

**Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan
Advisory Board Meeting Notes
December 15, 2022**

Members Present

- Ann Finn, Cities Representative
- Marc Volk, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Steve Fenske, Townships Representative
- Anthony Scavo, Volunteer Firefighters
- Rose Hennessy-Allen, State Auditor's Office

Member Excused

- Jay Wood, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Justin Nielsen, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Cal Larson, Cities Representative
- John King, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Jeff Sanborn, Fire Chief Representative

Staff Present

- Doug Anderson, PERA Staff
- David Andrews, PERA Staff
- Tracy Gebhard, PERA Staff
- Gemma Miltich, PERA Staff
- Sharyn North, PERA Staff
- Gladys Rodriguez, PERA Staff
- Amy Streng, PERA Staff

Others Present

- Susan Lenczewski, Legislative Commission on Pension Retirement
- Chad Burkitt, Legislative Commission on Pension Retirement

1. Meeting called to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Members participated in person and interactive technology as permitted in Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.015. Introductions were made.

Quorum was not reached.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes from July 26, 2022

Since there was no quorum, the notes were not approved. This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

3. 2023 Legislative Item – Vesting Credit for Relief Associations

Amy provided background on the Legislature's interest in modifying the SVF's approach to vesting related to credit for years of service from an unrelated relief association. The statute currently provides vesting credit for years of service from the related relief association. The bill draft modifies the current statute to allow for previous years of relief association service to count for vesting purposes in the SVF lump-sum plans. She further explained provisions of the bill.

Gemma provided examples illustrating how the proposed vesting change would be implemented.

Members asked questions related to vesting credit, benefit distribution, implications and implementation. Staff was asked to engage with stakeholders before any decision is made.

Next step is for staff to continue to work with LCPR staff and stakeholders to address the issues that were raised.

4. **2024 Legislative Issues**

Amy mentioned a few technical changes raised by the LCPR that they will be looking at this year.

Technical changes:

1. Language that allows tribes to use the SVF plan
2. Remove requirements related to fraternal associations

Doug also noted other legislative items:

1. Funding status of the majority of the plans
2. Defined contribution options within the SVF plan
3. Automatic benefit adjustment

5. **Next Meeting Date**

Another meeting will be convene soon to take action on this issue.

6. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.