in the Sister Cities Conference Room at 500 W. Markham Street, City Hall, with the following members and officials present. Mr. Bruce Moore, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

1. Roll Call.

Present:

Bruce Moore	Chairman
Bob Biles	Treasurer
Nataki Blocker	Secretary – Assistant City Clerk
Gene Tucker, Pos. 3	Member
Debbie Helvey	Pension Clerk
Larry Tyner	Member
Ray Harding Pos. 4	Member
Paul Raney	Pos. 1

Absent:

Nancy Wood	Secretary – City Clerk
Paul Gunther, Pos. 2	Member

2. Approve Minutes of the March 23, 2005 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Tyner, seconded by Mr. Harding to approve minutes of the March 23, 2005 meeting. By unanimous voice vote of the Board members present, the minutes were approved.

3. Gary Holloway: Update on repayment progress. Mr. Biles reported that Mr. Holloway paid \$50, bringing the balance to \$350.00.

4. Regions Quarterly Report. (Copy of report on file in the City Clerk's Office).

5. **Pension Roll Changes.** Drop applications presented for April 1, 2005 were for James Ballard, William Davis, and Perry Nelson. A motion was made by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Raney to accept the nominations. By unanimous voice vote the motion carried. (Copy attached).
6. **Report on tax exemptions (status of questions).** At the March 23, 2005 meeting, the Board asked the City Attorney's Office to determine if Mr. Rowe's receipt of DROP money while still employed might affect the tax-exempt status of the funds. The City Attorney's office has reviewed the request and because the City Attorney's Office does not have a tax attorney on staff, and suggests that the Board take certain actions, as listed.
- Authorizing hiring a tax attorney, payable from the pension funds, with a \$5,000 maximum for services.
 - Authorize the Treasurer to conduct a competitive selection process.
 - Ask the City Manager to waive a review committee (permissible in the situation) and authorize the Treasurer to select an attorney from the responses received.

If these actions are approved, the Treasurer will work closely with the City Attorney's office and Purchasing to initiate the selection process, select a tax attorney and have an answer by the May 25 Board meeting.

Mr. Raney asked whose responsibility is this. Would it be Mr. Rowe's or the Cities to find out the tax status? Mr. Tucker explained that how this came about was that the Teacher's Retirement ran into a similar situation and their director indicated that the individual who had asked to pull some money from a DROP account was refused, given the fact that it would jeopardize their tax exempt status in that no funds should be paid out of any sort of DROP account until that person actually leaves employment. The purpose of this action is preventing future problems. Mr. Tucker made a motion to hire a tax attorney, using guidelines outlined by the City Attorney's office. Mr. Moore concurred with the listed process. Mr. Tyner seconded the motion, and by unanimous voice vote of the Board members present, the motion carried.

7. Nominations for Fire Board positions. The Candidates for Position #1 are: Edgar Wright and Harrell Davis. Position #1 is currently held by Paul Raney. The position was changed to a retired position. Candidate for Position #3 is Gene Tucker, who currently holds that position.

Mr. Tucker made a motion seconded by Mr. Tyner to review and approve the submitted names for the printing of ballots. Mr. Tucker made the motion to approve the nominations, Mr. Raney seconded the motion and by unanimous voice vote of the Board members present, the motion carried and the nominations were approved. Mr. Biles stated the pension's staff would now start working on sending out the ballots, to be returned by May 23, 2005.

8. **Other Business:** Mr. Biles introduced Shenetta Robinson, the new pension clerk who will be handling the duties of Fire Pension Fund. He announced that she started to work eight days ago, and works 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Mr. Raney announced there is something that affects the firefighters on the current DROP, which is Act 1251 and it increases the benefits from 75% to 100% for the guys coming on DROP and it was signed about a month ago by the Governor. Mr. Raney made a motion to petition the PRB for consideration of ACT 1251. Mr. Raney stated this was for the second five years of the DROP. It would be reviewed as a benefit increase. Mr. Tyner seconded the motion. Mr. Biles stated that some of the things he needed to bring the Board, was that they had talked about this regarding the police pension, and one area discussed is determining what the fully funding date of that assumption should be since the plan has almost all the members (police side) on DROP, or retired. He stated this seems it would be the opportunity to tell the actuary the (fire side) that they would like to be fully funded also, rather than have that extend, and extend, on and on. Mr. Tucker asked if the actuaries had been given any direction on that. Mr. Biles stated right now it is a thirty year, the last few have been thirty years out, and didn't know if the Board wanted to set a date that sets a specific date like 2034 or 2035 and use that as the fully funding date from here on. It wouldn't have any impact on this particular study but at least you could set a date. By voice vote the motion failed. Mr. Tyner and Mr. Raney voted in favor. Mr. Moore, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Harding voted in opposition, Ms. Blocker abstained. The motion failed.

A motion was made by Mr. Tucker to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Harding. By unanimous voice vote of the Board members present, the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Wood
Secretary – Little Rock Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund