

# Public Safety Memorial Fund Board Minutes October 24, 2024

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board held a special meeting on October 24, 2024, at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE Salem, Oregon. The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:28 a.m.

## **Committee Members:**

DaNeshia Barrett, Chair, Law Enforcement Representative  
Jennifer Cameron, Vice-Chair, Corrections Representative  
Matthew English, Corrections Representative  
Chris Heppel, Fire Representative  
Scotty Nowning, Law Enforcement Representative

## **Committee Members Absent:**

Maria Caballero Rubio, Public Member

## **DPSST Staff:**

Kathy McAlpine, Professional Standards Division Director  
Jennifer Howald, Administrative Rules Coordinator  
Juan Lopez, Executive Assistant to Kathy McAlpine  
Shelby Wright, Executive Assistant to the Director

## **Guests**

No guests attended this meeting

## **1. Introductions**

- *Chair DaNeshia Barrett began the meeting by inviting everyone in attendance to state their name and position for the record.*

## **2. \*Approve July 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

- *Member English made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2024, Public Safety Memorial Fund Board meeting. Chris Heppel seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

## **3. Budget Update**

Presented by Kathy McAlpine

- There have been no changes to the budget since the last meeting. The beginning balance from the 23-25 biennium is \$385,497. During this time, there were no expenditures. The allocations for each department are expressed in percentages as follows:
  - CJ \$35,021 (58% of allocations)
  - Fire is \$25, 000 (42% of allocations)
  - OLCC \$0 (0% of allocations).

- *Chair Barrett asked how many families are actively engaged with the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board right now. Shelby Wright answered that there are currently two families that are actively in contact with the PSMFB but that there are more that qualify.*
- *Chair Barrett asked if applicants must disclose their intent with the PSMFB, to which Shelby Wright responded no.*
- *Member Cameron asked if the agency keeps track of families who are eligible for benefits, to which Shelby Wright answered yes, the PSMFB maintains a record on file that it uses for case determinations.*
- *Chair Barrett asked Jennifer Howald if there is anything in the statutory language that mentions whether mortgage benefits should be requested the year following the death of a public safety officer or if applicants are eligible at any time. Jennifer Howald replied that the statutes have the broad authority to provide an amount up to the equivalent of 12 monthly mortgage payments, if there is no mortgage insurance that will cover that cost. Per Administrative Rule, the applicant is eligible to apply for the mortgage assistance within 12 months following the date that the Board enters a final order of eligibility.*

**4. \*Brian Gaunt, DPSST #37820; Beaverton Police Department; Supplemental Application for Discretionary PSMF Benefits**

Presented by Kathy McAlpine

On October 24, 2021, Sergeant Brian Gaunt with Beaverton Police Department passed away after spending nearly an entire month in the hospital due to COVID-19 complications.

On January 27, 2022, the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board (PSMFB) considered the initial application for PSMFB benefits submitted by Beaverton Police Department and Holly Gaunt. (spouse of Brian Gaunt). Ultimately, the PSMFB determined that Sergeant Gaunt's death was a qualifying death as defined by ORS 243.954. As a result, Holly Gaunt was awarded the lump sum benefit of \$25,000.

On February 4, 2022, Holly Gaunt submitted an initial supplemental application for benefits, requesting further reimbursement for mortgage, medical and dental benefits for herself and three children. The PSMFB subsequently awarded Holly Gaunt a total amount of \$31,964.80.

Since then, Holly Gaunt has continuously sought medical and dental benefits for herself and her three children.

On September 19, 2024, Holly Gaunt submitted the supplemental application for benefits requesting further reimbursement for medical and dental benefits for herself and two of her children for the months of October 2024 through April 2025 (6 months). However, it is important to note that Holly Gaunt confirmed with DPSST staff that she is not requesting benefits coverage for her eldest child, amounting to \$8,570.04

The application submitted by Holly Gaunt requests reimbursement of \$8,570.04.

- *Member Nowning asked if the eldest child reached the maximum age limit, or if they are in school. Shelby Wright answered that although Holly Gaunt's eldest child is still eligible for benefits, the child is simply not seeking benefits at this time.*
- *Member English motioned to approve and award benefits to Holly Gaunt, as requested. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Member English motioned to award the full, requested amount of \$8,570.04 to Holly Gaunt. Member Heppel seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

**6. Next Meeting – January 23, 2025, directly following the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training meeting at 9:00 a.m.**

*With no further items to discuss, Chair Barrett adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:40 a.m.*