

**East Lake Fire Rescue-Pension Fund Quarterly Meeting
Summary of Minutes January 15, 2025**

Call to Order: The Administrator called the meeting to order at 7:30 am at Station 58 located at 3280 Keystone Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685.

Roll Call:

Trustees Present: Jeff Jackson, JD Cattel, Christopher Rollins, Michael Handoga and James Scott

Others Present Attorney Lindsey Garber of Klausner, Kaufman ETAL, John Thinnes of Mariner, Pete Prior and Livia Giuliani of Benefits USA, Inc.

A brief discussion took place regarding the status of the new Fire inspector noting that her job description was changed to a certified firefighter which was a requirement for her current position and that she would be eligible to contribute to the pension plan.

Approval of Minutes

November 14, 2024, Meeting

Chairman Jackson asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. Hearing and seeing none, the Chairman said he would entertain a motion. Trustee Jackson moved to approve the minutes as presented and Trustee Rollins seconded the motion, and it passed.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Unfinished Business:

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

New Business:

Fiduciary Liability Insurance Renewal (Authorize Chairman to sign)

The Administrator reported that the Chairman signed the Fiduciary Liability application in order to obtain a quote and his signature needed to be ratified. Trustee Handoga moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the Fiduciary Liability application and Trustee Jackson seconded the motion and it passed.

Presentation of 9/30/2024 Financial Statements

Mr. Patrick Smith addressed the board that they audited the financial statements which comprise of the statements of fiduciary net position as of September 30, 2024 and 2023 and the changes in the fiduciary net position and the related notes to the financial statements. In their opinion the statements presented fairly in all material respects, and they have given a clean unmodified opinion which is the best opinion that they can give and are in accordance with the latest accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. He also noted that they are required to be totally independent of the plan and meet other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant requirements and they believe that the information obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their opinion. Mr. Smith reported that the Employer and Employee contributions totaled \$1,194,873 with \$967,946 from the district and \$226,927 from the Employees. The Investment income was \$3,898,815 and the interest and dividends were \$720,914, class action revenue of \$37.

The benefit payments totaled \$1,132,659; disability payments totaled \$126,414; DROP payments were \$81,962; share plan payments were \$81,279 and the administrative expenses totaled \$111,549 resulting in a total net position of \$4,657,349. Mr. Smith reported that the net position restricted for pensions at the beginning of the year October 1, 2023 was \$20,946,323. The total Pension liability on September 30, 2024 was \$30,645,891 and the Plan Fiduciary net position was (\$25,603,672) and represents the district's net pension liability of \$5,042,219 or 83.55%. The net pension liability is calculated using the discount rate of 1% higher and 1% lower. If the net pension liability was calculated using the current rate of 7.25% the pension liability would be \$5,042,219, at 1% lower (6.25%), the liability would increase to \$8,734,701 and if calculated at 1% higher (8.25%), the liability would decrease to \$1,966,192

Finally, Mr. Smith reported on the administrative expenses as follows: Actuary \$40,037; Administrator \$19,900; auditing \$15,000; liability insurance \$4,814; legal fees \$31,048 and dues and subscriptions \$750 for a total of \$111,549 represents a decrease from last year of \$112,309. That concluded Mr. Smith's report. Chairman Jackson said he would entertain a motion to approve the financial statements. That being said, Trustee Handoga moved to approve the financial statements as presented and Trustee Cattel seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Presentation of 10/1/2024 Actuarial Valuation

Mr. Patrick Donlan explained the valuation to the members of the board, noting that the required contribution from the district and state for fiscal year ending 9/30/26 is 42.6% of actual payroll realized in that year. As a budgeting tool the district may contribute 29.5% of each members' salary and then make a one-time payment to account for the State money. The plan experience was unfavorable overall on the basis of the plan's actuarial assumptions. Sources of the loss included an average salary increase of 10.11% which exceeded the 5.25% assumption, unfavorable retirement experience and an investment return of 6.78% which was less than the plan's assumption rate of 7.25%. These losses were offset in part by a gain associated with favorable turnover experience. Mr. Donlan reported that there were no changes in benefits since the last valuation. Mr. Donlan reported on the demographics of the plan noting that the total plan membership is 75. This includes 35 active members, 23 service retirees; 2 beneficiaries; 4 disability retirees; 2 DROP retirees and 9 vested terminated members. That concluded Mr. Donlan's report. Trustee Rollins moved to approve the valuation report as presented and Chairman Scott seconded the motion and it passed.

Finally, Mr. Donlan noted that the plan's investment return of 7.25% is reasonable for this year, next year, and for the long term. Trustee Handoga moved to accept the 7.25% rate of return for this year, the next year, and the long term thereafter and Trustee Scott seconded the motion and it passed.

Consent Agenda:

For Approval: Warrant #240

Benefits USA, Inc. (Flat Monthly Fee for January 2025)	\$1,950.00
Dana Investment Advisors (Q4-2024 Mgmt. Fee-LC Inv #126665 dated 1/6/2025)	\$9,915.09
Dana Investment Advisors (Q4-2024 Mgmt. Fee-FI Inv #126656 dated 1/6/2025)	\$2,129.58
Foster & Foster (Services Rendered; Invoice #34466; dated 1/8/2025)	\$17,546.00
KKJ&L (Legal Fees; Bill #36543 Invoice dated 11/30/2024)	\$323.40
Mariner Inst. LLC (Q4-2024 Consulting Fee; Invoice #50014 dated 12/27/2024)	\$5,625.00
Total	\$37,489.07

For Ratification: Warrant #239

Benefits USA, Inc. (Flat Monthly Fee for December 2024)	\$1,950.00
FPPTA (2025 Membership Renewal; Invoice #13451 dated 12/4/2024)	\$750.00
KKJ&L (Legal Fees; Bill #36543 Invoice dated 11/30/2024)	\$223.40
Total	\$2,923.40

Pension Payments for Ratification:

Michael Porch (DROP exit; Monthly benefit payments eff 10/1/2024)	\$6,497.29
Michael Porch (DROP distribution)	\$33,002.86
Total	\$39,500.15

Trustee Scott moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Trustee Rollins seconded the motion passed.

Investment Report: Q/E 12/31/2024

Mariner Institutional, LLC
Mr. Thinnes reported briefly on the economy noting that the

Miscellaneous Correspondence

No Action Required

REPORTS:

Attorney:

Administrator:

Mr. Prior reported on the FPPTA Trustees School being held on January 26-29, 2025 at the Renaissance Hotel at Sea World in Orlando. If anyone wishes to attend to please contact Livia.

Trustees:

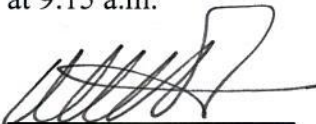
The Trustees has nothing to report.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The Administrator reported that the next meeting is April 16, 2025 @ 7:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Rollins moved to adjourn; Trustee Cattell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.



Chairman or Secretary