

**Spokane Firefighters' Pension Board
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2021**

Board Members Present: Michael Cathcart (chair), Dan Brown, Clive Jones, Betsy Wilkerson, Terri Pfister, Gregory Haff (alternate)

Staff Present: Kris Redmond, Christine Shisler, Phillip Tencick

Visitors Present: Dr. Daniel Getz (closed session), Paul Belles & Mark Patrick (Alliant), Jayson Davidson & Brian Loescher (Hyas Group)

CLOSED SESSION

The regular meeting of the Spokane Firefighters' Pension Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and immediately went into Closed Session with appropriate representatives and staff present, to discuss submitted medical claims.

The Closed Session adjourned at 9:05 a.m. and the Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:16 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

2020 Investment Performance Report

Hyas Group discussed fixed income markets and the economy broadly, noting the impact the pandemic had on interest rates throughout the year. Reams appears to have navigated the interest rate environment of last year quite well adding a 9.33% return to the benchmark's 6.43% during the year. They were able to effectively take advantage of the swift decline in interest rates as the Federal Reserve took action to stimulate the economy at the initial stages of the pandemic with the severely depressed economic activity. As the economic situation improved later in the year, Reams again was able to participate by adding more credit risk to the portfolio, while taking down some of the interest rate exposure and lowering the duration. In spite of what we consider to be Ream's impressive performance for 2020 and historically, the expectation that the manager will be able to achieve the specified CPI +1.5% actuarial target remains quite low. The average yield to maturity for the portfolio is .9% and the prospective interest and credit risk scenarios is not favorable to the fixed income market generally.

Investment Policy

The Board engaged in its annual review of the Fund's Investment Policy Statement (IPS). Hyas Group had no suggested changes at this time.

Clive Jones moved and Dan Brown seconded the motion to approve the investment policy as presented. The motion pass unanimously.

Review of Holdings

Hyas Group did speak to the fact that during 2020 the Fund did hold two American Airline securities that were rated below the required investment grade standard. Policy does permit the holding of such securities so long as the Board approves of such. While the securities remained in the portfolio at year-end, they were subsequently sold in February 2021, so no action was necessary.

Claims

Hearing Aids \$5,000

Dan Brown moved and Clive Jones seconded the motion to approve reimbursement for \$5,000 for hearing aids. The motion passed unanimously. (03517)

Long-term Care Census

The census was in the packet for review.

Minutes

moved and seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Expenditure Summary Reports

Dan Brown moved and Clive Jones seconded the motion to approve the January 2021 expenditure summary reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the December 2020 expense report deferred to next meeting.

Schedule of Investments

The December 2020 and January 2021 Schedule of Investments was in the packets for review.

Medical and Dental Claims and Experience Reports

Paul Belles presented the medical and dental claims and experience reports.

Prescription Program

Alliant reviewed the report relating to LEOFF Firefighters' Medical/RX Benefits.

Clive Jones moved and Betsy Wilkerson seconded the motion to defer to the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board also tasked Alliant to perform some reference checks.

Death of Pensioners

Ernest H. Nye, Fire Captain, died January 27, 2021 at age 80. Retired December 31, 1999.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Approved by the Spokane Firefighters' Pension Board on May 5, 2021.

Christine Shisler,
Asst. Retirement Director

Terri Pfister,
Secretary and City Clerk