



FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION INVESTMENT FUND

1919 S. HIGHLAND AVE. • BUILDING A, SUITE 237 • LOMBARD, IL 60148

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**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION INVESTMENT FUND  
ELECTIONS PANEL  
OCTOBER 1, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund of Illinois Elections Panel was held on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the FPIF Headquarters located at 1919 S. Highland Avenue – Building A, Suite 237, Lombard, Illinois 60148 and via videoconference in accordance with Public Act 101-0640, pursuant to notice.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Devaney called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**II. Taking of the Roll**

Robina Amato took the roll. Chairman Pat Devaney, Panel Members Steve Shetsky and Patrick Hayes were all present, there were no absences.

*Also present:* Director Bill Atwood, COO Steve Zahn, CIO Mitchell Green and CFO David Zaloga, FPIF Staff; Trustees Jeff Rowitz and Kevin Bramwell, FPIF Board of Trustees; Tiffany Reeves, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C.; Robina Amato, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP (L&A)

**III. Approval of September 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

The Panel reviewed the September 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes. A motion was made by Panel Member Shetsky and seconded by Panel Member Hayes to approve the September 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: Panel Members Devaney, Shetsky and Hayes

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

**IV. Review of Challenges to Candidate Nominating Petitions**

Steve Zahn reviewed the challenges presented to the FPIF Elections Panel as follows: Mayor Hal Patton challenges nine petition signatures for Executive Trustee 4-year term candidate John Perry; Mayor George Van Dusen challenges one petition signature for Executive Trustee 4-year term candidate John Perry and Mayor Hal Patton challenges six petition signatures for Executive Trustee 2-year term candidate David Geary. A copy of all challenges have been forwarded to Attorney Tiffany Reeves who serves as Fiduciary Counsel to the FPIF Board of Trustees.

A motion was made by Panel Member Hayes and seconded by Panel Member Shetsky to hold the content of the memo provided to the FPIF Board of Trustees from Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C confidential except for discussion on issues that are raised and inquired about by the panel members pertaining to the individual challenges. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: Panel Members Devaney, Shetsky and Hayes  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

Tiffany Reeves apprised the members on her review and opinion to the challenges presented to the panel and informed the Board that the election rules do not dictate a standard of review or presumption and the panel can reasonably interpret the election rules and apply them in a manner that is fair and consistent. Ms. Reeves reviewed the eligibility requirements for petition signatures including an original signature, printed name, public office address, participating pension fund, voter status, date of signature and notarization of the signature. Ms. Reeves also reviewed whether or not the challenges being reviewed were considered technical rather than substantive.

**V. Final Determination on Challenges to Candidate Nominating Petitions**

Chairman Devaney reviewed part 6 of the election rules stating that the panel should consider each statement and proceed to make a final determination of the slate of candidates on or before October 2, 2020. Chairman Devaney explained the panel will review each written challenge and determine whether or not the petitions are valid or if the objections to the petitions shall be sustained.

Chairman Devaney reviewed the first challenge from Mayor Hal Patton objecting to nine petition signatures for the Executive Trustee 4-year term candidate John Perry. A motion was made by Panel Member Shetsky and seconded by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objections to the petition signature of Keith Giognorio due to an absence of a signature date, full public office address and participating pension fund and to sustain the objection to the petition signature of Christopher Rintz due to an incomplete notarization of signature. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: Panel Members Devaney, Shetsky and Hayes  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objection to Steven Squibbs petition signature for John Perry due to the incorrect address of the public office. The motion failed to receive a second and was not further considered by the panel.

A motion was made by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objection to Kristen Linnenburger's petition signature for John Perry due to an incomplete address of the public office. The motion failed to receive a second and was not further considered by the panel.

A motion was made by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objection to Steven Bausano's petition signature for John Perry due to the absence of a voter status accompanying the signature. The motion failed to receive a second and was not further considered by the panel.

A motion was made by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objection to Gerald Hughes' petition signature for John Perry due to an incomplete address and the absence of voter status. The motion failed to receive a second and was not further considered by the panel.

A motion was made by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objection to Ellen Dimock's petition signature for John Perry due to not providing the full name of the participating pension fund. The motion failed to receive a second and was not further considered by the panel.

A motion was made by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objection to Thomas Johnson's petition signature for John Perry due to an incomplete address. The motion failed to receive a second and was not further considered by the panel.

Chairman Devaney reviewed the second challenge received by the panel from Mayor George Van Dusen for the Executive Trustee 4-year term candidate John Perry. Mayor Van Dusen indicated the petition was presented without a clear representation of the matter at hand and has been identified as void and withdrawn by Mayor Van Dusen. A motion was made by Panel Member Shetsky and seconded by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objection to George Van Dusen's petition signature for John Perry due to the signatory withdrawing his signature. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: Panel Members Devaney, Shetsky and Hayes  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

Charmain Devaney reviewed the third challenge received by the panel from Mayor Hal Patton objecting to six petition signatures for the Executive Trustee 2-year term candidate David Geary. A motion was made by Panel Member Shetsky and seconded by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the objection to Brent Frank's petition signature due to the signature being affixed by stamp rather than providing an original signature. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: Panel Members Devaney, Shetsky and Hayes  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Panel Member Hayes to sustain the following series of objections: objection to Terry Whepler's signature due to a notary date being affixed prior to the signature date; objection to Steven Squibb's signature due to an incorrect address; objection to Chris Kennedy's signature due to the misspelling of the signatory's name and a final objection to Kristen Linnenburger's signature due to an

incorrect address of the public office. The motion failed to receive a second and was not further considered by the Board.

Panel Member Hayes explained his opinion that the rules of the Board differ from the election code and resulted in his basis for the prior motions to sustain objections to petition signatures. Mr. Hayes informed the panel he does not believe the Board Election Rules to be ambiguous.

Chairman Devaney requested the Elections Panel Clerk Steve Zahn provide written notice to the individuals who provided a written challenge of the outcome of the panel's final determination.

**VI. Determination of the Final 2020 FPIF Trustee Election Slate of Candidates**

Steve Zahn confirmed that with the previously sustained objections to signatures, all candidates have maintained the minimum signature requirements to be included on the slate of candidates. A motion was made by Panel Member Shetsky and seconded by Panel Member Devaney to adopt the slate of candidates previously approved at the September 17, 2020 meeting as the final slate of candidates for the 2020 FPIF Trustee Election. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: Panel Members Devaney and Shetsky  
NAYS: Panel Member Hayes  
ABSENT: None

Chairman Devaney informed the Panel that no challenges were received for the nominating petitions for Kevin Bramwell, Matthew Kink and George Schick and the aforementioned candidates will maintain their election to the FPIF Board of Trustees as previously approved by the Elections Panel at the September 17, 2020 meeting and no election shall be administered for the Participant Trustee 4-year term and 2-year terms.

**VII. Approval of Candidate Biographies**

Steve Zahn informed the Board all candidate biographies presented to the panel for review have been presented in the draft form from the individual members and all biographies are consistent with the format and word count previously approved by the Elections Panel. A motion was made by Panel Member Shetsky and seconded by Panel Member Devaney to accept the candidate biographies as submitted. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: Panel Members Devaney and Shetsky  
NAYS: Panel Member Hayes  
ABSENT: None

**VIII. Review of Election Materials**

Steve Zahn presented the draft of election ballots, voting instructions and other election materials provided by Survey and Ballot Systems. These materials were distributed to

solicit feedback from the panel and it was requested that any and all feedback be submitted to Mr. Zahn by 4:30 p.m. on October 2, 2020.

**IX. Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**X. Public Comment**

Trustee Kevin Bramwell offered his gratitude for the work that the Elections Panel has put into the 2020 FPIF Trustee Election.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Panel Member Shetsky and seconded by Panel Member Hayes to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: Panel Members Devaney, Shetsky and Hayes

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None