

Public Safety Memorial Fund Board

Minutes

July 28, 2016

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board held a meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Training Academy in Salem, Oregon. Linsay Hale called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Board Members Present

Colette Peters, Director, Dept. of Corrections
Patricia Patrick-Joling, Public Citizen Member
Nadine Purington, Non-Management Parole and Probation
Tricia Connolly, Oregon State Fire fighters Council
Brian Wolfe, OSSA

Board Members Absent

Jeff Hering, Non-Management Law Enforcement

DPSST Staff

Eriks Gabliks, Director
Lindsay Hale, Professional Standards Director
Theresa Janda, Executive Assistant to the Director

1. PSMFB Overview for New Members

Lindsay Hale gave an overview of the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board's (PSMFB) purpose and obligations. The Memorial Fund has existed since 1999, established by the Legislature. A retired State Trooper worked to get it passed and established. This fund is designed to provide immediate and temporary financial assistance to help families of fallen public safety professionals get back on their feet, or in the case of a disability, help an officer or fire fighter get back on their feet.

She explained that the PSMFB is made up of six individuals who represent fire, police and corrections who have the authority to determine who meets qualifications for benefit eligibility as well as discretionary authority to assign discretionary benefits such as mortgage payments, etc. The Board members are also charged with interpreting the laws and rules that govern the PSMFB, which are clearly written and uncomplicated. The membership is contingent upon their term on the Board, so that their PSMFB term will expire when their Board term expires.

Lindsay further reviewed the by-laws describing benefit eligibility for public safety officers which includes police officers, reserve officers, corrections officers (includes youth corrections officers), Parole & Probation, as well as Fire Service Professionals (includes volunteer fire fighters, but does not include wildland firefighters). A death or permanent total disability suffered in the line of duty is a qualifying event. Death or disability directly related to occupational diseases is now also potentially qualifying. If an officer is culpable in any way for their own death, it negates eligibility.

*Requires a vote by the Board.

DPSST as the Administrator and the Board members as the decision-makers are statutorily obligated by law once a qualifying death and eligibility have been determined to deliver \$25,000.00 to a family of a fallen within 14 days, and sooner, if possible. Once it is determined to be a qualifying death and a qualifying applicant for the benefit we will work through various contacts to pay additional available benefits when practical for those eligible. The only mandate is that the amount of \$25,000.00 must be paid. Other payments such as mortgage, dental, health, etc. are discretionary.

A staff report sample was distributed to Board members to demonstrate what type of report would be presented to the PSMFB members in the case of a death or disability for determinations of whether it is a qualifying death and the eligibility of beneficiaries. At times the official report is not available when the Board makes a decision due to the inherent urgency to provide benefits, however some documentation will be made available for determination and the official report will be placed in the file when received.

The importance of communicating to the public safety community about the existence of this fund was discussed.

Meetings are scheduled to take place after the Board meeting every quarter, however they are only actually held when there are agenda items to discuss. When a tragedy happens, an emergency meeting is scheduled and Board members are called to attend the PSMFB meeting.

A brief discussion regarding the mechanics of how benefits are paid and the different roles of individuals in facilitating the process was held.

2. *Elections to nominate Chair and Vice- Chair to the PSMFB.

Lindsay Hale explained the roles required by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PSMFB. The Chair has the responsibility of running the meeting, calling for the votes, the coordination of the benefit check delivery and signing of check requests. The Vice Chair will cover these duties if the Chair is not available.

Patricia Patrick-Joling volunteered to be the nominee for Chair of the PSMFB and no other nominations were made. Brian Wolfe volunteered to be the Vice-Chair nominee of the PSMFB and no other nominations were made.

Colette Peters made a motion to elect Patricia Patrick-Joling as Chair and Brian Wolfe as Vice-Chair of the PSMFB. Nadine Purington seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. *Minutes for April 28, 2016

Approve meeting minutes from April 28, 2016.

Colette Peters moved to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2016 Public Safety Memorial Fund Board meeting. Patricia Connolly seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

4. *Adoption of PSMF Board By-Laws

Vote to codify and publish the by-laws of the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board as written.

Brian Wolfe made a motion to approve to adopt the by-laws as written. Tricia Connolly seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

5. Next meeting – October 27, 2016

With no further business to discuss, Chair Patrick-Joling adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.