

ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT FUND



Minutes: July 19, 2024

1. Chairman Tony Napolitano called the July 19, 2024, Informal Disability Hearing to order at 4:30 PM.

TRUSTEES

Tony Napolitano, Chair
Chief Jeff Lee, Secretary
Chief Nate Spera
Serge Greene
Ryan Sapp (Joined Electronically)

OTHERS

Albert Lovingood, Administrator (Resource Centers)
Bonni Jensen, Attorney (Klausner Kaufman Jensen & Levinson)
Gavin Smith, Firefighter

2. EXTRAORDINARY (EXIGENT) CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRUSTEES JOINING ELECTRONICALLY

All Trustees in attendance at the start of the Board Meeting were physically present.

Informal Disability Hearing: Gavin Smith

Plan Attorney Bonni Jensen presented the Board with the medical records, diagnosis, and IME Report for Gavin Smith. Mrs. Jensen reviewed the informal disability hearing process with the Board of Trustees in detail, explaining that the Board will need to determine if Mr. Smith is disabled, that the disability is permanent, and if the disability occurred while Mr. Smith was performing his job as a Firefighter. Mrs. Jensen then reviewed the IME Report in detail with the Board, and asked Mr. Smith if he saw Dr. Chatin, which Mr. Smith did confirm, noting that Mr. Chatin's title is a Clinical Social Worker. Mrs. Jensen noted that the Plan did not receive any medical records related to Mr. Smith's treatment with Mr. Chatin and is not sure why the Plan did not receive any medical records. Mrs. Jensen also noted that the IME Report mentioned two other Clinical Social Workers that the Plan was unaware of and did not receive any of those medical records along with medical records of another facility that Mr. Smith had received treatment at. Mrs. Jensen informed the Board that she wanted to make them aware of those missing records. The Board discussed that historically, the Plan has received the member's personnel file, with Mrs. Jensen stating that her office received some records; however, they were limited and did not contain much information. Trustee Ryan Sapp inquired if the Plan is still waiting for more records to be received with Mrs. Jensen clarifying that her office was not aware of those missing records and is not aware of any pending records requests. The Board had a detailed conversation regarding the personal file with Mrs. Jensen noting that the file seemed light compared to past received files when it comes to a disability. The Board of Trustees considered the information provided and reviewed that they currently had in detail, resulting in the Board considering if they should request the missing medical records. Chief Lee noted that the IME answers two of the three questions that the Board needs answered to either grant or deny Mr. Smith's In-Line Duty Disability. There was a clarification inquiry into what question was not answered, with Chief Lee noting that it is not clear if the disability is a direct result of Mr. Smith performing the duty as a Firefighter. The Board considered postponing the Informal hearing until the missing information is received for the Board to make an informed decision on this In-Line Duty Disability.

Ryan Sapp made a motion to delay the Informal Disability Hearing until the next Quarterly Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024, to allow Mrs. Jensen to obtain the missing medical records

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from the physicians noted in the IME Report. The motion received a second from Serge Greene, approved by the Trustees 5-0.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public had any comment.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next Quarterly Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 2:30PM.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chief Spera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 PM. The motion received a second from Serge Greene, passed 5-0 by the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Jeff Lee, Secretary