



FOX LAKE POLICE PENSION FUND  
Fox Lake Village Hall - 66 Thillen Drive, Fox Lake, IL 60020  
BOARD MEETING  
Monday, January 15, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.

1. Meeting Called to Order

President Eric Geske called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Board Members present were Eric Geske, Louis Leny, Rick Howell, Ed Becker and Bill Monsen. Also present: Attorney Laura Goodloe, Village Finance Director Mary Locher, Richard Lamb of Lauterbach & Amen. Recording Secretary Carol McMullen attended via zoom.

4. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Louis Leny to approve the Agenda as presented; second by Eric Geske. All Ayes; motion carried.

5. Public Comments - None at this time.

6. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Louis Leny to approve the minutes of the Quarterly meeting of 10-16-2023 as presented; second by Ed Becker. Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Ed Becker - Aye. Rick Howell - Abstain. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Monsen to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of 10-16-2023 as presented; second by Louis Leny. Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Ed Becker - Aye. Rick Howell - Abstain. Motion carried.

7. Financial Report/Investment Reports

*State Street/Verus Advisory, Inc. Reports* - Richard Lamb presented and reviewed the IPOPIF 11-30-2023 Statement showing a YTD ending balance of \$20,782,817.60. No action is taken at this time.

8. Accountants/Treasurer Report

Richard Lamb reviewed the 11-30-2023 Monthly Financial Report showing total net position held in trust for pension benefits at \$21,773,672.05. Total disbursements for 09-01-2023 through 11-30-2023 were \$18,854.50.

A motion was made by Eric Geske to approve the 11-30-2023 L&A Financial Report as presented; second by Louis Leny. All Ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Eric Geske to accept the bills as presented on the L&A Financial Report for the period 09-01-2023 through 11-30-2023 in the amount of \$18,854.50, and to pay the bills as they become due; second by Ed Becker. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Rick Howell - Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

Approval of 2024 Cost of Living Increases - A motion was made by Eric Geske to approve the 2024 Cost of Living increases as prepared by Lauterbach & Amen; second by Louis Leny. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Rick Howell - Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

Active Member Statements - Lauterbach & Amen prepared the active participant member contribution statements as of 04-30-2023. A copy will be placed in each members pension file.

1099 Compliance - Lauterbach & Amen requests this information annually; there was one person employed part-time with the Village who left in August 2023.

Third Party Custodian Agreement finalization -Final paperwork has not been received. This is tabled.

Status of Investment Accounts/Money Market Accounts/Local Bank Accounts and/or BMO Harris Account/Cash Flow Needs/Cash Flow Projections and establishment of a cash management policy - The Board reviewed all account balances, discussed cash on hand through April and discussed reoccurring withdrawals.

A motion was made by Eric Geske to establish a reoccurring withdrawal from IPOPIF to the Lauterbach & Amen BMO account on a monthly basis beginning February 2024 payroll through December 2024 payroll in the amount of \$135,000; second by Bill Monsen. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Rick Howell - Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

Ratification/approval of FY 2023 Annual Audit - The audit is still in review. The approval of the audit is tabled.

9. Attorney Report

Attorney Goodloe discussed two pieces of legislation recently introduced. The first is HB4334 introduced a few weeks ago proposing to remove Tier 2 limitations on salary for annuity purposes for police officers, firefighters, and similar public safety employees. It would calculate automatic annual increases to retirement pensions or survivor pensions under Tier 1 formulas, and adjust the calculation of retirement annuity under Tier 1 provisions.

The second piece of legislation is HB4321. It establishes a presumption that a firefighter or police officer who becomes disabled due to exposure to and contraction of COVID-19 was

injured in the line of duty. Such officers are entitled to receive a duty disability benefit under the applicable Article of the Code. The changes apply retroactively to March 9, 2020. Any previously denied duty disability benefit can now be claimed retroactively.

She stated that regarding the consolidation litigation oral argument was heard before the State Supreme Court in November 2023.

*Status of Gliniewicz Survivors Pension* – Attorney Goodloe discussed the status of the pending matter disseminating a copy of the correspondence that was sent to the Municipality pertaining to settlement negotiations. Counsel will wait for further response from the Municipality's legal Counsel.

*Brandy Lechner disability* – Attorney Goodloe stated that since contacting Ms. Lechner's legal counsel in November 2023, there has been no response. Ms. Lechner filed for disability in May 2022. Attorney Goodloe will advise Ms. Lechner and Counsel for the Village that the Board is moving forward with setting this for a hearing in March or May. Trustee Leny stated that he will not be available in April.

*PG fee review/increase* Attorney Goodloe presented the Board with a fee increase proposal with 4 options. This proposal will be placed on file.

A motion was made by Bill Monsen to accept Option 1 of the Puchalski Goodloe, LLC fee increase proposal, increasing the quarterly retainer fee to \$775.00, with an hourly rate of \$200 per hour, for the period 2024-2026, beginning with the second quarter of 2024; second by Rick Howell. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske – Aye. Bill Monsen – Aye. Louis Leny – Aye. Rick Howell – Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

## 10. Old Business

*Affidavits of Eligibility* – Attorney Goodloe sent a letter to Megan Kinsler on 12-07-2023. Megan Kinsler did return her completed Affidavit of Eligibility to Attorney Goodloe. All Affidavits have been received at this point.

*2023 Trustee Training Status Update* – All Trustees have completed their training for 2023.

*Conference Expense Reimbursement* – Email correspondence was received from past Trustee Roy Lucke stating he had not received reimbursement for his attendance at the pension conference in Galena in 2023. He stated he turned his original receipts in to Carol at the August meeting, and did not keep copies. There was no meeting in August and no receipts were received by Carol, who has been attending the meetings via zoom. Rich Lamb stated he had received expense reports from the other Trustees and they have been reimbursed. He will check to see if he received receipts from Roy Lucke and report back to the Board. This is tabled.

*2024 Trustee Training* – IPPFA will have a conference May 8-10 at Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, and another one Sep 25-27 at Marriott Lincolnshire. There will also be a PTSD and Wellness Retreat June 2-4 at Grand Geneva. Carol can register the Trustees for either conference.

A motion was made by Eric Geske to pre-approve the registration fees for the IPPFA Conference; second by Louis Leny. All Ayes; motion carried.

*Fiduciary Liability Insurance* - The Fiduciary Liability Insurance Policy has been renewed. The policy and invoice for \$2,830.00 have been received. Carol will send Rich Lamb the invoice which has been pre-approved for payment.

11. Officer Status/Membership Benefits

*Megan Blue IMRF Transfer Payments* - Richard Lamb stated that payments have started with additional payments coming out of her check for the IMRF transfer that started as of late October. No action is needed.

*Jacob Koehring transfer to Chicago* - L&A calculated an amount of \$26,237.95 to be rolled into his IRA with Nationwide Financial, broken down as follows: \$14,470.84 for his Chicago transfer and \$11,767.11 in normal contributions to the pension fund.

A motion was made by Eric Geske to approve the pension refund in the amount of \$26,237.95 for Jacob Koehring to be transferred into his IRA; second by Bill Monsen. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Rick Howell - Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

*Eric Geske Military Service Transfer* - Attorney Goodloe researched length of repayment plan and interest on military service transfer calculations that have been previously approved by the Board. The Administrative Rules & Regulations states that the service transfer can be paid back over a ten year period, but does not address amount of interest. The Board discussed not assessing any interest on the repayment schedule since the person was in the military serving our country.

A motion was made by Ed Becker to direct Lauterbach & Amen to prepare military service buyback calculations for Eric Geske, based upon a ten year repayment plan with 0% interest to be assessed on the repayment; second by Louis Leny. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske - Abstain. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Rick Howell - Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

*Cody Barker - Creditable service transfer to Buffalo Grove* - L&A prepared the creditable service transfer for Cody Barker. Fox Lake Police Pension Fund should issue payment of \$145,432.06 to the Buffalo Grove Police Pension Fund.

A motion was made by Eric Geske to approve the military service transfer for Cody Barker and direct Lauterbach & Amen to issue payment of \$145,432.06 to the Buffalo Grove Police Pension Fund; second by Louis Leny. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Rick Howell - Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

*Rita Burke* - Lauterbach & Amen was contacted by Rita Burke's daughter, Wanda Trace, informing them that Rita Burke passed away on 11-02-2023. They received her Last Will & Testament. Her final prorated benefit was returned to L&A due to her bank account already being closed.

A motion was made by Eric Geske to direct Lauterbach & Amen to issue the final prorated benefit of Rita Burke to the estate based upon whoever is listed in Rita Burke's Last Will and Testament; second by Bill Monsen.

*Jason Baldowsky - Deferred Benefit Calculations* - Patrolman Baldowsky's date of hire was 06-15-1998, DOB 1974, Tier I, retirement date was 07-16-2018.

A motion was made by Eric Geske to approve the deferred pension benefit calculations for Patrolman Jason Baldowsky as prepared by Lauterbach & Amen, to begin 06-15-2024 with a pro-rated amount of \$1,989.40 and the first full monthly payment of \$3,730.13 beginning 07-01-2024; second by Rick Howell. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Rick Howell - Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

*Joseph Martin - retirement application/pension benefit calculations* - Commander Joseph Martin's date of hire was 03-19-2001, DOB 1970, Tier I, retirement date was 12-08-2023.

A motion was made by Louis Leny to approve the retirement pension application of Commander Joseph Martin, and to accept the pension benefits as calculated by Lauterbach & Amen, with a pro-rated amount of \$4,800.85 beginning 12-09-2023 and first full monthly payment of \$6,470.71 beginning 01-01-2024; second by Rich Howell. Roll call vote taken: Eric Geske - Aye. Bill Monsen - Aye. Louis Leny - Aye. Rick Howell - Aye. Ed Becker Aye. Motion carried.

*Nicholas Wolotowsky military service transfer* - Nicholas Wolotowsky has applied for a military service transfer to purchase 24 months. L&A reviewed his DD214 provided with the application; he is eligible to purchase a maximum of 4 months based upon the DD214. To purchase more than the 4 months they will need his DD214 form supporting any additional active military time served. This is tabled.

*Matias Renteria - New hire* - Date of hire 12-13-2023, DOB 1998, Tier II. All paperwork has been received.

A motion was made by Louis Leny to accept the pension application of Matias Renteria; second by Rick Howell. All Ayes; motion carried.

*Dylan Dahlgren - New hire* - Date of hire 11-20-2023, DOB 1999, Tier II. All paperwork has been received.

A motion was made by Louis Leny to accept the pension application of Dylan Dahlgren; second by Ed Becker. All Ayes; motion carried.

## 12. **New Business**

*Board Elections/Mayor appointments* - An election will be held in April with nominations going out in March for one active police officer; Eric Geske's term expires 04-30-2024. Mayor appointee Ed Becker, who was appointed to replace outgoing Trustee Roy Lucke whose term expires 04-30-2024, will need to be reappointed by the Mayor.

A question was raised as to mayor appointee residence requirements. Attorney Goodloe stated that there is nothing in the Pension Code that requires a municipal appointee to be a resident of the municipality and she is not aware of any ordinance in Fox Lake relating to this.

*IPPFA HELPS Program* - IPPFA issued a bulletin regarding changes made to the HELPS Retiree Act, stating that retirement members may reduce their taxable earnings by up to \$3,000 for medical insurance premiums paid during a calendar year which is allowable under the Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety Retirees Act, or the "HELPS" Retiree Act.

Attorney Goodloe stated that the Board would have to implement this program. If the Board chooses to engage L&A to implement this program, then the fund would reach out to the retirees to see if there is any interest. Before sending this information out to the retirees, Richard Lamb was requested to provide a better explanation of this program at our next meeting. This is tabled.

Annual Review Administrative Rules & Regulations - No changes at this time.

Semi-Annual review of closed session meeting minutes - Based upon legal counsels recommendation all closed session meeting minutes currently exempt from disclosure will remain exempt from disclosure. No action is to be taken to release these minutes.

13. Closed Session - None
14. Action from Closed Session - None
15. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held 04-15-2024 at 9:30 a.m. With no further business, a motion was made by Eric Geske to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.; second by Louis Leny. All Ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Geske  
President

BY: Carol McMullen  
Recording Secretary