

Blue Ridge Fire District

BLUE RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT

PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM LOCAL BOARD

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www.brfdaz.org

MINUTES of Board Meeting held June 16, 2022

1. Call to Order

MEETING was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairperson Mike Bourne

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Chuck Buddle	Present
Brandon Sewell	Present
Ryan MacNeal	Present
Linda Blosser	Present by phone
Mike Bourne	Present

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a motion to adopt the Agenda. Mr. Sewell made a motion; Mr. MacNeal seconded the Motion.

The Motion passed.

5. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

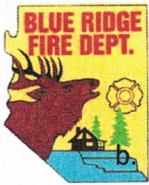
- Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion to discuss and possibly approve the Minutes of March 18, 2022. Mr. Sewell made a motion; Mr. MacNeal seconded the Motion.

Mr. Sewell noted that tasks were assigned at the March 18th and those tasks need to be reviewed as the Board membership has changed.

The Motion passed.

Mr. MacNeal made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 18, 2022. Mr. Sewell seconded.

The Motion passed.



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Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion re: the status, discussion and possible action to approve an engagement letter with an IME Doctor in the state of Washington for the Medical Disability Retired Firefighter. Mr. Sewell made a motion; Mr. MacNeal seconded the motion.

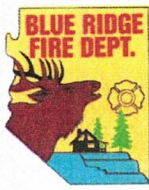
The Motion passed

Mr. Buddle informed the Board of his search for an IME doctor in Washington state. He found Dr. Paula Lantsberger through contact with the Fire Chief's Association in Spokane. Although he found the best IME option, his limited knowledge of the facts hampered his ability to convey answers to her primary questions.

Mr. Buddle suggested another board member be the liaison with Dr. Lantsberger.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding Paula Lantsberger, MD as the potential IME doctor in Spokane, WA, her qualifications and her request for medical information of the Medical Disability Retired Firefighter.

- Mr. Bourne said an initial agreement will be signed before any information exchange takes place.
- Mr. MacNeal questioned if other IME doctors should be researched and Mr. Buddle said Dr. Lantsberger is the unanimous choice of the Washington Fire Districts.
- Mr. Sewell asked if it was a board responsibility to review every document before approving medical disability. Mr. MacNeal noted that new board members did not need to review documents for a disability claim that was already approved. If the new IME doctor has a new result, the board would then review the revised disability claim.
- Mr. Bourne said an IME is an independent examination and previous records & background may alter the opinion. Ms. Blosser and Mr. Buddle suggested availability of records would help with background, as Dr. Lantsberger made a broad request to see the Medical Disability Retired Firefighter's file re: the initial injury.
- Assistant Chief Lashua, as a community member with 18-year experience on PSPRS Boards in Pine-Strawberry Fire District, informed the board that
 - because of HIPAA law, the Medical Disability Retired Firefighter's medical records kept by the PSPRS Board is confidential. The Medical Disability Retired Firefighter would, therefore, need to release her medical records from her original industrial claim through Workman's Comp and Seivert Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, PC. To Dr. Lantsberger.
 - The responsibility of the PSPRS Board is not to review medical records, but to review the IME doctor's recommendation. The Board does not have expertise; the Board is hiring a doctor for her expertise and recommendation.



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- Ms. Blosser inquired if the District Board had funds in its budget for this or if it should be initiated in next year's budget. Mr. Buddle said previous Board Chairperson Scott suggested the cost would be around \$7,000 and because of Dr. Lantsberger's lead time, it would take place within next year's budget.

Ms. Blosser left the meeting at 9:37.

- Mr. Bourne said that after the initial agreement with Dr. Lantsberger is in place, the medical records from Workman's Comp shall be electronically sent to Dr. Lantsberger and the Board would not be involved in reviewing or sending records. This Board's duty is to take the recommendation from the doctor and make decisions based on that and not be reviewing any medical records.
- Mr. Sewell reminded the Board that physicals for new staff would include notification of pre-existing conditions, that would be sealed, until a need arose for determining if the pre-existing condition was a factor in medical retirement.

Mr. MacNeal requested the liaison from the Board to Dr. Lantsberger be determined. Chairperson Mike Bourne acknowledged he would take the lead on this issue.

- Mr. Bourne said the next step is to contact this doctor in Washington; work out an agreement; work out the process for transmitting medical records from doctor to doctor, (the doctors can secure the Medical Disability Retired Firefighter's release if needed). Mr. Bourne said Dr. Lantsberger is well credentialed and the key is for the Medical Disability Retired Firefighter to understand the status of her medical condition.

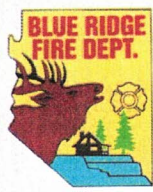
Mr. Bourne made a Motion to initiate the next steps plan to initiate an agreement with the IME doctor in Washington, provide the contact information for Workman's Comp, the Arizona IME, and the Medical Disability Retired Firefighter on after the agreement is in place. Mr. MacNeal seconded the motion.
The motion passed.

A status letter will be sent to the Medical Disability Retired Firefighter with all pertinent information.

- c. Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Board Members. Mr. Sewell made the motion; Mr. MacNeal seconded the motion.

The Motion passed.

- Mr. Sewell discussed informational videos on the PSPRS website for Mr. Bourne. Mr. Bourne's attendance at the Fire Chief's Association Training in July will satisfy the Open Meeting Law training.
- Mr. MacNeal reminded that we need to update our roster to PSPRS



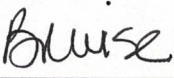
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- Discussion took place re: the terms of each of the Board Members.
District Board Member
Bourne 10.31.2024
Two members from Staff
MacNeal 10.31.2022
Sewell 10.31.2024
Two members from the Community
Buddle 10.31.2022
Blosser 10.31.2024

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectively submitted:



Beth Wise, Secretary