

Public Safety Memorial Fund Board
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board held a WebEx meeting on November 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.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 3:05 p.m.

Committee Members:

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

Committee Members Absent:

DaNeshia Barrett, Non-Management Law Enforcement

DPSST Staff:

Suzy Herring
Shelby Alexander

Guests

No guests attended this meeting

1. *September 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Approve minutes

James Oeder made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2021 Public Safety Memorial Fund Board meeting. Colette Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. *Harry Klopfenstein (DPSST #04770) – Silverton Fire District

Presented by Suzy Herring

On September 24, 2021, Fire Captain Harry Klopfenstein responded to a motor vehicle crash in Silverton, Oregon at 17:37 hours.

On September 25, 2021 at 16:25, within 24 hours of responding to the motor vehicle incident, Captain Harry Klopfenstein suffered from Sudden Cardiac Arrest while on his property in Silverton, Oregon. Fellow firefighters on the property witnessed the emergency and attempted to perform life saving measures but were unsuccessful in their efforts.

In review of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, “Death directly resulting from a cardiovascular event that occurs immediately after, or within 24 hours of, returning from an emergency response...” is criteria applied when evaluating circumstance of each death for inclusion on the National Memorial. It must be mentioned, the criteria used for including a firefighter’s name on the National Fallen Fighters Memorial are separate and distinct from the line-of-duty death criteria used by other agencies, entities or programs to establish line-of-duty death status for other national, state and local memorials or benefit payment.

Colette Peters made a motion to accept the death as a qualifying death as set forth in ORS 243.954 and approve action items 1 through 4 on the memorandum. James Oeder seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of members present. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Suzy announced that Harry Klopfenstein’s spouse will receive the mandatory \$25,000.00 benefit as supported by statute. The check will be printed and delivered and DPSST will work through the Silverton Fire District to facilitate this process.

3. *Rick Ilg (DPSST #22817); Supplemental Application for Benefits – Forest Grove Fire & Rescue

Presented by Suzy Herring

On December 18, 2018, Fire Captain Rick Ilg was diagnosed with Glioblastoma, however returned to full duty after several procedures and treatments until his cancer progressed again and forced his retirement in 2021. On September 12, 2021 the fire department was notified that Captain Rick Ilg had passed away following his battle with brain cancer (Glioblastoma).

On September 17, 2021, the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board (PSMFB) considered the initial application for PSMF benefits submitted by Forest Grove Fire & Rescue and Holly Ilg, spouse of Captain Ilg. Ultimately the PSMFB determined that Captain Ilg’s death was a qualifying death as defined by ORS 243.954. As a result, Holly Ilg was awarded the lump sum benefit of (\$25,000).

On October 1, 2021, Holly Ilg submitted the supplemental application for benefits, requesting further reimbursement for mortgage payments as well as health coverage for herself and her daughter.

Colette Peters made a motion to approve action items 1 and 2 on the memorandum and award the discretionary benefits for mortgage, dental and health benefits for Holly Ilg and her daughter. James Oeder seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of members present. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Suzy announced that Holly Ilg and her daughter will receive the discretionary benefits as supported by statute. The check will be printed and delivered and DPSST will work through the Forest Grove Fire & Rescue to facilitate this process.

4. * 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.

After deliberation between the members in attendance of the Public Safety Memorial Board meeting, a consensus was confirmed that the PSMFB wishes to receive further information regarding Officer Gaunt's cause of death and workman's compensation final outcome before deciding if Officer Gaunt's death can be classified as a qualifying death pursuant to ORA 243.954.

Suzy explained to the PSMFB that DPSST staff will continue communicating with the Beaverton Police Department and necessary avenues in order to obtain the documentation that the PSMFB requests. Suzy stated that once the materials are received, DPSST will provide the PSMFB with the additional documentation.

5. *John Kilcullen (DPSST #35147); Supplemental Application for Benefits – Eugene Police Department

Presented by Suzy Herring

On April 22, 2011, Police Officer John Christopher Kilcullen was involved in a fatal incident in Springfield, Oregon. Officer Kilcullen was shot and later died from a gunshot wound received while performing his duties as a police officer for the City of Eugene.

On April 28, 2011, the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board (PSMFB) considered the initial application for PSMF benefits submitted by Kristie Sampson-Kilcullen, spouse of Officer Kilcullen. Ultimately the PSMFB determined that Officer Kilcullen's death was a qualifying death as defined by ORS 243.954. As a result, Kristie Sampson-Kilcullem was awarded the lump sum benefit of (\$25,000).

Since 2011, Mrs. Sampson-Kilcullen has continually submitted supplemental applications for benefits requesting further reimbursement to continue health and dental coverage for herself and daughter(s), each of which was approved by the PSMFB.

On November 15, 2021, Mrs. Sampson-Kilcullen requested further reimbursement to continue health and dental coverage for her daughter, for the months of January, 2022 through June, 2022 (6 months).

Colette Peters made a motion to approve action items 1 and 2 on the memorandum and award the discretionary benefits for dental and health benefits for Mrs. Sampson-Kilcullen's daughter. James Oeder seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call of members present. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Suzy announced that Mrs. Sampson-Kilcullen's daughter will receive the discretionary benefits as supported by statute. The check will be printed and delivered by DPSST.

6. Next meeting – TBD

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.