

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION BOARD**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 24, 2025**

Arlington Heights Fire Department Administrative Headquarters  
1150 No. Arlington Heights Road – Arlington Heights IL 60004

Members in Attendance: Adam Sielig  
Lance Harris  
Melissa Gallagher  
Pete Ahlman

Absent: Kyle Kaczanowski

Others in Attendance: Thomas Radja, Board Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

Adam Sielig called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Roll was called with board members Adam Sielig, Lance Harris, Melissa Gallagher, and Peter Ahlman present. Absent was Kyle Kaczanowski.

Also present was Thomas Radja, Board Attorney.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of November 18, 2024 were reviewed for approval.

A motion was made and seconded (L. Harris/P. Ahlman) to approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on November 18, 2024. All in favor, motion passed.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Melissa Gallagher distributed the Financial Report ending December 31, 2024, as well as the Projected Cash Flow report through the end of this 2025 year.

Projected Cash Flow

Melissa first reviewed page 1, Checking Account. The Projected Cash Flow report is a monthly projection to the end of December 31, 2025, showing projected funds in and out with anticipated ending balance. Most important is the levy projection and the various transfers we're anticipating throughout the year. The cash out section includes pension payments throughout the year, with ending cash balance. We are a mature fund, thus we anticipate maintaining roughly \$100,000 in the account. Naturally these numbers will change during the year, and this will be evident each time we meet.

Page 2 identifies our account in the Illinois Fund, showing the ending cash balance between Chase Fund and Illinois Fund.

### Quarterly Financial Report

At the top, the Year End balance sheet shows our net assets to be \$157,110,267. Although this figure is unaudited, we are currently working with the audit process. In the Revenue and Expenditure section, Melissa drew attention to the YTD Actual column, with Revenues at \$22.7 million and Expenditures at \$9.4 million. The difference resulted a higher ending balance for the year.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/P. Ahlman) to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

### PAYMENT OF BILLS

The Check Register as of year ending 12/31/2024 shows the entire year, and during December there was one check #775 processed in the amount of \$873.38 for secretarial services.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/P. Ahlman) to approve check #775 (JV 12-055) in the amount of \$873.38 (for past three quarters of the year).

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

### REPORTS

- **Illinois Firefighters Pension Investment Fund (FPIF)**

Adam Sielig briefly reviewed the December 2024 statement from FPIF, specifically the Arlington Heights pension fund portion, showing a beginning balance in December with a Net Asset Value of \$157,424,411, with a rate of return of -2.36%, but a YTD return of 10.92%. The Consolidated Fund report was also provided.

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Death of FF Phillip Palczynski – Spousal Survivor Benefits Update**

Attorney Tom Radja indicated their office is still in the process of gathering records. He recapped the subpoena of twelve different medical offices, plus three IME's as required by the statute. We are trying to determine whether his death was related to duties as a firefighter. There is some difficulty in getting all the records and Tom spoke with the attorney for Mrs. Palczynski to see if he can assist in getting these records.

Recently Tom received medical records from DuPage Medical Group which is the bulk of records from four different doctors. The response contained over 6,000 pages and an invoice for \$1,300.

The higher cost is due to records from four different doctors and individually each would typically be in the \$300-\$400 range. A question was presented as to how far back will these records go? Tom Radja indicated he asked for any and all records, thus we should have everything they have on file.

Although the costs regarding records gathering continues to rise, there's a significant difference between the survivor benefit of a regular pension versus line of duty disability pension benefit. Our responsibility is to determine which benefit is accurate based on the findings.

Will Mrs. Palczynski be required to testify? Tom Radja indicated not necessarily as we rely primarily on the medical records, unless she can present other evidence that's relevant.

Attorney Radja is near to receiving all records he requested, and will keep the Board informed as we get closer to conduct a hearing.

- **Application for Duty Disability Pension FF Steven Landt – Update**

Attorney Radja indicated that since the last meeting, FF Landt has now submitted an Application for Retirement Pension benefits. Previously his application was for a Duty Disability Pension. The Board has approved his new application and he is now receiving a retirement pension benefit. The Department of Insurance indicates if you elect to retire while there's a pending duty disability claim, you then forgo your choice to duty disability benefits.

Tom Radja recommends today the Board should present a motion to nullify the Line of Duty Disability Application and a second motion to ratify the Application for Retirement Pension benefit.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/P. Ahlman) to dismiss the application for Line of Duty Disability for applicant FF Steven Landt.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/M. Gallagher) to ratify the Application for Retirement Pension for applicant FF Steven Landt, with an effective date of April 30, 2023. The calculation of his monthly pension benefit is \$6,780.85.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Application for Retirement Pension – Deputy Chief Curt Hanselman on 1/17/25**

Deputy Chief Curt Hanselman submitted his Application for Retirement Pension as of January 17, 2025.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/P. Ahlman) to approve the Application for Retirement

Pension for D/C Curt Hanselman, effective January 17, 2025, with a calculated monthly pension benefit of \$11,107.49.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

- **Application for Retirement Pension – Battalion Chief John Carpenter on 1/31/25**

Battalion Chief John Carpenter submitted his Application for Retirement Pension as of January 31, 2025.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/P. Ahlman) to approve the Application for Retirement Pension for B/C John Carpenter, effective January 31, 2025, with a calculated monthly pension benefit of \$10,474.81.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

- **Death of Sandra Fields (Wife of Deceased Retiree FF John Fields) on 1/13/2025 – Cessation of Benefits**

The Board received notice that Sandra Fields, widow of deceased retiree, FF John Fields, passed away on January 13, 2025. As of that date, survivor benefits have ceased.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/M. Gallagher) to cease survivor pension benefits to deceased Sandra Fields as of her death on January 13, 2025.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

- **Application for Duty Disability Pension - FF/E Thomas Dobbins**

Attorney Radja indicated that FF Dobbins submitted an Application for Duty Disability Pension as a result of a back injury. On February 10, Tom issued a subpoena for medical records and we are in the process of gathering these records. There is also a workers' compensation case pending, along with an arbitration regarding additional surgery which may resolve his disability.

Chief Harris indicated Tom Dobbins is currently using his sick time and vacation time, so he's on payroll until April 16. Also, he was recently assessed by an IME (requested by the Village). The IME's opinion was that the injury is an older, previous injury. Arbitration approved his proceeding with the second surgery.

It seems reasonable to send him to three IME's after the surgery to determine if it resulted in improvement. Attorney Radja agreed, and will check with his attorney as to whether he wants to

have his application in abeyance until after his surgery. If the surgery is successful, perhaps he wants to return to work or proceed with retirement depending on quality of life. For now, the Board's primary concern is to continue gathering medical records and determine whether this is a work-related injury.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/P. Ahlman) to acknowledge receipt of the Application for Duty Disability for FF Thomas Dobbins.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/M. Gallagher) to appoint Attorney Thomas Radja as the Hearing Officer related to duty disability proceedings for applicant FF Thomas Dobbins.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

- **Death of Retired FF Jack Hawn on 2/9/25 – Cessation of Benefits**

The Board received notification of the death of retired FF Jack Hawn on February 9, 2025. As there are no dependents and no survivor benefit, the pension will cease as of his death.

Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/P. Ahlman) to cease pension benefits for retired FF Jack Hawn as of February 9, 2025.

Roll was called.

Ayes: A. Sielig, L. Harris, M. Gallagher, P. Ahlman

Nays – 0;

Motion carried.

- **Inquiry from Delores Cappitelli (Wife of Deceased Retiree FF Phil Cappitelli) re Type of Benefit.**

Kevin Baumgartner received an inquiry regarding the type of survivor benefit Delores Cappitelli is receiving and the tax liability. In checking FF Phil Cappitelli's pension file, the Decision & Order document and other correspondence indicates he was granted Occupational Disease Disability pension, and upon his death Mrs. Cappitelli received a survivor benefit. Adam Sielig provided the information requested, and explained that she should discuss the matter with her tax advisor.

Attorney Radja further emphasized we are not tax professionals and agreed we cannot give her advice regarding the tax liability on the survivor benefit she is receiving. She needs to consult with her tax accountant.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Attorney Radja advised that he received a call from a retiree regarding a Qildro legal document and its impact on the spouse as to benefits received based on his disability. Because Tom represents the pension board, he explained that he cannot provide him with legal advice.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no other business to present before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM. Motion was made and seconded (A. Sielig/P. Ahlman) to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING** – Scheduled for Monday, May 5, at 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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Laura Potts  
Recording Secretary

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Peter Ahlman  
Board Secretary