

Public Safety Memorial Fund Board

Minutes - Draft

July 25, 2019

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE Salem, Oregon.

Committee Members present:

Patricia Patrick-Joling, Chair, Public Citizen Member
Brian Wolfe, Vice Chair, Oregon State Sheriff's Association (Teleconference)
Liz Lawrence, Non-Management Law Enforcement
Collette Peters, Director, Department of Corrections
Nadine Purington, Non-Management Parole & Probation

Committee Members Absent:

Patricia "Tricia" Connolly, Oregon State Fire Fighter Council

DPSST Staff:

Eriks Gabliks
Lindsay Hale
Theresa Janda
Jennifer Howald



1. *Minutes for January 24, 2019

Approve minutes

Elizabeth Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2019 Public Safety Memorial Fund Board meeting. Colette Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. *David Blann (DPSST #32676) – Jefferson County Sheriff's Office; Application for Public Safety Memorial Fund (PSMF) Benefits

Lindsay Hale gave an overview of the events surrounding the death of David Blann, a police officer employed with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Dep. Blann passed away on February 15, 2019 at his home from sudden cardiac arrest. Deputy Blann was not on duty at the time of his death and that he had responded to one non-emergency call for service, to check on a residence, the day prior to his death.

An application was received for PSMF benefits, which is included in the staff report, from both the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office as well as, Beth Ann Kronick, the widow of David Blann.

Action Item: Determine if the death of Deputy Blann qualifies for these benefits according to the definition of a qualifying death or disability for the purposes of the Public Safety Memorial Fund.

Each committee member discussed their thoughts on whether the circumstances of Deputy Blann's death qualified for PSMF benefits. Committee members all stated individually, and agreed as a group, that they admired and were very appreciative of Deputy Blann's community service, as well as his service as a Deputy.

Liz Lawrence made a motion to deny benefits be paid from the Public Safety Memorial Fund for the death of Deputy David Blann, due to the PSMFB's finding that his death does not meet the statutory definition of a qualifying death. Colette Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. *Malcus Williams (DPSST #33171) – Ashland Police Department; Supplemental Application for Discretionary Public Safety Memorial Fund (PSMF) Benefits

Lindsay Hale gave an overview of the supplemental application for discretionary Public Safety Memorial Fund benefits filed by Ona Williams, who is the widow of Ashland Police Officer Malcus Williams. This body previously found that Officer Williams' death was a qualifying death under the Memorial Fund statute. A supplemental application for benefits has been submitted, requesting further reimbursement to continue health and dental coverage for Mrs. Williams and her daughter, Brooklyn, from September 2019 through February 2020, a six-month period.

Upon questioning by PSMFB member, Colette Peters, Lindsay Hale explained that the statute allows for five years of discretionary supplemental benefits to be considered for spouses or disabled officers and up until the age of 18 for children or dependents or until age 23 if enrolled full time. Each application will be considered on its individual merit, so by law, the Board should consider the facts in the initial application, the facts in the supplemental application, which includes all benefits paid to date, the amount of money in the fund currently and then any anticipated future requests for the Fund. Lindsay reported that the Fund is currently at about \$250,000.00 at the start of the biennium. She explained that the purpose of the Fund is to provide temporary and immediate assistance for the survivors of line of duty deaths, to help them with the money and benefits they relied on through the employment of their loved ones. The legislative intent of the statute does require a demonstration of financial need and applications should be considered on a case by case basis.

Action Item 1: Determine whether to approve the application submitted by Ona Williams for payment of supplemental discretionary funds.

Elizabeth Lawrence made a motion to approve the application submitted by Ona Williams for PSMF supplemental discretionary benefits. Nadine Purington seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Item 2: Approve the amount of discretionary funds to be awarded, if approved. \$8489.22 was requested.

Elizabeth Lawrence made a motion to approve the full amount of \$8489.22 of discretionary funds requested by Ona Williams. Nadine Purington seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

4. Other Business

- Linsay Hale explained to the members that Trish Connolly, who was not present has recently been promoted within her agency and for this reason is no longer eligible to sit in her position on the Board and will therefore not be a member on the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board, either. She expressed congratulations to Trish and explained that we will have to find a fire service representative from the Board to replace her.
- There is an application pending for a Deputy in Benton County. He fell ill after firearms training and passed away, however, there were other health complications involved. We are waiting for the medical evidence to show whether the cause of his death was related to his job or otherwise to determine if it will qualify as a qualifying death for PSMF purposes.

4. Next meeting – TBD

With no further business to Discuss the meeting was adjourned.