

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 18, 2024 – FINAL



TRUSTEE AND STAFF ATTENDANCE

In Attendance	Dennis Lawson, Chair – Central Pierce Fire & Rescue (Retired)
Absent	Jason Granneman, Vice Chair – Clark County Sheriff's Office
Teleconference	Mark Johnston – Vancouver Fire Department (Retired)
Teleconference	AJ Johnson – Snohomish County Fire District #1
Absent	Senator Jeff Holy – WA State Senator
Teleconference	Tarina Rose-Watson – Spokane International Airport Police Department
Teleconference	Wolf Opitz – Pierce County
In Attendance	Pat McElligott – East Pierce County Fire & Rescue
In Attendance	Representative Steve Bergquist – WA State Representative
In Attendance	Darell Stidham – Spokane County Sheriff's Office (Retired)
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 – Lead Benefits Ombudsman
In Attendance	Jacob White – Senior Research and Policy Manager
In Attendance	Jessica Burkhart – Benefits Ombudsman
In Attendance	Karen Durant – Senior Research and Policy Manager
In Attendance	Tor Jernudd – Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order

The LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board met in the Washington State Investment Board conference room in Olympia, Washington on December 18, 2024. A quorum of the members was present at this meeting.

Chair Dennis Lawson called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 November 2024 Minutes

The minutes from the November meeting are before the Board for consideration.

ACTION	It was moved to approve the Board meeting minutes from November 2024. Motion seconded. The Board approved the minutes without objection.
--------	--

2. Authorized Leave of Absence Service Credit – Comprehensive Report

Jacob White, Senior Research and Policy Manager gave a comprehensive report to the Board regarding Authorized Leave of Absence Service Credit. Some LEOFF 2 members are unable to purchase service credit when they are out on temporary non-duty disability leave because of the definition of basic salary and the requirements of purchasing service credit.

Options before the Board:

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 18, 2024 – FINAL



1. Endorse bill to allow members who retire instead of returning to work to be eligible for ALOA Purchase Service Credit.
2. No action.

ACTION

1. It was motioned to approve option #1, endorse bill to allow members who retire instead of returning to work to be eligible for ALOA Purchase Service Credit. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Standby Pay – Comprehensive Report

Jacob White, Senior Research and Policy Manager gave a comprehensive report regarding Standby Pay to the Board. Standby pay is not considered basic salary for LEOFF 2 members, while it is for PERS and PSERS members.

Options before the Board:

1. Add standby pay to the definition of basic salary.
2. Direct staff to gather additional data and report to the Board next interim.
3. No action.

ACTION

It was motioned to approve option #2, direct staff to gather additional data and report to the Board next interim. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Salary Setting Authority Implementation

Karen Durant, Senior Research and Policy Manager presented to the Board concerning Salary Setting Authority Implementation. No action was taken by the Board at today's meeting.

5. Freeze Directive

Karen Durant, Senior Research and Policy Manager gave an update to the Board related to the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) freeze directive. No action was taken by the Board regarding the freeze at today's meeting.

6. Public Comment Procedure

Tor Jernudd, Assistant Attorney General and staff to the LEOFF 2 Board presented on public comment practices and procedures. Mr. Jernudd went over the Open Public Meetings Act with the Board and LEOFF staff. The Board will revisit this process during the next interim. No Board action was taken.

7. Ombuds Program Review

Tammy Sadler, Lead Benefits Ombudsman presented the Board with an annual Ombudsman report for 2024. Mrs. Sadler talked about the Ombudsman program and the different duties and responsibilities that go into its success. Mrs. Sadler reported caseload numbers for the Board's information. No action was taken by the Board.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 18, 2024 – FINAL



8. Administrative Update

Steve Nelsen, Executive Director provided the Board with an administrative update. Mr. Nelsen's update included the status of the annual independent financial audit. The Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) will present the results of audit in May 2025. No action was taken by the Board.

9. Public Comment

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. There were no public comments to report to the Board.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

The next meeting of the LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board is scheduled for January 22, 2025, at the Washington State Investment Board located at 2100 Evergreen Park Drive S.W. Olympia, WA 98502.