

CITY OF LINCOLN PARK
POLICE and FIRE RETIREMENT COMMISSION

1427 Cleophus, Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 23, 2022**

PRESENT: Jeff Stacho, Trustee
Paul Pavlovich, Trustee
Thomas Karnes, Trustee
Thomas Jankowski, Trustee

ABSENT: Maureen Tobin, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Jack Timmony, VanOverbeke, Michaud & Timmony, P.C.
Brad Armstrong, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company
Charlotte Benke, Recording Secretary

Chairman Jeff Stacho called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Re: Minutes of January 26, 2022

RESOLUTION 2-22-00 By: Thomas Jankowski, supported by Thomas Karnes

Resolved, that the minutes of the regular meeting held January 26, 2022, be approved with corrections as discussed.

Yeas: 4

APPROVAL OF BILLINGS

No invoices were submitted for payment.

REPORTS

FEG INVESTMENT ADVISORS

Not present at meeting but sent in the following information:

1. Monthly Flash Report: Summary of Investment Performance for period ending January 31, 2022. Total composite for the month is -4.0%; -2.5% for three months; -0.5% Fiscal Year to Date; up 8.2% 1 Year.

Motion to receive and file report.

By: Jeff Stacho, Supported by Thomas Jankowski

Yeas: 4

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Jack Timmony was present at the meeting and discussed the following:

1. The death of Lincoln Park Police Sergeant John Stearns, who was 53 years of age and had 13 years and 7 months of service. Victoria Stearns, the surviving spouse beneficiary of John Stearns, is eligible for a non-duty death benefit.
2. Mr. Timmony reported that a \$50.00 check was received from Steven Schupbach of Open the Books to cover the costs of completing the FOIA request. The request is near completion and will be sent out.

Reports received and placed on file.

BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

Retirements

Retiree/Beneficiary Deaths

Sgt John Stearns: Deceased

The Retirement System was notified that Mr. Stearns died Wednesday February 16, 2022. His death was from a non-duty related illness and will be treated accordingly for benefit determination purposes. Pursuant to Plan provisions, Mr. Stearns' effective retirement date will be February 15, 2022. His wife Victoria will receive a 100% joint surviving spouse benefit with a small reduction due to the difference in age. Sgt. Stearns' hire date was July 28, 2008. Mrs. Stearns would like the monthly interim stipend (estimated benefit) if possible. The stipend amount was discussed. The stipend amount is \$3,500.00 per policy. Based upon Sgt. Stearns' relatively short term of service, the Board does not believe the actual surviving spouse benefit will approach \$3,500.00 per month. The Board does not want Mrs. Stearns to have to repay an overpayment when final calculations are in. It was decided to pay a monthly stipend in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Motion to amend the amount of stipend to \$2,000.00 per resolution, notify the custodial bank to add Victoria Stearns to the retirement rolls, and begin paying the \$2,000.00 monthly stipend until final calculations are received.

By: Thomas Karnes, Supported by Thomas Jankowski

Yeas: 4

Mr. Brad Armstrong of Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company was present at the meeting to discuss the review of Brian Hawk and Liam Carroll retirement calculations. Mr. Armstrong stated that he has approved the letters consistent with the chart and the letters can be sent out. Mr. Armstrong was present to answer any questions regarding the calculations review. A question was asked "What happens if the Board does not receive an answer as to how repayment is to be made?" Mr. Armstrong stated that if no response is received in the given time the lifetime reduction will be put into place.

OLD BUSINESS

PNC ISSUE: No updates received. It was stated that the bank could not adjust payments of benefits to avoid delays due to holidays, weekends, etc. Other banking institutions are able to adjust payment dates. Trustee Karnes stated that they did do it once but could not explain why it could not be repeated. The Board would like the input from a supervisor to answer questions. The Board wants a definitive answer by the March meeting or may need to research other options.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPEN FORUM

A number of retirees involved in the calculation review spoke at the meeting. William Sant'Angelo discussed how benefits have been removed (health insurance, holiday pay, for example) and now this issue. Joe Lavis stated it should not have taken this long to resolve. Mr. Lavis also stated more time was needed to make a decision regarding repayment of the overpayment amount. Mr. Lavis also requested more information about the interest factor used in the calculation.

Through discussion it was discovered that interest was applied to repayment of overpayments. This was discussed and the Board wants to waive it.

Motion to eliminate interest on overpayments regardless of how it is to be paid back.

By: Thomas Karnes, Supported by Paul Pavlovich Yeas: 4

Motion to extend time for repayment to 90 days for repayment. Move date to June 1st.

By: Thomas Karnes, Supported by Thomas Jankowski Yeas: 4

Trustee Thomas Karnes left the meeting.

Motion to extend Mr. Lavis time to 60 days (to June 1, 2022) and anyone else who feels they need more time.

By: Thomas Jankowski, Supported by Paul Pavlovich Yeas: 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION 1-22-0 By: Jeff Stacho, Supported by Thomas Jankowski

Resolved, that the meeting be adjourned at 1:24 p.m. Yeas: 3