

Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group

Office of the State Auditor
Wednesday, February 19, 2014
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Members Present

Steve Donney, City of Harmony Mayor
Bruce Duncan, Excelsior Fire Relief Association President (defined benefit lump sum plans)
Dave Ganfield, Apple Valley Fire Relief Association Administrator (defined benefit monthly/lump sum combination plans)
Bruce Hemstad, Bemidji Fire Relief Association Secretary (defined benefit lump sum plans)
Dave Jaeger, Mahnomon Fire Relief Association Treasurer (defined benefit lump sum plans)
Larry Martin, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement Director
Bruce Roed, Mentor Fire Relief Association Trustee (defined contribution plans)
Nyle Zikmund, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association Representative (defined benefit monthly plans)

Members Excused

Dennis Feller, City of Lakeville Finance Director
Aaron Johnston, Coon Rapids Fire Relief Association Treasurer (defined contribution plans)
Rebecca Otto, State Auditor
Mark Rosenblum, Minnesota State Fire Department Association Representative (defined benefit lump sum plans)

Others Present

Bill Braun, Woodbury Fire Relief Association Representative
Aaron Dahl, Office of the State Auditor Pension Analyst
Celeste Grant, Deputy State Auditor/General Counsel
Rose Hennessy Allen, Office of the State Auditor Pension Director
Jim Jensen, Office of the State Auditor Pension Analyst
Mike Luger, Eden Prairie Fire Relief Association Representative
Brian McKnight, Wells Fargo Advisors Representative
Dan Retka, Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Relief Association Representative

The following motions were duly made, seconded and approved:

RESOLVED to approve the January 22, 2014, Working Group Meeting Minutes.

I. Call to Order

Hennessy Allen called the meeting to order as Auditor Otto was unable to attend.

II. Review and Approval of Working Group Meeting Minutes

The members reviewed the January 22, 2014, meeting minutes that had been provided in advance. Ganfield made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Donney seconded the motion that then was adopted unanimously.

III. Update on Status of Working Group Bill

Hennessy Allen provided the Group with an update on the status of the bill. The Group discussed the question of whether the creation of independent nonprofit firefighting corporations should continue to be allowed. Roed indicated that as communities look to share fire services more joint powers entities and independent nonprofit firefighting corporations may be formed. Zikmund suggested forming a study group to consider and discuss this topic. Martin suggested the topic may be outside the purview of the Working Group, which generally focuses on relief association pension issues.

IV. Continuation of Training Discussion

The Group discussed how training should be offered to relief association trustees. It was agreed that an all-day Saturday conference in early 2015 would be positively received and probably well attended. The Group agreed that the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) should provide the training, with organizational support from the Group members. The Group discussed the possibility of the OSA providing one or two regional training sessions during the spring or summer of 2014, although it may be difficult for OSA staff to schedule sessions before their busy file-review season starts. The Group made a list of potential training topics and agreed that sessions should be recorded and be made available for viewing online. A planning meeting may be held during the summer to work on arrangements for the training conference.

V. Other Business

There was no other business.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 1:00.