



## **Grand Lake Fire Protection District Pension Board Meeting Minutes from October 09, 2019**

**Call meeting to order:** Meeting called to order at 1834 hours.

**Members present:** David Craig, Mindy Nelson, Chris Ruske, Dick Romshek, Kevin Piercy, Richard McGraw

**Others present:** Chief Ratzmann, Assistant Chief St. Germain, Krystal Steward, Garrett Miller, Carlos Vasquez.

**Members Absent:** Hecky Heckendorf, excused.

### **Approve minutes from previous Pension Board meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2019:**

- The minutes from April 16, 2019 were reviewed. Mindy Nelson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; David Craig seconded the motion. Approved by all at 18:37.
- Kevin Piercy asked that staff look into his number of years in FPPA to make sure the additional year approved at the last meeting was added to his time.
  - Mindy Nelson asked that her name be changed in the FPPA system to accurately reflect her last name.

### **Review/approve financial statements:**

- Financial Statements were presented. Board asked for clarification on Acct. Code 802 Pension Payments. Approval of statements tables until the board can review code 802 expenses at the next meeting.
- Board agreed to hold a special Pension Board Meeting at the next regular Board Meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> 2019.

### **Old business:**

- Chief asked for clarification on the Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) vs FPPA's Volunteer Pension Plan. Board discussed that VIP is an internal incentive program created as a result of the change in culture from lifelong volunteers to short term volunteers being observed. It is unclear who is currently enrolled in the VIP program or if volunteers are aware of their options. Chief requested direction to evaluate the scope and effectiveness of the current VIP program and report back to the Board. Board agreed. Chief will provide recommendations as necessary.

### **New Business:**

- Actuarial Report:
  - Board discussed the actuarial report and the options for changing the monthly pension amount based on overfunding/underfunding recognized in the report in Table 16. The board discussed higher retirement benefit amount and additional future volunteers being added to the pension.

- A motion was made by Richard McGraw to increase the benefit amount to \$1100 beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Seconded by Kevin Piercy. Approved by all. Motion passes at 1900.
- Online Notice of Meetings: Mindy Nelson made the motion to approve a resolution of online notices of public meetings in compliance with the change in Special District regulations allowing full and timely notice of its meetings no less than twenty-four hours prior to the holding of the meeting on the public website of the district: grandlakefire.org; Chris Ruske seconded the motion. Approved by all. Resolution passes at 1903.
- Pension Authorization Form: Krystal Steward informed the Board that required authorization forms have been completed per FPPA requirements.
- Volunteer Death Notification: Krystal Steward informed the Board on the death of a retired volunteer in September. She has been in contact with the next of kin to facilitate benefits.
- Other new business: Richard McGraw opened up a discussion regarding Mindy Nelson's volunteer hours outside of her position as a Board Member during the change in administration over the last year. Mindy provided documentation on time requirements for a qualifying volunteer year and her time given to the department and asked the Board to consider adding three years to her pension. Mindy Nelson leaves briefly to open the floor to more candid discussion. Board members are in agreement that her volunteered time shows dedication and commitment to the department and should be compensated. Discussion on the amount of time ensues. Mindy Nelson returns to the meeting. Discussion ensues on the question of the legality of awarding a board member a compensation of pension years if their time volunteering is done outside of the scope of work of a board member. It is decided that the attorney should be asked to give their opinion. The discussion to award Mindy Nelson 3 years on her pension pending the interpretation from the attorney is tabled until next month's meeting.



### **Adjournment:**

- Dick Romshek made the motion to adjourn the board meeting and Richard McGraw seconded. Approved by all. Pension meeting adjourned at 1913.