Eden Prairie Firefighter Relief Association

Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
April 24, 2025

Board members in attendance: Tom Wilson, Tammy Wilson, Scott Gerber (V), Tony Arndt, Brian Sykes, Travis Dahlke, Collin O'Brien, John Williams.
Guests in attendance: Mike Rogers, Bob Haugen, Bob Listaik, John Rochford, John Riegert, Frank Weber, Kathleen O'Connor (V), Jay O'Connell, Rick Hammerschmidt (V)
The meeting was attended in-person or virtually, indicated by the letter V, via Microsoft TEAM.

Wells Fargo presented the first quarter 2025 investment results after discussion of current market conditions and predictions for 2025. The introduction of increased tariffs has resulted in more market volatility and an increased likelihood of an economic slowdown in 2025. Wells Fargo believes a recession is unlikely. As of March 31, 2025, the end of the first quarter, the value of our portfolio was $22,869,056. The pension at that time was 105 percent funded. The fund is in a relatively defensive position. The portfolio allocation of assets as of March 31, 2025 is as follows: (target allocation in parentheses) Equities are 57.25 percent (55.0 percent), fixed income is 36.47 percent (35.0 percent), real assets are 5.95 percent (10.0 percent), and cash alternatives are 0.32 percent (0 percent). Equities are 85 percent US and 15 percent international. First quarter return on the portfolio was minus 0.63 percent (-0.63%). The benchmark, SBI (State Board of Investment) Index, was minus 1.80 percent (-1.80%) over the same period.

President O'Brien called the regular meeting of the Eden Prairie Firefighter Relief Association (EPFRA) Board of Trustees meeting to order.. The minutes from the February 27, 2025 EPFRA Board of Trustees meeting were reviewed. Mr. Sykes made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Officer's Reports:
President: No report
Vice President: No reports
Secretary: The OSA Volunteer Firefighter Relief Association Working Group bill has been forwarded by the LCPR to the Omnibus Pension Bill to be considered by the Minnesota Legislature currently in session. They also approved an amendment to the Omnibus Pension Bill that increases the lump sum benefit maximum for relief associations to $20,000.00 per year of service. Cole Hytjan will be retiring effective May 1, 2025.
Treasurer:

Account Balances

Special Account	$112,107.95
General Account	$ 36,630.41

Accounts Payable / Special Fund

Pension benefits	$ 90,999.34
ADP	$ 335.21
Traveler's Insurance (Officer's Bond)	$ 1,052.00
Best and Flanagan (legal fees)	$ 2,975.00

Accounts Payable / General Fund

Sterling Catering (Firefighter recognition event budget)	$ 3,020.49
Aspen Mills (Badge holders)	$ 195.70

Accounts Receivable / Special Account

Wells Fargo	$ 95,600.00
City of Eden Prairie (Supplemental Benefit refund)	$ 6,000.00

Accounts Receivable / General Fund

City of Eden Prairie (Dues)	$ 317.30
City of Eden Prairie (Dues)	$ 315.63

A motion was made by Mr. O’Brien to approve payment in the amount of $1,052.00 to Traveler’s Insurance for the three year bond indemnifying the EPFRA in case of financial damage by the President, Treasurer or Secretary individually. Mr. Arndt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
A motion was made by Mr. Arndt to approve payment in the amount of $2,975.00 to Best and Flanagan for legal work on behalf of the EPFRA. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
A motion to approve the payment of retirement benefits to Aaron Casper, pending his retirement effective May 1,2025, in the amount of $211,000 ($210,000.00 plus a $1,000.00 supplemental benefit) for his 14 years of service was made by Mr. Arndt. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
A motion to approve the payment of retirement benefits to Philip Jones, who retired effective March 31, 2025, in the amount of $316,000.00 ($315,000.00 plus a $1,000.00 supplemental benefit) for his 21 years of service was made by Mr. O’Brien. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
A motion to approve a monthly retirement benefit of $560.00 per month retroactively to February 1, 2025 for Jess Irmiter for his 10 years of service by Mr. Wilson. Mr. O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Unfinished Business:
The Actuarial for years ending December 31, 2024 and the work on the financial audit for 2024 have been completed. The audit is in partner review.prior to being submitted to the OSA. Eligible retired and deferred members were provided with a copy of the scenarios performed by the Actuary. Mr. Rochford raised a question as to an increase in the monthly pension benefit to the $68.00 per month per year of service level. The Board declined to consider this at the present time. There was no further discussion of benefit changes. President O’Brien stated that further discussion as to an increase in the monthly pension retirement benefit be held over until the May meeting of the Board.
The Investment Committee completed its work on the updated Investment Policy Statement (IPS). After the draft of the IPS was presented by President O’Brien final changes were made to the document that included specific mention of the SBI customized benchmark for the EPFRA created by the OSA; that an RFP for an investment advisor would be done every 5 to 7 years (unless otherwise indicated); and that the average annual return should be at least 6 percent (annualized over a 5 year period). The IPS presented to the Board is as follows:
The investment objective is conservative growth and income with reviews performed at least quarterly with our investment advisor.

Asset Class	Lower Limit %	Target Allocation	Upper Limit %
Fixed Income	25	35	45
Equities	45	55	60
Real Assets	0	10	20
Alternative Investments	0	0	0
Other Investments	0	0	0
		100	

There was a brief discussion about transferring up to twenty percent of assets to the SBI. President O'Brien expressed concerns about any potential costs and availability of funds. He stated that he would contact the SBI regarding his questions and concerns regarding this matter.

New Business:
A motion was made by Mr. Arndt for the EPFRA to donate $500.00 for the food (dinner) to be provided at the Joseph Johns Memorial event at Station Three on May 5, 2005. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
The next regular meeting of the EPFRA Board of Trustees will be held on May 22, 2025 at 5:30 PM in Station One.
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Arndt. Mr. Dahlke seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wilson, Secretary EPFRA Board of Trustees

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