

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 29, 2023 - FINAL



TRUSTEE AND STAFF ATTENDANCE

Teleconference	Dennis Lawson, Chair – Central Pierce Fire and Rescue
Absent	Jason Granneman, Vice Chair – Clark County Sheriff’s Office
Teleconference	Mark Johnston – Vancouver Fire Department
Absent	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
Teleconference	Pat McElligott – East Pierce County Fire
Absent	Representative Steve Bergquist – WA State Representative
Absent	Senator Ann Rivers – WA State Senator
Teleconference	Jay Burney – City of Olympia
In Attendance	Steve Nelsen – Executive Director
In Attendance	Tim Valencia – Deputy Director
In Attendance	Jessie Jackson – Executive Assistant
Teleconference	Jessica Burkhart – Administrative Services Manager
Teleconference	Tammy Sadler – Benefits Ombudsman
Teleconference	Jacob White – Senior Research and Policy Manager
Absent	Sarah White – Benefits Ombudsman
Absent	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 29, 2023. A quorum of the members was present at this meeting.

Chair Dennis Lawson called the meeting to order at 9:30AM and requested those present to take a moment of silence to honor those who had fallen since the last the Board meeting.

1. Legislative Update

Jacob White, Senior Research and Policy Manager gave a legislative update to the board.

LEOFF 2 Board Bill

- No-cost Interruptive Military Service Credit (HB 1007|SB 5296) – The House version has passed the Senate and has been signed by the Senate President. It is awaiting to be delivered and signed by the Governor. An amendment was made in the House to the language to be clearer about how it would be applied retroactively.

Other Bills of Interest

- Ensuring Promoted Fire Fighters Remain in LEOFF 2 (HB 1279|SB 5468)
- Concerning Flexible Work for General and Limited Authority Washington Peace Officers (HB 1413 | SB 5424) – Senate version is still alive and has been referred to House Appropriations, not scheduled for a hearing yet. This bill would allow for part time officers to be eligible for LEOFF.

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- Allowing Tribal Law Enforcement Officers to Join LEOFF 2 (HB 1481) – Still alive and passed out of Ways and Means, and is in Rules right now. The drafting of this bill utilizes the study the Board did and would allow tribal officers into LEOFF 2.
- 2023-2025 Operating Budget (HB 1140| SB 5187) – Budgets came out last week. The Governor’s House and Senate budgets fully fund LEOFF 2.

The next cutoff is April 4th for bills to make it out of fiscal committees. April 12th is the date for them to pass out of the opposite house. April 23 is the last day of session.

2. Administrative Update

Executive Director Steve Nelsen gave an administrative update to the Board.

The Fraternal Order of Police was in town for their Legislative Conference and Director Nelsen gave a brief session update, a briefing on the status of the plan and answered questions. They expressed an interest in getting updated costs for a drop plan and this request was passed on.

In April in Kennewick the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters will have their Educational Seminar and staff will provide an outreach table.

Next board meeting – Session is scheduled to end April 23rd. The April 26th meeting will be a little different than the session meetings. Jacob White will do a session recap of all the bills and will give an interim preview of topics, in preparation for the May meeting. The Board will have a draft work plan in May, that will then be finalized in June.

There will be no administrative meeting on April 26th, the first meeting on the year will be at the May 17th board meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41AM.

The next meeting of the LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board is scheduled for April 26th, 2023 at the Washington State Investment Board located at 2100 Evergreen Park Drive SW Olympia, WA 98502.