

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 27, 2024 - FINAL



TRUSTEE AND STAFF ATTENDANCE

In Attendance	Dennis Lawson, Chair – Central Pierce Fire and Rescue
Absent	Jason Granneman, Vice Chair – Clark County Sheriff’s Office
Teleconference	Mark Johnston – Vancouver Fire Department
Teleconference	AJ Johnson – Snohomish County Fire District #1
Teleconference	Senator Jeff Holy – Spokane Police Department (Retired)
Teleconference	Tarina Rose-Watson – Spokane Int’l Airport Police Dept
Teleconference	Wolf Opitz – Pierce County
In Attendance	Pat McElligott – East Pierce County Fire
In Attendance	Representative Steve Bergquist – WA State Representative
In Attendance	Darell Stidham – Spokane County Sheriff’s Office
In Attendance	Jay Burney – City of Olympia
In Attendance	Steve Nelsen – Executive Director
In Attendance	Tim Valencia – Deputy Director
In Attendance	Chloe Drawsby – Executive Assistant
In Attendance	Jessie Jackson – Administrative Services Manager
In Attendance	Tammy Sadler – Benefits Ombudsman
In Attendance	Jacob White – Senior Research and Policy Manager
In Attendance	Jessica Burkhart – Ombudsman Program Manager
In Attendance	Karen Durant – Senior Research and Policy Manager
Teleconference	Tor Jernudd – Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order

The LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board met in the Washington State Investment conference room in Olympia, Washington on March 27, 2024. A quorum of the members was present at this meeting.

Chair Dennis Lawson called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and requested those present to take a moment of silence to honor those who had fallen since the last the Board meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from December 2023 to February 2024 meetings are before the Board for consideration.

ACTION | It was moved to approve the Board meeting minutes from December 2023 to February 2024. Motion seconded. The Board approved the minutes without objection.

2. Legislative Session Review

Jacob White, Senior Research and Policy Manager gave a Legislative Session Review to the Board. Mr. White reported that “Omnibus Bill” SB 6197 passed through legislation. SB 6197 clarifies the definition of a firefighter, removes statute of limitations for applying for the Special Death Benefit, shifts the responsibility of overpayments back to the employer, converts certain PTSD non-duty disability retirees to duty disability, and gives the LEOFF 2 Board authority over policy staff salaries. Including the Deputy Director and the Senior Research and Policy Managers. LEOFF 2 legislation that did not pass, SB 6198 ‘Employees of the LEOFF 2 Board’ and HB 2013 ‘Month of Death.’ SB 6198 was partially amended into SB 6197.

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The Supplemental Budget fully funds the LEOFF Plan 2 and appropriations reflect pension rates adopted by the Board.

The Board was advised of changes in the agency budget funding for Central Services (CTS).

3. 2024 Interim Planning

Jacob White, Senior Research and Policy Manger presented to the Board a suggested plan for the 2024 interim. Mr. White presented benefit, actuarial, and administrative topics for the Board to review. Trustee, Jay Burney would like to further discuss the staff salary bill during this year's interim. Darell Stidham is interested in the LEOFF Plan 2 releasing an Ombudsman video/newsletter to better help members understand the Ombudsman program.

The Board will take action on the topics presented today at the board meeting on April 24, 2024.

4. Administrative Update

Steve Nelsen, Executive Director gave the Board an administrative update regarding upcoming stakeholder outreach and recent agency updates. LEOFF 2 will be providing an outreach table at the WSCFF Educational Seminar in April. Tammy Sadler, Benefits Ombudsman will be presenting at the Seattle LOCAL 27 Firefighter's Union in April as well. Tammy Sadler and Jessica Burkhart, Benefits Ombudsman attended the International Ombudsman Association (IOA) 19th Annual Conference in March.

5. Public Comment

The Board received public comment from a LEOFF member regarding cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and the effect inflation has had on those adjustments. The LEOFF 2 Board welcomes public comment in advance of all meetings and has posted instructions on its website for the submission of written comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

The next meeting of the LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board is scheduled for April 24, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Washington State Investment Board located at 2100 Evergreen Park Drive S.W. Olympia, WA 98502.