

**Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan  
Advisory Board Meeting Notes  
November 20, 2020**

**Members Present**

- Ann Finn, Cities Representative
- Cal Larson, Cities Representative Steve Fenske, Townships Representative
- Dan Anderson, Fire Chief Representative
- Jay Wood, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- John King, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Mark Rosenblum, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Marc Volk, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Rose Hennessy-Allen, State Auditor's Office

**Member Excused**

- Jeff Sanborn, Fire Chief Representative

**Staff Present**

- Doug Anderson, PERA Executive Director
- David Andrews, PERA Staff
- Gladys Rodriguez, PERA Staff
- Amy Streng, PERA Staff
- Gina LeBrun, PERA Staff
- Heather Schoenberger, PERA Staff

**Others Present**

- Susan Lenczewski, LCPR Executive Director
- Chad Burkitt, LCPR
- Nyle Zikmund, Mounds View
- Angie Huss, Locklaw, PLLP
- Ann Lenczewski, Locklaw, PLLP

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**1. Meeting called to Order**

Meeting was held remotely via telephone or video conference as permitted in Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.015. Anderson was present at the meeting location. Roll call was taken to establish quorum.

**2. Approval of Meeting Notes from October 14, 2020**

Hennessy-Allen asked that the October 14, 2020 meeting minutes be amended to reflect Auditor Blaha's attendance.

*Hennessy-Allen moved approval of the October 14, 2020, SVF Advisory Board meeting notes as amended. The motion was seconded by King and passed unanimously by roll call vote.*

**3. LCPR Proposal for Sharing Fire State Aid**

Anderson summarized the Fire State Aid Allocation items that were resolved at the October 14 meeting as follows:

- Limited eligibility to a pilot program consisting of the current 18 combination departments.
- Determined that only fire state aid should be split (not Supplemental Aid).
- Determined that it is appropriate to limit the amount of fire state aid to be allocated to the municipality to the lesser of:
  - the municipality's total employer contribution to the PERA P&F Plan for active firefighters during the previous calendar year; or
  - the amount of the fire state aid to be paid on October 1; or

- the total state aid (fire and supplemental) minus the municipality's required financial contribution to the SVF Plan for the upcoming calendar year, which is determined by PERA in August each year.
- Recommended removal of coercion language.

Staff recommended that the funding threshold should be maintained at a minimum of 100%. The total fire state aid allocated to the municipality must be offset by the amount needed to increase the funding ratio of the SVF Plan after consideration of any benefit increases. Another recommendation was a petition process to resolve the issues raised at the last meeting to provide adequate protection for volunteer firefighters.

*Fenske moved that the SVF Advisory Board recommend to the PERA Board inclusion of the proposal as outlined for the 2021 legislative agenda. PERA staff is directed to work with LCPR staff to draft language consistent with the proposal. The motion was seconded by Larson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.*

#### **4. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the SVF Advisory Board will be scheduled in 2021.

#### **5. Adjournment**

*Wood moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Larson and passed unanimously.*