

August 15, 2012
Regular Meeting Board of Fire Commissioners

President Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: President S. Rosenberg, Commissioners J. Klein, M. Lee, J. Meszoros,
Fire Chief B. Rooney

Absent: A. Garcia, D. Garcia

Commissioner Meszoros motioned to dispense with reading the minutes of the previous meeting; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Local 834-Grievance 2011-24; LT Marc Strickland, Retirement Benefits.

Commissioner Klein motioned to table; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

2. Entertain a motion to change of status of Kathryn Serca's Widow's Pension to a Line of Duty Disability Widow's Pension, effective August 20, 2010, and refer to the Board of Trustees, Pension Plan A, for implementation.

Attorney Mitola sent letter out today requesting additional information and that if he didn't hear from her within a month, that we would ask to deny it without prejudice next month. There is not enough information to act on now.

Commissioner Lee motioned to table until September; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

3. Entertain a motion to grant a Widow's Line of Duty Disability Pension Request to Joan McCullough, effective July 13, 2011 and refer to the Board of Trustees, Pension Plan A, for implementation.

Attorney Mitola presented health information regarding Mr. McCullough as well as a letter explaining why he feels that Mrs. McCullough is not entitled to the Line of Duty Pension. In summary, in 1987, Mr. McCullough received a Line of Duty Disability Pension from the Fire Commissioners. There is a letter in file stating that he was seeking this for his heart condition. Also in file is a letter from the Chief at that time, granting the LOD Pension. There wasn't any medical information in file that revealed exactly what his condition was.

Obtained the Workers Compensation file which stated that he retired in 1989. In 1998 he was seeking a Heart and Hypertension Disability Benefit that's under the Connecticut Workers' Compensation Act. His attorney claimed that a TIA he had in 1987 was related to his heart condition, so the Commission retired him with a Disability Pension.

(see handouts)

There is a letter from his treating physician at that time that states that he did not suffer from hypertension, nor did he suffer from coronary heart disease the date he retired and that TIA has nothing to do with coronary artery disease. Documents show that his symptoms of hypertension and coronary artery disease happened well after he retired.

Mr. McCullough's original request for disability did not say that he was seeking this for his heart condition, all he states is that he's seeking disability for his disability. We do know that in 1987 he suffered a work related injury to his neck, which resulted in surgery in January 1989 (with a 25% disability rating). He retires in October of 1989.

Attorney Mitola recommends that they deny this request for Disability Widow's Pension.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Klein motioned to deny request; Commissioner Lee seconded and the Board passed in unanimously.

4. Local 834-Grievance 2012-9 CAPT Harold Clarke, Article 5, Disciplinary Action.

Per Mr. Whitbread, this matter is resolved.

New Business:

1. Communications:

None.

2. Entertain a motion to grant a Widow's Pension Request to Nancy E. Kosma, widow of retired LT Thomas Kosma, effective July 8, 2012.

Commissioner Klein motioned to grant this request; Commissioner Lee seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

3. Entertain a motion to grant a Widow's Pension Request to Mary Kochiss, widow of retired LT Charles Kochiss, effective July 7, 2012.

Commissioner Lee motioned to grant this request; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

4. Entertain a motion to remove Retired PE Richard E. Yanzo, deceased August 6, 2012, from the Firefighter's Pension list and refer to the Board of Trustees, Pension Plan A.

Commissioner Meszoros motioned to accept this motion; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

5. Executive Session for

a. CAPT Paul Cocca (B)

- Declined executive session.
- He stated that he is improving. He has had a new leg for about a month.
- He has been a Fire Fighter for 24 ½ years.
- Rehab is going well.
- Question asked when the doctor would be able to release FF Cocca to be active without putting anyone in danger.
- Suggested to have an IME.

After discussion, Commissioner Klein motioned to table until November; Commissioner Lee seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

b. FF Michael Mentos (B)

Back to full duty effective 9/7/12.

c. FF John Herring (B)

- Declined executive session.
- Been out three months
- Anticipate to return to full duty 9/7/12

Commissioner Meszoros motioned to table until September; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

6. Entertain a motion to accept the Report of Sick and Injury.

Commissioner Klein motioned to accept; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

7. Entertain a motion to accept the Payroll Register.

Commissioner Meszoros motioned to accept; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

8. Policy and Procedure review:

a. None

b. Chief Rooney introduced Nancy Gasper as the new secretary replacing Renee DelPercio.

There being nothing further to come before the Board a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lee; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board agreed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.