

Public Safety Memorial Fund Board
Minutes
January 27, 2022

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board held a WebEx meeting on January 27, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE Salem, Oregon. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Committee Members:

Colette Peters, Director, Chair, Department of Corrections
James Oeder, Oregon Volunteers Firefighters Association
DaNeshia Barrett, Non-Management Law Enforcement
Vacant, Corrections Professional
Vacant, Law Enforcement Professional
Vacant, Public Member

Committee Members Absent:

No members were absent

DPSST Staff:

Suzy Herring
Shelby Alexander
Brian Henson
Michael Anderson
Jennifer Howald

Guests

Holly Gaunt

1. *November 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Approve minutes

- *James Oeder made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2021 Public Safety Memorial Fund Board (PSMFB) meeting. DaNeshia Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

2. *Brian Gaunt (DPSST #37820) – Beaverton Police Department

Presented by Suzy Herring

On August 10, 2021, Sergeant Gaunt met with another Beaverton Police Officer in a conference room and were in close contact with one another for an unknown length of time. Within 24 hours

of the meeting, the other Beaverton Police Officer tested positive for COVID-19. By August 20, 2021 Sergeant Gaunt was showing symptoms of COVID-19 and officially tested positive for COVID-19 on August 26, 2021. Sergeant Gaunt was admitted to the Kaiser Westside Hospital in Hillsboro, OR on August 29, 2021.

Statement received by Beaverton Police Department, disclosed on October 24, 2021, Sergeant Gaunt passed away, after spending almost an entire month in the hospital due to COVID-19 complications.

On November 16, 2021, the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board reviewed Sergeant Gaunt's initial application for benefits. After deliberation between members, the PSMFB requested additional information regarding the death prior to making a final decision.

On November 29, 2021, the Beaverton Police Department obtained and submitted Sergeant Gaunt's handwritten death certificate to DPSST, which was not legible. The DPSST requested an official certificate of death.

On December 6, 2021, the Beaverton Police Department received and submitted Sergeant Gaunt's accepted claim for Workman's Compensation to DPSST. Letter dated November 29, 2021, from Tristar Senior Claims Examiner, titled "Initial Notice of Claim Acceptance". The letter stated the claim for COVID-19 infection, fatality was accepted. The letter included the date of injury as August 12, 2021. A follow up call was made to the Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) of Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), to confirm the information was received and accepted on December 9, 2021.

December 16, 2021, the DPSST received the Certification of Vital Record from the State of Oregon. The certificate included the cause of death as the following:

Immediate Cause – Herniation of Brain, Intracranial Hemorrhage and Stroke

Other - Significant conditions contributing to death: COVID-19 and Acute Kidney Injury

- *James Oeder made a motion to determine that Sergeant Gaunt met the statutory definition of a Public Safety Officer under the Public Safety Memorial Fund statute and approve action item 1 of the memorandum. Colette Peters seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of all members present. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with one member abstaining.*
- *James Oeder made a motion to approve Sergeant Gaunt's death as a qualifying death as set forth in ORS 243.954 and approve action item 2 of the memorandum. Colette Peters seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of all members present. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with one member abstaining.*
- *James Oeder made a motion to determine that Holly Gaunt, wife of Sergeant Gaunt, is eligible for Public Safety Memorial Fund benefits and approve action item 3 of the memorandum. Colette Peters seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of all members present. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with one member abstaining.*

- *James Oeder made a motion to award the lump sum benefit in the amount of \$25,000 to Holly Gaunt and approve action item number 4 of the memorandum. Colette Peters seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of all members present. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with one member abstaining.*

Suzy Herring announced that Brian Gaunt's spouse will receive the \$25,000 benefit. The check will be printed and delivered and DPSST will work through the Beaverton Police Department to facilitate this process.

3. *Jerry Richardson (DPSST #08757); Portland Fire & Rescue

Presented by Suzy Herring

On August 10, 2018, Lieutenant Jerry Richardson was diagnosed with mesothelioma, after serving as a firefighter and fire paramedic for over 34 years. Soon after the diagnosis, Richardson began cancer treatment. On December 3, 2018, the Bureau of Fire and Police Disability and Retirement administered Jerry's claims for service-connected and occupational disability.

On November 19, 2021, Lieutenant Jerry Richardson lost his battle with cancer and passed away in hospice care in Vancouver, Washington. Until death, Jerry was considered an active employee with the Portland Fire & Rescue through Portland Police and Fire Disability and Retirement Injury Leave.

On November 19, 2021 Portland Fire & Rescue made initial contact with Fire Training Manager, Julie Olsen at DPSST, notifying the agency of the death of Jerry Richardson.

November 30, 2021 the DPSST received Richardson's M-3, Notice of Death or Permanent Total Disability/Death.

- *DaNeshia Barrett made a motion to approve the determination that Lieutenant Richardson meets the statutory definition of a Public Safety Officer under the Public Safety Memorial Fund statute and approve action item 1 of the memorandum. James Oeder seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of all members. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *James Oeder motioned to accept the death as a qualifying death as set forth in ORS 243.954 and approve action item 2 of the memorandum. Colette Peters seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of all members. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *DaNeshia Barrett made a motion to approve Heather Richardson, wife of Jerry Richardson, as an eligible beneficiary of the Public Safety Memorial Fund benefits and approve action item 3 of the memorandum. Colette Peters seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of all members. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Colette Peters motioned to award Heather Richardson the lump sum benefit in the amount of \$25,000.00 and approve action item 4 of the memorandum. DaNeshia*

seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of all members. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Suzy Herring announced that Jerry Richardson's spouse will receive the \$25,000 benefit. The check will be printed and delivered and DPSST will work through Portland Fire and Rescue to facilitate this process.

6. Next meeting – TBD

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.