IN THE MATTER OF ) MEETING NO. 1097 )

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the videoconference meeting of the above-entitled matter, held at 20 South Clark Street, Suite 300, in the City of Chicago, County of Cook, State of Illinois, on April 20, 2022, commencing at the hour of 8:30 a.m.

## APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

DANIEL FORTUNA, President and Annuitant Trustee

ROBERT TEBBENS, Active Trustee
WILLIAM MURPHY, Secretary and Active Trustee
ANTHONY MARTIN, Active Trustee
MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN, City Treasurer
ANNA VALENCIA, City Clerk
RESHMA SONI, City Comptroller
MARY SHERIDAN, Active Trustee
ATTORNEYS FOR THE BOARD:
BURKE, BURNS AND PINELLI, LTD.
BY: MS. MARY PATRICIA BURNS MR. VINCENT PINELLI

ALSO PRESENT:
KELLY WELLER, Executive Director
LORI LUND, Deputy Executive Director
LORNA SCOTT, Chief Investment Officer JACLYN VLAHOS, Comptroller JOHN CONNESS, Fund Accountant BRADY O'CONNELL, Callan Associates
DANIEL G. SAMO, M.D., Board Physician
MICHAEL I. PETERS, M.D., Board Physician

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Good morning,
everyone. It is Wednesday, April 20, 2022. I will
call this meeting to order. Roll call, please.
MEMBER MURPHY: Vice-President Valencia. Treasurer Conyears-Ervin.

Trustee Soni.
Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: I am here.
MEMBER MURPHY: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Here.
MEMBER MURPHY: Trustee Martin.

MEMBER MARTIN: Here.
MEMBER MURPHY: I will try again.
Trustee Valencia.
Trustee Soni.
Secretary Murphy is here.
President Fortuna.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Here.

MEMBER MURPHY: We have a quorum.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I believe we have a
quorum. I do see Trustee Valencia is here but I don't know if she can hear us.

MEMBER VALENCIA: I am here. I am trying to connect.
$\square$
MS. BURNS: Good morning, Trustee
Valencia.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia is
on.
Public Act 101-0640 allows this meeting to be conducted by audio and video conference. The Act requires the roll call vote on each matter that we act upon.

Further consistent with Public 101-0640, for the record, $I$ am physically present at the Fund's office as is Secretary/Treasurer Murphy and the Executive Director. We have posted notice of this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the meeting is being recorded. A transcript of this proceeding will be prepared and after approval will be made available on the Fund's website.

Also, consistent with Public Act 91-0715 and reasonable constraints determined by the Board of Trustees, at each regular meeting of the Board or its committees that is open to the public, members of the public may request a brief time to address the Board on relative matters.

Are there any requests this morning for
public comments?
MR. WELLER: For those willing to make public comment or would like to make public comment, please press star nine for the queue and then we will let you in and then star six to speak.

PRESIDENT FORTUNA: Hearing none, we are going to move on.

MS. BURNS: Let the record reflect that Trustee Conyears-Ervin and Trustee Soni are in the meeting.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am going to turn things over to Secretary Murphy.

MEMBER MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. President.
First, I would like to turn to the Approval of Administrative Items. We have approval of the Regular Audio Meeting of March 16, 2022 Board open and closed minutes and the March 14, 2022 Investment Committee Minutes and the regular audio meeting transcript of March 16, 2022 and the March 14, 2022 Investment Committee transcript.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the open and closed minutes of the March 16, 2022, board meeting and the audio transcripts for that meeting and the open minutes and the audio

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transcript for March 14, 2022 Investment Committee
meeting and to keep the board meeting closed
session minutes closed.
    MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
        CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by
Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin.
        Trustee Murphy.
        MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
        CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
        MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
        CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee
Conyears-Ervin.
    MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin.
    MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
    MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
    MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
    Motion carries.
    MEMBER MURPHY: As required by the Open
Meetings Act, we are required to perform a
semiannual review of closed session minutes.
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Based on the recommendation of Fund counsel, $I$ move that the following closed session minutes be open to the public pursuant to Section 2.06 D of the Open Meetings Act. November 16, 2016 board meeting. June 30,2021 Investment Committee Meeting. August 31, 2021 Investment Committee meeting. October 20, 2021 board meeting. December 13, 2021 Investment Committee meeting. January 19, 2022 Budget Committee meeting.

Be it further moved that Fund counsel work with the Fund's Executive Director to ensure that all verbatim records greater than 18 months old for which minutes have been approved and opened be discarded pursuant to the requirements of Section 2.06C of the Open Meetings Act.

MEMBER MARTIN: On the question.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I need a second, then we'll go on to the question.

MEMBER MARTIN: Okay.
MEMBER TEBBENS: I will second it.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion and
a second. Any discussion?
MEMBER MARTIN: The November 16 th,
November of 2016 , is that on there?

MEMBER MURPHY: It is.
MS. BURNS: I am not sure, that doesn't sound right. I will verify that with Sarah, who prepared this for the Fund. If that needs to be 2021, which is what $I$ am expecting, we will make that edit to the minutes, if that is okay with the Trustees.

MEMBER MARTIN: I am fine with it consistent with Mary Pat's comments, yes.

MS. BURNS: Thank you, Trustee Martin. I have a feeling it is a typo.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion and a second.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee

Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia. MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Moving on, Mr. President,
I would like to make a motion to approve the Minimum Formula Annuities starting with Member 16629 and ending with Member 17086 .

MEMBER TEBBENS: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Tebbens.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee
Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.

MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, I would like to make a motion to approve the Widow's Annuities starting with Member 0942 through Member 09362 .

MEMBER VALENCIA: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by
Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Valencia.
Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee
Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
$\square$
MEMBER MURPHY: I'd like to make a motion
to approve the Children's Annuities for the two minor children of Member 16503.

MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Second.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by
Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Conyears. Trustee Murphy.

MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.

MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee

Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.

MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: I'd like to make a motion to approve the Tier 2 Widow's Annuity Benefits for the widow of Member 18638.

MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by
Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Martin.
Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee
Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin

MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.

MEMBER MURPHY: I would like to make a motion to approve Refunds for Members 17916 and Member 19430.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion for refunds by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee

## Tebbens.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee
Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Under E, Death Benefits.
I would like to make a motion to approve the Death Benefits for Member 15916 through Member 09362 .

MEMBER SHERIDAN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Sheridan.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan. MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee
Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: I'd like to make a motion
to approve Partial Payments beginning with Member
11181 continuing through to Member 13333.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by
Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Valencia. Trustee Murphy. MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan. MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee

Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Moving on to Item G,
there are three recalculations this month to
reflect refunds due to the adjustment to the final
pay for Members 15696, Member 11394 and 15023. I
would like to make a motion to approve the errors
in deductions for those members.
MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Motion by Trustee
Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin.
Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee

Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Under H, Guardianship.
There is one this month for Member 09283. I'd like to make a motion to grant Guardianship to Member 09283, based on staff's confirmation that all the paperwork required by the Fund has been received. MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Second.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by
Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Conyears-Ervin.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee

Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: We have one request to
reside out of state. We have a request to permit
Member 16931 to reside out of state. I would like to make a motion.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by
Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Tebbens.
Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee
Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes. CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens. MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes. CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia. MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes. CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: $I$ am a yes.

Motion carries.

MR. WELLER: Trustee Soni is present. We are having a technical glitch with her.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Okay.
MEMBER MURPHY: Under I, Removals. I
would like to make a motion to approve the Removals starting with Dennis M. Burns and ending with Morgan Krouse.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Second.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Motion by Trustee
Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Tebbens.
Trustee Murphy.

MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.

MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee

Conyears-Ervin.

MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Under Payments Pursuant
to Administrative and Court Orders, I would like to
make a motion to approve the QILDRO and Child Support Order listed in the docket for the member listed in that docket, based on the staff's confirmation that all the paperwork required by the Fund to process this order has been received.

MEMBER SHERIDAN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Motion by Trustee
Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Sheridan.
Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan. MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee

Conyears-Ervin.
MEMBER CONYEARS-ERVIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Moving on, Mr. President, to the disability applications. I'd like to turn this over to Vince.

MR. PINELLI: I would ask is Lieutenant Aaron Beals on the line?

MR. BEALS: Yes, sir. Aaron Beals is here. Yes, sir.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you.
Let the record reflect this is a hearing on the application for an Occupational Disease Disability benefit being made by Lieutenant Aaron Beals.

Good morning, Mr. Beals. I am one of the attorneys for the Pension Fund that will be
conducting this hearing. I'd like to advise you of some preliminary matters before we start the evidence.

First of all, $I$ believe there are at least seven, but probably eight trustees, present at the current time to hear the evidence on your application. If you don't know you should know the Pension Code requires that you get the yes vote of at least five of those Trustees in order to receive this benefit. Do you understand that?

MR. BEALS: Yes, sir.
MR. PINELLI: Then from reviewing the exhibits and the record, it appears you do not have an attorney representing you in this matter. Is it your desire to proceed today without an attorney?

MR. BEALS: Yes, sir.
MR. PINELLI: Lastly, it is the applicant's burden of proof to present sufficient evidence to the Board in order for the Board to grant the benefit that the applicant seeks. Do you understand it is your burden of proof in this matter?

MR. BEALS: Yes, sir.
MR. PINELLI: By way of procedures, I am
going to start by asking you some questions under oath. The board members may or may not have questions of you. Then $I$ will call the Fund's physician consultant Dr. Peters to testify. If there is anything $I$ don't ask him that you think is important for the Board to know, please let me know and I will give you that opportunity. Do you understand the procedures?

MR. BEALS: Yes, sir. Thank you.
MR. PINELLI: You're welcome. Then we are ready to proceed. I would like to start by asking you, lieutenant, to please raise your right hand.
(Witness sworn.)

## EXAMINATION

BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Would you please state your name and spell your last name for the record?

A My name is Aaron Beals, Jr. Last name is B-e-a-l-s.

Q Thank you. What is your current rank with the Fire Department?

A Currently $I$ am a Lieutenant Paramedic.
Q Lieutenant, what was your current
assignment before you went on layup?
A My last assignment was at Truck 40 .
Q Okay. Now you should have been provided
a copy of Board Exhibits, which have been marked Board Exhibits 1 through 12 in advance of this hearing. Did you get a copy from the Fund staff?

A Yes, sir, I did.
Q Did you have a chance to review them?
A Yes.

Q Do you have any objection to their admission into the record in support of your application?

A No, sir.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you.
Mr. Chairman, I move for admission of
Board Exhibits 1 through 12, without objection from the applicant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Admitted without objection.
(Board Exhibits 1 through 12 were admitted into evidence.)

MR. PINELLI: Thank you.
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Now, lieutenant, you have completed more
than seven years of service with the Fire Department, is that correct?

A That is correct.
Q In fact, the records indicate you joined in 1989, is that correct?

A Correct.
Q You are applying for this benefit based upon a medical condition that the records indicate is kidney cancer, is that correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q Did you develop that condition while you have been in service with the Fire Department?

A Yes, sir.
Q Can you just briefly give the Trustees a chronology of assignments you have had from when you came on in ' 89 to your most recent assignment on Truck 40?

A I will do my best, sir. In '89, I came on as a Fire Paramedic. Shortly afterwards $I$ was promoted to Paramedic Officer. I worked in Fire Department Administration for a few years. I was a training instructor. I also worked as an Administrative Assistant to the Chief Paramedic for a couple of years. I worked as an Executive

Assistant to Deputy Fire Commissioner at that time Cortez Trotter for a couple of years and I became cross trained as a Firefighter I believe it was
'99. I was assigned to Engine 46 out of the Academy. I remained there $I$ don't know how many years but briefly went back to Administration from Engine 46 for six months to a year and then reassigned to Engine 46 I believe until I got promoted to Lieutenant. I kept my Paramedic status, Lieutenant Paramedic. Worked relief throughout the City and was ultimately assigned to Engine 121 and from there was assigned to Truck 40.

Q Okay.
A Which was my last assignment.
Q Very well. Thank you for detailing that.
A Yes.
Q Did you have the removal of your right kidney yet or is that still to be done?

A No, it is scheduled to be done. It hasn't been done yet.

Q And then you are also awaiting a transplant for your left kidney, is that right?

A Well, a transplant not specifically for the left kidney, just a transplant in general.
$\square$
A Yes, sir.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you. That is all the questions $I$ have of the applicant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any
questions?
No questions, Vince.
MR. PINELLI: I would call Dr. Peters.
Dr. Peters, are you on the line?
DR. PETERS: Yes, I am.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you. Would you please raise your right hand?
(Witness sworn.)
MICHAEL I. PETERS, M.D.
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Could you please state your name for the record?

A Michael I. Peters.
Q You're a physician, is that correct?
A Yes.
Q A copy of your qualifications as a

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physician are attached to the Board Exhibits, is
that right?
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A Yes.
Q Do you perform a function as a consultant to this fund?

A Yes, I do.
Q In that capacity, do you review medical records, examine or interview applicants and report to the Board?

A Yes.
Q Did you follow that procedure with respect to this applicant?

A Yes, I did.
Q Did you file a written report with the Board that is marked as Board Exhibit Number 2 ?

A Yes.
Q Doctor, did you interview the applicant due to the current Covid conditions?

A Yes, by telephone.
Q Was the information provided you consistent with the medical records that you had reviewed regarding his condition?

A Yes, it was consistent.
Q Doctor, can you just briefly summarize
for us what his current medical condition and status is?

A Sure. Lieutenant Beals has kidney failure and he's on dialysis. He also has kidney cancer in his right kidney, which is going to require his kidney to be removed. He had kidney failure independent of that but removing the kidney is going to make it much worse. He has kidney failure secondary to a combination of both hypertension and diabetes as well as the contribution from his cancer.

Q Doctor, based upon your knowledge and experience and information that you are aware of, is kidney cancer the type of cancer that may be caused by exposure to heat, radiation or a known carcinogen as defined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer?

A Yes.

Q Based upon his current condition, is he able to perform his lieutenant duties with the Fire Department?

A No, he is not.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you, doctor, that is
all the questions $I$ have.

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CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any
questions for the doctor?
    MEMBER MURPHY: No questions.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Hearing none.
    MEMBER MURPHY: I would like to make a
motion to grant the benefits requested by
Lieutenant Beals.
    MEMBER VALENCIA: Second.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion to
grant by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee
Valencia.
    Trustee Murphy.
    MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
    MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Soni.
    MEMBER SONI: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
    MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
    MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
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Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: I would like to make a
motion for reexam consistent with the Board's
policies.

MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Motion for reexam by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Soni.
MEMBER SONI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Counsel has previously
sent around proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of law. Having had a chance to review
those, $I$ would like to make a motion to adopt those Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Motion to accept
Findings of Fact by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Soni.
MEMBER SONI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
Mr. Beals, can you hear me?
MR. BEALS: Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Based on the Findings
of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Trustees, the Trustees have voted to grant you the benefit you have requested.

You will be notified by mail of the Findings of Fact and the Board's decision.

Good luck to you. I know you're going to go through a whole lot but good luck to you.

MR. BEALS: Thank you, very much. I do solicit your prayers as well.

MEMBER MURPHY: Our next Occupational applicant has deferred so we are moving to Duty Disability applicants. Vince.

MR. PINELLI: The first Duty Disability matter scheduled is the continuation of the hearing on the application of EMT Fire Marshall Mankowski.

Is Mr. Mankowski and his counsel on the line?

MR. MARCONI: Vince, for the record, Jerry Marconi on behalf of Fire Marshall Mankowski.

MR. MANKOWSKI: Yes, I am on the line.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you. Let's introduce this matter just for the record. As I said this is a continuation of a hearing that began at the last board meeting on March 16 th last month.

At the conclusion, following the testimony of the applicant and the Fund's physician, the Board made a motion to continue the matter to the next board meeting and to leave the record open for the submission of additional evidence and in particular the presentation of testimony from any witnesses to the incident in question so that is why the matter was put over.

In the meantime, there have been some additional exhibits submitted on behalf of the Board. There is Group Board Exhibit 1D, which is a revised witness list. Group Exhibit 1E, which is the attorney appearance of Mr. Marconi, who is present on the line. Board Exhibit 13 is an excerpt of the Office of Fire Investigations' journal dated February 16 th of 2021.

Counsel, do you have any objection to the admission of these additional Board Exhibits into the record?

MR. MARCONI: I do not.
MR. PINELLI: Then, in addition, you
submitted some additional exhibits for the Board's consideration. Those have been marked as Applicant's Exhibits 1 and 2. 1 being a functional
capacity evaluation, that was conducted on Mr. Mankowski, on April 12th of 2022 . The second being a physical therapy evaluation dated the same date.

Are you moving for admission of those
exhibits into the record as well?

MR. MARCONI: I am.
MR. PINELLI: Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to the admission of those exhibits. So at this time $I$ would formally move for admission of Board's Exhibits 1D, 1E and 13 as well as Applicant's Exhibits 1 and 2, without objection from the parties.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: These exhibits are admitted without objection. (Board Exhibits 1D, 1E, 13 and Applicant Exhibits 1 and 2 were admitted into evidence.)

MR. PINELLI: Thank you. Now moving on to witnesses. There have been a number of witnesses subpoenaed for today's date. I think the first witness, and counsel correct me if $I$ am wrong, that you would like to call would be Lieutenant Brian Kroll, is that correct?

MR. MARCONI: Yes. I did reach out or
tried to reach out to all of the witnesses because I am sure the Board doesn't want to hear the same testimony five times. I have spoken to two this morning on the line that $I$ know of and that is Lieutenant Kroll and I think Bill Granat indicated he was on the line as well. I don't know if either witnesses are present.

You and $I$ had a conversation where it wasn't my business to call off any witnesses so that is kind of where we are at.

MR. PINELLI: Very well, then let's start.

Is Lieutenant Brian Kroll on the line?
MR. MARCONI: I think he needs to hit star six to unmute. I did text him the sign-in information this morning.

MR. PINELLI: Okay. While we are waiting, $I$ did hear earlier from Mr. Granat. Is he still on the line?

MR. GRANAT: I am. I am here.
MR. PINELLI: Counsel, do you wish to
start with William Granat first and then we will
proceed to Mr. Kroll?
MR. MARCONI: Sure.
MR. PINELLI: Mr. Granat, if you could
please raise your right hand, sir.
(Witness sworn.)
MR. PINELLI: Counsel, you may proceed.
WILLIAM GRANAT
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

## EXAMINATION

BY MR. MARCONI:
Q Could you spell your name for the record?
A First name is William, W-i-l-l-i-a-m.
Last name is Granat, $G-r-a-n-a-t$.
Q And where are you employed?
A My present assignment is Training Officer of Office of Fire Investigations.

Q Just briefly, your history, give me very brief, with the Chicago Fire Department.

A As far as service?
Q Yes.
A $\quad 17$ years Firefighter Paramedic. I am a Firefighter EMT. And as I stated, my current rank is Training Officer days. It is a 40 -hour position.

Q Okay. Back on February 16 th of 2020, I
believe you were working with Mark Mankowski, is that correct?

A That is correct, sir.

Q What was your assignment on that date?

A At that time $I$ was a Fire Marshall on platoon so awaiting dispatch from the alarm office for a fire that needed to be investigated. While I am in the firehouse, $I$ have specific duties per the General Orders in the Policies and Procedures of the Fire Department that $I$ have to carry out.

Q Probably in the morning of that day, did something come over on the loud speaker that basically ordered everyone in the office to go out and start shoveling snow in the parking lot?

A I don't recall that specifically but $I$ do recall being asked to go out and shovel snow, yes, sir.

Q How big is that parking lot?
A Approximately, $I$ couldn't give you dimensions, from where $I$ am sitting right now it runs basically east/west. I'd say probably 100 by 20.

Q Do you know approximately how many firefighters were out there shoveling?

A I think approximately five, maybe six, guys.

Q Was Mark Mankowski out there?
A Yes, I do recall him out there, yes.
Q Anything unusual that you recall when you were out there shoveling snow?

A No, sir.
Q How about with Mark Mankowski did you hear or see anything regarding him?

A I had my back -- I was facing an easterly direction in this parking lot and $I$ was crouched down trying to lift some heavy snow and $I$ heard kind of like an outcry or yelp. You know, somebody that was either injured or in pain. And as I turned around, $I$ visualized Mankowski on the ground in some kind of distress.

Q You were a trained Paramedic at that time, is that correct?

A Yes, I am, sir.
Q Did you render aid or did you see anyone render aid to Firefighter Mankowski?

A Yes, sir. I personally knelt down and rendered aid and $I$ told him what is the matter and he said my back locked up. I can't feel -- you
know, $I$ can't feel below my waist. I said, okay, remain still. I summoned somebody to notify the paramedics to come to the back, to drive the ambulance to the back of the firehouse.

Q Did you see the ambulance arrive?
A Yes, I actually helped them do their job sir, yes.

Q So you helped load Firefighter Mankowski into the ambulance, is that correct?

A Right. Because of a suspected back injury, we placed him on a backboard and that was done utilizing the proper EMS techniques.

Q Did you go to the hospital with him or did you remain at OFI?

A I was to remain at OFI, sir.
Q Okay. Then was that the last day that you saw Firefighter Mankowski?

A Yes, sir.

MR. MARCONI: Thank you. Appreciate it.
MR. GRANAT: Thank you.
MR. PINELLI: Trustees, any questions for the witness?

Hearing none, Vince.
$\square$
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q I just have a quick follow-up. Sir, you described the snow $I$ think. So was it, you know, light fluffy or heavy wet snow that you were shoveling that day?

A I guess you would say a combination of both because there was a layer from the night before and then a fresh layer going on top of it. As you dug deeper down, it got a little bit more slushy.

Q The shovels that you use for shoveling that were being used that day, can you describe them? Are they just like your regular shovels, snow shovels, that you'd get at the hardware store? Was there anything unique about it?

A I believe that is something that is provided to the firehouse. I don't remember if it was a curved handle to prevent back injuries or not. I don't really remember, to be honest with you.

MR. PINELLI: That's fine. Thank you. That is all the questions $I$ have.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Any questions?
Hearing none, Vince.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you, sir. We
appreciate you being on the line for us.
MR. GRANAT: Thank you.
MR. PINELLI: You're welcome.

Did we get Lieutenant Kroll? Is he on the line yet? Brian Kroll?

MR. WELLER: We don't see Lieutenant Kroll on the sign-in.

MR. PINELLI: Do you know if we have any other of the subpoenaed witnesses on the sign-in, if you are able to tell?

MR. WELLER: Only Mr. Granat was the only one that answered the subpoena.

MR. PINELLI: Okay.
MR. MARCONI: I just sent a text to Lieutenant Kroll. I told him to sign in about 8:50.

MR. MORALES: I just got him.
MR. WELLER: Mr. Kroll, you need to press star six to unmute yourself.

MR. KROLL: Okay. Can you hear me?
MR. WELLER: Yes, we can.
MR. PINELLI: Yes. Lieutenant Kroll, I am one of the attorneys for the Pension Fund. You
have been asked to be here today to give testimony. Before you do that, $I$ would ask you to please raise your right hand.
(Witness sworn.)
MR. PINELLI: Mr. Marconi, you may proceed.

## BRIAN KROLL

a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION
BY MR. MARCONI:
Q Mr. Kroll, can you spell your name for the record?

A Full name is Brian Kroll. B-r-i-a-n. Kroll, K-r-o-l-l.

Q Lieutenant Kroll, where are you currently employed?

A I am currently employed by the Chicago Fire Department in the Office of Fire Investigations.

Q Your current rank is Lieutenant, is that correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q Back on February 16, 2020, you were a
lieutenant on that day, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q You were assigned to OFI, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q At some point in the morning did you get an order or instruction to have your people shovel the parking lot?

A Yes.

Q What did you do?

A I related that order to the Fire

Marshalls, who $I$ was in charge of that day, to go outside and shovel the parking lot.

Q Was Mark Mankowski one of those Fire Marshalls that was ordered to go out and shovel the parking lot?

A Yes, he was.

Q When you went out there, did you see him out there?

A Yes.

Q And when you were out there, did you see or hear anything unusual with respect to Firefighter Mankowski?

A While we were shoveling snow, he did make
a general statement in regards to just be careful. It was just like a fellow disclaimer to everybody. Hey, guys, be careful, it is kind of heavy snow.

Q Did you see him go down at any point? Did you see or hear him go down?

A I heard him scream and I turned around. I saw him laying on the ground. I did not see him go down but $I$ heard the scream and $I$ was probably working within about 10 feet from him. My back was to him. I heard him scream and go down and I turned around and saw him laying on the ground.

Q Do you remember specifically -- I think maybe Firefighter Granat rendered some aid to him until the ambulance came?

A Yes.
Q Did you render aid or basically at that point were you present and watching what was going on?

A I was present watching what was going on. Firefighter Marshall Granat was rendering aid as far as position and comfort and making sure everything was baseline, everything was fine. And I think I might have walked back into the office to let them to know to call an ambulance. I don't
exactly recall when that was done but $I$ think $I$ did walk back into the office.

Q Have you seen Firefighter Mankowski since then?

A I have seen him a few times since then.
Q He hasn't returned to work as far as you know?

A No, not in a work capacity, no.
MR. MARCONI: Thank you, very much. I don't have anything else.

Mr. Pinelli is probably going to give you a very intense cross examination.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
MR. PINELLI: Mr. Chairman, before I proceed, are there any questions from the Board or would you like me to proceed?

MEMBER MURPHY: No questions.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Hearing no questions.
EXAMINATION
BY MR. PINELLI:

Q Thank you. Yes. So I hate to disappoint you but here's my questions. Just with respect to the shovels that were being used that day, are they any different than the shovels that civilians like

I use from Home Depot, you know the size of them? In other words, did the Fire Department have like extra heavy duty shovels or are they just the normal shovels that $I$ use from Home Depot, the size of them?

A I mean, there is a couple different types of shovels but nothing that you couldn't go to Home Depot and buy.

Q He was transported directly from the scene to Northwestern Hospital by ambulance, is that correct?

A I believe so. I believe so.
Q In other words, he didn't go inside or go somewhere else?

A No.
Q He was taken from the scene?
A No. Yes, he stayed on the ground outside the whole time until the ambulance arrived and transported.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you. That is all the questions $I$ have of the lieutenant. We appreciate you being on the line for us.

MR. KROLL: No problem.
MR. PINELLI: Okay. That is it for you
it. You are released.
Jerry, it sounds like there is no other witnesses on the line to testify. Did you speak with any of these other folks? Did you have a chance to or not?

MR. MARCONI: I did. I talked to -- I am going off the -- let me look at the witness list. I know I talked to a Sharrieff I believe last night. He said he's on furlough. I think over the weekend I talked to a Waldemar Wojt. I did not speak to Randy Carson and $I$ did leave a message for Lieutenant Walsh last night. The only ones I really talked to were Wojt, Sharrieff, Granat and Kroll. I didn't call off any witnesses.

MR. PINELLI: No, I understand that. With respect to your conversations with Sharrieff and Wojt, did they relate to you what they observed on that day?

MR. MARCONI: Yes. I mean, Sharrieff basically says the same thing as the two witnesses today. Waldemar Wojt said the same thing. Wojt did have apparently a snowblower in his truck or whatever but he was also shoveling. None of them saw the actual act of Firefighter Mankowski going
down, but they all basically would say that they heard a scream or a yelp and then he was down and then the ambulance came.

MR. PINELLI: Okay. It is pretty
consistent with the testimony given here today with respect to what they saw?

MR. MARCONI: Yes, it was definitely cumulative.

MR. PINELLI: That being the situation, do you have any other evidence that you wish to present at this time?

MR. MARCONI: None, other than if the Board wants to hear from Firefighter Mankowski because the only thing we added he did go through a FCE last week, which was ordered by his doctor, Dr. Lim, I think his Physician's Assistant, last month. And then just timing-wise, he just underwent it last week.

MR. PINELLI: I was going to just call
Dr. Samo very briefly to discuss that. But $I$ don't want to cut off the Board if they have any additional questions they want to ask of the applicant Mr. Mankowski before I call Dr. Samo.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any
questions?
MEMBER TEBBENS: I do for Firefighter
Mankowski.
I am not sure where the line of
questioning is going related to the shovels you can buy at Home Depot and whether Firefighter Mankowski knows the type of shovel that the legal counsel would even in fact purchase at Home Depot.

The question is was the shovel you were using issued by the Department?

MR. MANKOWSKI: The shovel I got was from inside the firehouse. Whether it was issued by the Department or somebody --

MEMBER TEBBENS: Was it part of the equipment that you had accessible to you that you would routinely use to shovel snow? It could have been anyone that grabbed that shovel or was that your shovel that you brought from home or purchased from Home Depot? What is that shovel? Was that a special shovel of yours or was that the shovel --

MR. MANKOWSKI: No, it was a shovel that I got from inside the firehouse.

MEMBER TEBBENS: That is routinely used for removal of snow?

MR. MANKOWSKI: Yes.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any other questions?

Hearing no questions, Vince.
MR. PINELLI: Do you rest, counsel, subject to my calling Dr. Samo quickly?

MR. MARCONI: Yes, sir.
MR. PINELLI: Okay. Thank you.
Dr. Samo, could you please raise your
right hand?
(Witness sworn.)
DANIEL SAMO, M.D.
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Since you last testified in this matter last month, doctor, were you provided a copy of Applicant Exhibits 1 and 2, those being the functional capacity evaluation and physical therapy evaluations?

A Yes.
Q Did you review them?
A Yes.
$Q$ With respect to just to summarize the
outcome of the FCE, what was the outcome of the
FCE?

A The FCE stated that he could only work at the medium level. His firefighter job is considered a very heavy job. The reason for that is that he could not lift 100 pounds from floor to waist, waist to shoulder, or overhead. He was able to perform all of the other tasks in the FCE. Several of them he did complain of back pain while doing them.

Q Did it indicate, therefore, that he had limitations, some limitations, with respect to the amount of weight that he could lift or move?

A Yes. I mean, he was able to lift 55 pounds from floor to waist. 45 pounds from waist to shoulder height. 40 pounds overhead. 50 pounds carrying and the maximum 100 pounds pushing/ pulling.

Q Those do not rise to the level of a very heavy physical demand level required for a firefighter, correct?

A Correct.
$\square$ maximum effort and there was no evidence of him either malingering or not giving a full effort?

A Correct, that is what the report stated.
Q It was valid results as far as the tester indicated?

A As far as the tester was concerned, yes.
Q Was this information -- is it consistent with the testimony you gave at the last hearing with respect to his ability to perform his duties with the Fire Department?

A Yes, it is consistent.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you. That is all the questions $I$ have of Dr. Samo. Counsel, do you have any?

MR. MARCONI: I do not have any questions.

MR. PINELLI: Trustees, any questions?
MEMBER MARTIN: Dr. Samo, do you believe that his subjective complaints of pain match the objective findings from this incident?

DOCTOR SAMO: Well, once again, with low back pain, there are very few objective findings. Everything that we do in the back exam, except for
measurements, like circumference of the thigh or leg and the deep tendon reflexes, are probably subjective because they depend on patient effort for reporting symptoms.

If he says when $I$ bend it hurts, $I$ can't go further, the limitation is about the pain. The pain is subjective. So, essentially, most of the back exam, a huge majority of the back exam, is a subjective exam.

MEMBER MARTIN: Additionally, I am
looking at his prior injuries, there seems to be a lot of prior back injuries. I don't know. He has got -- I mean, layup time, I haven't seen many that have had more in his amount of time on-the-job.

Could you tell from any of the prior MRIs or any of the other issues where there was any changes from his prior injuries?

I mean, this MRI, given prior MRIs, has there been any significant change that would give rise to, okay, he injured it or he didn't injure it?

DOCTOR SAMO. There was no -- I don't know if I had any MRIs from -- I did one -- let me see, if $I$ had any from prior. The one I have from
before was from 2015, October the 9, 2015, which did show degenerative changes at L-4/L-5, L-5/S-1 and a small protrusion, which is a disc herniation, at $\mathrm{L}-4 / 5$ and another one at $\mathrm{L}-5 / \mathrm{S}-1$.

The first one after his incident was on May 10, '21, which just showed the same L-5/S-1 tiny protrusion. So, essentially, it was unchanged or even a little better because of the 2021 MRI said there was just disc bulging at $L-4 / 5$. Whereas before it says there was a protrusion so that seems to have decreased.

MEMBER MARTIN: It seems likes it has actually gotten better. Thank you.

DOCTOR SAMO: I mean, yes and no. These are all very subtle findings. Really symptoms don't correlate well to degenerative MRI findings like this. They are essentially the same. There is no marked new difference between the MRIs.

MEMBER MARTIN: There is no marked difference?

DOCTOR SAMO: Correct.
MEMBER MARTIN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any other
questions?

MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes, for Dr. Samo.
Trustee Martin mentioned a previous layup. There is a duty layup for previous back strain.

DOCTOR SAMO: Yes, there were.

MEMBER TEBBENS: And then there was
another lower back auto accident.
DOCTOR SAMO: Yes. It started in 2003.

August 20, '03, he had a short layup. He had a layup in September of '13. Then there was the auto accident in August of 15 . He was laid up for five months. In May of '17, there was another auto accident and he was laid up for almost twelve months. And then, in March of '19, he had a slip and fall on the ice and he was laid up for ten months. In October of '20, it was a slip and fall and he was laid up for three months.

MEMBER TEBBENS: These were duty related?
DOCTOR SAMO: I don't know.

MEMBER TEBBENS: I see asterisks on here.
I'm not sure exactly what that means. The one that says duty was on '03 lower back strain from 8-18-03.

DOCTOR SAMO: That was lifting a patient,
I do have that. The '13 one was lifting a bag of
kitty litter. August ' 15 was an auto accident. May of '17 was an on-duty auto accident in '17. September of '19, I don't know what happened there. With the fall in '20, $I$ don't know what that was due to.

MEMBER TEBBENS: 5-8-17 is a duty lower back auto accident?

DOCTOR SAMO: Correct.
MEMBER TEBBENS: The kitty litter could that have been like oil dry on duty or was that kitty litter that he was cleaning his cat's litter box at home?

DOCTOR SAMO: I have no idea.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Sometimes the oil dry that we use to cleanup oil spills on-duty some people with call kitty litter but it is oil dry. It is basically the same thing. I am just curious. There are a number that have been duty related. Thank you for providing that clarity for me.

MEMBER MARTIN: I don't think it is clear from the record that it was all duty related.

MEMBER TEBBENS: I just got the testimony from the doctor. Tony, you are not sure of the --

MEMBER MARTIN: There is the kitty litter
and things like with blinds. Just $I$ want to know from the doctor, too, Rob, is whether these objective findings are --

MEMBER TEBBENS: I mean, setting the kitty litter one to the side, we have ' 03 which is a lower back strain which is duty which has been confirmed by the doctor and we have got the auto accident on duty on 5-8-17 which is lower back as well. So even if we set aside the kitty litter one, if he was cleaning his kitty litter box at home, $I$ don't know how many cats he's got, but that is irrelevant to me. I think the two injuries are --

MEMBER MARTIN: There is a lot of injuries here, Rob. There is a lot of injuries off-duty/on-duty. I mean, a lot. So the question that $I$ really have for the doctor is this. Is whether or not these objective findings and basically you kind of identified the findings, there is not much of a difference between 2015 and today, whether in your view of these objective/subjective complaints are -- in your experience, having viewed back injuries before, is this something that is disabling to the point where
he can't return to work?

MEMBER TEBBENS: Hasn't that been established? Hasn't that been the doctor's testimony?

MEMBER MARTIN: That is what $I$ wanted clarification from Dr. Samo on.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Dr. Samo, is that in
fact your testimony?

DOCTOR SAMO: I missed what the question is in there.

MEMBER MARTIN: I will ask the question. Dr. Samo, based on your experience as a physician and having done many firefighter duty disability hearings, is what you see in those MRI's consistent with somebody who will not, cannot and will not be able to perform his duties?

DOCTOR SAMO: Yes, in that the MRI does not reflect the severity of symptoms.

MEMBER MARTIN: Thank you.
MEMBER TEBBENS: So that was a yes?

DOCTOR SAMO: That was a yes.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: $I$ don't hear any more
questions. Does anyone have any more questions?

MR. PINELLI: I have a question for the doctor, if $I$ might. Doctor, did you see anything in the medical records that you reviewed, any comment by any physician who has examined him or treated him, that there was any suggestion that his subjective complaints of pain were being questioned by the doctors who were either examining him or treating him?

DOCTOR SAMO: Not that I recall.
MR. PINELLI: Okay. That is all I have. I think that concludes the evidence. CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Thank you.

MEMBER MURPHY: I'd like to make a motion to grant the benefit requested by Fire Marshal Mankowski.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion to grant by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Tebbens.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: No.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee

Conyears-Ervin.
Trustee Soni.
MEMBER SONI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: No.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
I am a yes.
I only have four.
MS. BURNS: The vote was four to two.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Let me ask one more
time. Trustee Conyears-Ervin? Trustee Valencia?
MEMBER VALENCIA: I am here.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia,
there's a motion and a second to grant this
benefit. We just a need a vote from you.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Can you please go back and tell me the other votes?

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Murphy yes,
Trustee Soni yes, Trustee Martin no, Trustee Conyears-Ervin not present, Trustee Tebbens yes, Trustee Sheridan no and I am a yes.

MEMBER VALENCIA: I vote yes.
$\square$
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Okay. Please, proceed, Trustee Murphy.

MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, I would like to make a motion for reexam consistent with Board policy.

MEMBER SONI: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion for
reexam by Trustee Murphy. Second by Trustee Soni Trustee Murphy.

MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Soni.
MEMBER SONI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Counsel has previously
sent around proposed Findings of Fact and

Conclusions of Law in this matter.
Having had a chance to review those, I'd like to make a motion to adopt those Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Soni.
MEMBER SONI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Valencia.
MEMBER VALENCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Trustees, the Trustees have voted to grant you the benefit you
have requested.

You will be notified by mail of the Findings of Fact and the Board's decision.

MR. MANKOWSKI: Thank You.

MR. MARCONI: Thank you.

MEMBER MURPHY: The next applicant is

Firefighter Michael Edwards Tower Ladder 37.
MR. PINELLI: Let the record reflect this is the Duty Disability application on behalf of Michael Edwards.

I am one of the attorneys conducting this hearing for the record. I'd like to advise you of some preliminary matters before we start the evidence.

First of all, there are $I$ believe seven Trustees present currently on the line to hear the evidence on your application. If you don't know you should know that the Pension Code requires you get the yes vote of at least five of those Trustees in order to receive this benefit. Do you understand that?

MR. EDWARDS: Yes.

MR. PINELII: From reviewing the record, it appears you do not have an attorney filing an
appearance to represent you in this matter. Is it your desire to proceed without an attorney?

MR. EDWARDS: Yes, it is.
MR. PINELLI: Lastly, it is the
applicant's burden of proof to present sufficient evidence to the Board in order for the Board to grant the benefit that the applicant seeks. Do you understand it is your burden of proof, sir?

MR. EDWARDS: Yes, sir.
MR. PINELLI: By way of procedures, I am going to start by asking you some questions under oath. The board members may or may not have questions of you. Then $I$ will call a couple of witnesses to testify, including the Fund's physician consultant. If there is anything I don't ask those witnesses that you think is important for the Board to know before they vote, please let me know and you will be given that opportunity. Do you understand the procedures?

MR. EDWARDS: Yes, sir.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you. Then $I$ think we are ready to proceed. Is Dr. Samo on the line?

DOCTOR SAMO: Yes, I am.
MR. PINELLI: Dr. Samo and Mr. Edwards,
could you both please raise your right hands?
(Witnesses sworn.)
MICHAEL EDWARDS
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

## EXAMINATION

BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Sir, please, state your name for the record.

A Michael Edwards.
Q What is your current rank with the Fire Department?

A Firefighter EMT.
Q What was your last assignment before you went on layup?

A Tower Ladder 37.
Q Did you receive a copy of Board Exhibits 1 through 12 prior to today's date?

A Yes.
Q Did you review them?
A Yes, sir.
Q Do you have any objection to their
admission into the record in this matter?
A No, sir.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you.
Mr. Chairman, I move for admission of
Board Exhibits 1 through 12, without objection from the applicant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Exhibits admitted without objection.
(Board Exhibits 1 through 7 were admitted into evidence.)

MR. PINELLI: Thank you.
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Now, sir, directing your attention to March 2nd of 2021, were you working on that date?

A Yes.
Q Did you sustain an injury or injuries that is the basis of your application today?

A Yes, sir.
Q Understanding that the Board has your statement that you have submitted in support of your application, so they have reviewed that, could you please briefly describe for us for today's purpose where you were and what happened to you?

A Yes, sir. I was assigned across the floor to Engine 60 and we had an assist an invalid.

When we arrived to the location, there
was a patient on the top steps, on the top landing of the lobby floor, and we were attempting to bring the lady down to the lower floor to -- over a flight of stairs. Maybe seven or eight stairs.

And I was at the head of the chair and I had two other firefighters, Firefighter Peebles and Firefighter Egan, as Lieutenant Weaver was witnessing.

I was at the head of the chair. I was proceeding to carry the patient down the stairs and the patient reached out and grabbed the handrail. As she grabbed the handrail, it kind of flipped me over and $I$ fell down the stairs with my arm. Right shoulder -- right arm extended. I fell. I felt a sharp pop and pain in my shoulder immediately and my left knee was hyperextended behind me as I fell, too, and I felt that pop as well.

As $I$ was trying to gather myself, $I$ felt a sharp pain up my spine, lower back, and I tried to walk it off and shake it off and I got back on the engine. As we made it back to the -- as we were going back to the firehouse, the pain was just getting more severe and $I$ had to call an ambulance and went to the University for $x$-rays and we went

## from there.

Q Had you ever had injuries to your left shoulder, lower back or your knee prior to that date?

A No, sir. It was my right shoulder and my left knee. No, I hadn't. Never.

Q Now subsequent to that you underwent some treatment for your shoulder, is that correct?

A Yes. I went to Fire Department Medical Department and they immediately sent me to physical therapy. Upon arriving at physical therapy, the physical therapist immediately saw an issue with my shoulder and said that $I$ needed to get an emergency MRI as soon as possible because there was nothing she could do. There was something more severe.

And on the MRI, we found out I had a torn muscle from my bicep in my shoulder. I had a rotator cuff tear.

Q Okay. So you had a procedure on July 24 th of 2021 to address the tears in your right shoulder and biceps, is that correct?

A No, I think I had the surgery in April I want to say. The surgery was actually a month after the actual injury.
$\square$
Q You are right. My mistake. I was thinking of the MRI on your back. So the surgery was April 12 th of 2021 , is that correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q And now can you describe for the Board the current condition with respect to your right shoulder following that surgery, any pain or limitations that you have in that shoulder?

A Yes, sir. I still have severe pain. I cannot reach around my back. I have a sharp pain in my -- it pops and $I$ have -- I can't reach high. I can extend my right arm a little over my head but not any more -- too much farther than that at this point without pain.

Q What about the condition of your lower back? Are you experiencing any problems with that currently?

A Yes. I have a problem when $I$ bend over to either side $I$ feel the pain in my lower back, part of my hip, my hip. Standing for any period of time, I have to, you know, lean over without pain so.

Q How about the condition of your left knee? What is that like today?

A The left knee is a 100 percent. I am good. All that swelling has gone down. No pain on that.

Q Great. Since you went on layup, have you engaged in any activity by which you earn income?

A No, sir.
Q Have you engaged in any sporting activities?

A No, sir.
Q Are you currently taking any medications prescribed by a physician for your shoulder and back pain?

A No, sir.

Q Do you have any appointments scheduled with any of your treating doctors?

A Yes, I do. I just have to schedule -unfortunately, $I$ was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes so my blood pressure and stuff is not right for me to go to therapy yet. I will be reevaluated in June and hopefully $I$ can get back into therapy sessions. Therapy or whatever they are going to do.

MR. PINELLI: Okay, thank you. That is all the questions $I$ have of the applicant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any
questions?
MEMBER TEBBENS: Michael, it says the stairs were wet. Were these exterior stairs? Is that where you fell?

MR. EDWARDS: No, they are interior stairs. I am not sure about the -- yes, they were tile, interior tile stairs. Just regular tile stairs, yes.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any other questions?

Hearing none, Vince.
MS. BURNS: If you are ready to call witnesses, let me advise you that Lieutenant Weaver is physically present at the Fund's office and we will bring him in, if you want to proceed with him first.

MR. PINELLI: Sure, that would make sense. Thank you, if you could do that.

MS. BURNS: He will be in the room and he will be placed in front of a camera so people can see and hear him.

MR. PINELLI: Okay.
MS. BURNS: The other witness is on the phone when you are ready for that gentleman.

Welcome, Lieutenant Weaver.

Go ahead, Vince. We are ready to proceed.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you. Good morning, sir. My name is Vince Pinelli. I am one of the attorneys for the Fund conducting this hearing for the record. I would ask you to please raise your right hand.
(Witness sworn.)
KENNETH WEAVER
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Thank you. Could you please state your name and spell your last name for the record?

A Kenneth Weaver, $W$-e-a-v-e-r.

Q Okay. And what is your current rank with the Fire Department?

A Lieutenant.
Q Where are you currently assigned?

A Engine 60.
Q Directing your attention, if I may, back to the date of March 2nd of 2021 , do you recall working that day?

A Yes.
Q Do you recall being at the scene of a call at 1605 East 50 th Street sometime in the morning hours that day?

A Yes, I do.
Q Are you familiar with the applicant Mr. Edwards?

A Yes, I am.
Q Were you familiar with him prior to that date?

A Yes, we have worked together on occasion.
Q Now directing your attention again to that date and location, did you see or learn that he had been injured on that day while working?

A Yes.
Q Can you briefly describe for the board members what you saw or observed with respect to that?

A We were called to assist a civilian, which means that she needed help either up the

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stairs or down the stairs.
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So we went to that location. Upon arrival, we found a female to be sitting in a wheelchair and we proceeded at that point in time to bring her down the stairs, if $I$ recall. We were going down the stairs. At that time she reached out and the wheelchair that she was on toppled over on to Mike and he ended up trying to protect her so her and the wheelchair landed on him.

Q As a result of that, did he require medical attention?

A Yes. After we repositioned the patient, then $I$ asked him was he okay. He was saying that something was wrong with his shoulder and something was wrong with his leg. So at that particular time we proceeded to make sure that the person in the wheelchair was okay and she said she was fine. Then at that time we proceeded back to the firehouse and then Mike said it's my arm and my leg is real hurting me. I think I need an ambulance. We called the ambulance for him.

Q He was transported to the hospital by ambulance from there?

A Correct.
$\square$
Q Now, had you worked with him prior to that date?

A Yes.
Q Was he always able to perform his duties without any limitations to his shoulder or his knee or his back prior to that date?

A Yes, he was.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you. That is all the questions $I$ have for the Lieutenant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any questions?

Hearing none.
MS. BURNS: Thank you, Lieutenant. Have a good day. Thank you for coming.

MR. PINELLI: Do we have Sean Peebles on the line?

MS. BURNS: Yes, Vince, he is on the line.

MR. PEEBLES: Sean Peebles, present, sir.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you. Sir, I am one of the attorneys conducting this hearing. I'd ask you to please raise your right hand.
(Witness sworn.)
SEAN PEEBLES
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. PINELLI:

Q Can you state your name and spell your last name for the record, please?

A Last name is Peebles, P-e-e-b-l-e-s. For name is Shaun, $S-h-a-u-n$.

Q What's your rank with the Fire Department?

A I am an engineer EMT assigned to Engine 9 at the airport.

Q Directing your attention to March 2nd of last year 2021, where were you assigned at that time?

A At that time $I$ was a Firefighter EMT assigned to Engine 60.

Q Do you recall having occasion to be at the scene of a call for an assist at 1605 East 50 th Street?

A Yes, sir.
Q Do you recall if at that time you were also working with Firefighter Edwards? Was he also there?

A Yes, sir. Firefighter Edwards and Firefighter EMT Egan.

Q All right. At that time and that date at that location, did you see or observe Firefighter Edwards sustain any injuries?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell the board members, please, what you saw?

A Basically, we arrived at the scene. We walked inside the building and the lady was at the top of the stairs. There was about seven or eight stairs. I was on the bottom at the right, Egan was on the lady's left side, Mike was at the top.

As we were coming down the stairs, $I$ kind of looked up and $I$ saw the lady reaching out and as she was reaching out $I$ noticed that Mike was losing his balance and tumbling because the wheelchair tipped. We were basically trying to hold onto the wheelchair as tight as possible. I could see that Mike was in excruciating pain.

Me and Egan reached up to the best of our ability to grab the wheelchair to keep the lady from falling and hitting her head. The wheelchair kind of came down over on Mike. He held on until
we got the lady to the ground and he was in excruciating pain from that point. He was probably trying to walk it off and see if he could shake it off.

Q To your knowledge, was he later transported to the hospital as a result of the injuries he sustained?

A Yes. Once we got back on Engine 60, we was going back, Mike was complaining that he was in pain. You could see it visibly on his face. When we got back to the firehouse, I believe they called an ambulance and they went from there.

Q Okay. Had you worked with him before that date?

A Yes, sir.
Q For how long?
A I believe we had been at Engine 60 together. He was assigned on Tower Ladder 37. We probably had been together for about four or five years at Engine 60 .

Q During that time was he always able to perform his duties from what you could see without any problems on his right shoulder and his left knee?
$\square$
A Yes, sir. He was always able to perform his duties.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you, very much. I
have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any
questions?
No questions, Vince.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you. You are
released, sir. We really appreciate you being on the line for us.

MR. PEEBLES: Thank you.
MR. PINELLI: Have a good day.
We are ready to go to Dr. Samo.
(Witness previously sworn.) DANIEL SAMO, M.D.
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Could you state your name for the record?
A Daniel Samo.
Q You are a physician, is that correct?
A Yes.

Q A copy of your qualifications are
attached to the Board Exhibits?
A Yes.

Q Do you perform a function as a consultant to this fund?

A Yes.
Q In that capacity, do you review medical records, examine or interview applicants and report to the Board?

A That is correct.
Q Did you follow that procedure with respect to Mr. Edwards?

A Yes, I did.
Q Did you file a written record with the Board that is marked as Board Exhibit Number 2?

A Yes.
Q Doctor, can you tell us did you interview the applicant prior to writing your report?

A Yes. Due to the Covid restrictions, it was done by telephone. There was no physical exam.

Q All right. Was the information he provided you in that interview consistent or inconsistent with the medical records you reviewed?

A It was consistent.
Q Can you summarize for the record, please,
what your findings were after reviewing the medical records?

A Based on the medical records, he had the fall as was described. He injured his -- he initially complained of his shoulder and knee and then shortly thereafter began having back pain. The knee as he described resolved so it is all better. Shoulder continued to hurt and he was eventually diagnosed with a rotator cuff tear for which he had surgery. The back was really sort of the nonspecific findings on the MRI but he had ongoing pain which has been unresponsive pretty much to epidural injections and physical therapy. So he continues to have ongoing problems in his shoulder and in his low back.

Q Given those current symptoms, would he be able to perform his duties in the Fire Department?

A I do not believe so.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you, doctor, that is all the questions $I$ have.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any questions?

Hearing none, thank you.
MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, I'd like
to make a motion to grant the benefits requested by EMT Firefighter Edwards.

MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion to grant by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin

MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, I'd like to make a motion for reexam consistent with the Board's policies.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Motion for reexam by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Tebbens.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan. MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Counsel has previously
sent around proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

Having had a chance to review those, I'd like to make a motion to adopt those Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

MEMBER SHERIDAN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Sheridan. Trustee Murphy.

MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: $\quad$ I am a yes.
Motion carries.

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Trustees, the Trustees have voted to grant you the benefit you have requested.

You will be notified by mail of the Findings of Fact and the Board's decision.

Thank you and good luck.

MR. EDWARDS: Thank you, sir.
MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, our next duty applicant is Michele Martinez Paramedic in Charge.

MR. PINELLI: Ms. Martinez, are you on the line?

MS. MARTINEZ: I am. Good morning, sir.

MR. PINELLI: Good morning. $I$ am one of the attorneys for the Fund. $I$ will be conducting this hearing for the record.

Let the record reflect this is a hearing on the application for Duty Disability benefits being made by Paramedic in Charge Michelle Martinez.


#### Abstract

I would like to advise you of some preliminary matters before we start evidence.


 There are currently five Trustees present to hear the evidence on your application. Based upon the Pension Code, it requires that you get the yes vote of all of those five Trustees in order to receive this benefit. Do you understand that?MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. PINELLI: I see you do not have an attorney representing you in this matter. Is it your desire to proceed without an attorney?

MS. MARTINEZ: Yes, it is.
MR. PINELLI: Lastly, it is the applicant's burden of proof to present sufficient evidence to the Board in order for the Board to grant the benefit. Do you understand as the applicant it is your burden of proof?

MS. MARTINEZ: Yes, I do.
MR. PINELLI: By way of procedures, I am going to start by asking you some questions under oath. The board members may or may not have questions of you.

Then $I$ will call some witnesses to testify, including the Fund's physician consultant,

Dr. Peters. If there is anything I don't ask those witnesses that you think is important for the Board to know before they vote on it, please let me know and you will be given that opportunity. Do you understand the procedures?

MS. MARTINEZ: Yes, I do.
MR. PINELLI: Okay. Then we are ready to proceed. Is Dr. Peters on the line?

DOCTOR PETERS: Yes.
MR. PINELLI: Dr. Peters and Ms.
Martinez, could you both please raise your right hands?
(Witnesses sworn.)

## MICHELE MARTINEZ

a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION
BY MR. PINELLI:

Q Ma'am, would you please state your name and spell your last name for the record?

A Michele Martinez, M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z.
Q Ms. Martinez, what is your rank with the Fire Department?

A Paramedic in Charge.
$Q$ What was your last assignment before you went on layup?

A Ambulance 74.
Q Directing your attention to the Board Exhibits 1 through 12, you should have been provided a copy of those before today's date. Did you receive them?

A I did.
Q Did you have a chance to review them?
A I did.
Q Do you have any objection to their admission into the record for the Trustees to consider in this matter?

A I do not.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you.
Mr. Chairman, I move for admission of
Board Exhibits 1 through 12, without objection from the applicant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Admitted without objection.
(Board Exhibits 1 through 12 were admitted into evidence.)

MR. PINELLI: Thank you.

BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Now, Ms. Martin, directing your attention to the date of March 9th of 2021 , were you working that day with the Chicago Fire Department?

A I was.
Q Did you sustain an injury or injuries that is the basis of this application?

A I did.
Q Understanding that the Board does have your written statement that was submitted with the Board Exhibits, could you still briefly describe for us for the record today where you were and what happened to you?

A I was assigned to Ambulance 74. We were dispatched to a psychiatric emergency approximately at Ohio and Wells around 9, 9:30.

I went to step out of the ambulance and when $I$ do step out $I$ turn myself because $I$ am very careful stepping out and when $I$ did I rolled both ankles on either a manhole cover, it was uneven, a pothole, but I dropped to the ground with both ankles. I felt my right ankle roll and I felt my left ankle fracture. I was unable to get up off the ground. My partner exited the ambulance and
then she provided medical attention to me.
Q Now had you ever had any problems or injuries to either of your ankles prior to that date?

A My right ankle $I$ did roll on two occasions at work but $I$ had physical therapy. My left ankle was broken January, 2001 I believe. I had surgery but never had any problems on-the-job at all with that ankle.

Q So you broke up a little bit there. There was some noise background, but just so I am clear, you did have prior injuries to each of those ankles but you were able to heal and come back to work --

A Correct.
Q -- after those injuries? Okay. Were those injuries while you were on-duty or duty related?

A Yes. The right ankle that $I$ rolled two times was duty related, that was again stepping out of the ambulance. The left ankle that $I$ had prior surgery to was prior to getting on the job.

Q Okay. Now, with respect to treatment to the ankles afterwards, after this incident, did you
ultimately have surgery on March 16 th of 21 st?
A Yes.

Q To what ankle did you have the surgery on?

A My left ankle.
Q Was that pursuant to an examination that indicated it had fractured?

A Correct.
Q Following that surgery on the left ankle, can you describe for us currently what is the condition with respect to the left ankle for any pain or limitations?

A I have a limited range of motion specifically going down stairs. I am in constant pain. I am at a two -- one to two at resting. Any type of walking increases from a three to a seven, depending on weightbearing. And I have gained ten pounds. I have continual burning from the complex regional pain syndrome. It is very difficult for me to walk down stairs. I can go up okay. I stiffen up a lot and am exhausted from just the pain and just trying to walk on that left leg. I don't have full feeling in my left leg. It is also weaker than my right so $I$ force myself to walk to
try to maintain that muscle but $I$ still don't have 100 percent contracting of my left thigh muscle. I feel unbalanced quite a bit and I have to hang on walking down my own stairs in my own home.

Carrying laundry is a very difficult task for me so I have to limit myself with weight. I do not sleep at night. I have difficulty sleeping due to the heatness of the ankle and $I$ have to constantly shift from side to side. I don't sleep much.

Q What about the condition of your right ankle, what is that like today? Ms. Martinez, did you hear me? Maybe I cutout. Hello, Ms. Martinez? MS. BURNS: We are checking, Vince. MEMBER MARTIN: I'm sorry. My phone disconnected. My husband turned on the car and it was a handsfree link. Sorry. BY MR. PINELLI:

Q I have done that myself many times. No problem.

My question was simply what is the condition of your right ankle today, is that still a problem?

A My right ankle $I$ have difficulty also walking down the stairs. What happens is it
catches and when it catches I drop to my knees. So it is behind the right ankle bone and it can happen at any given time going down the stairs, stepping off a curb. I never know when it's going to happen so I am very --

Q I'm sorry, you cut out there.
A I'm sorry. It keeps going to the handsfree link. My husband is going to shut off the car.

Q Okay. So you're still having problems with the right ankle as well as the left it sounds like from your description?

A Yes. Yes.
Q Now you underwent a Functional Capacity Evaluation on November 3rd of '21, is that correct?

A That is correct.
Q You used your best efforts to put forth maximum effort when you took that test?

A Absolutely.
Q And were you able to reach the very heavy level of physical demand?

A I was not.
Q Were there certain restrictions in what you could do physically with respect to that
testing?
A Yes.

Q Since you went on layup have you engaged in any activity by which you earn income?

A No.
Q Have you engaged in any sporting
activities?

A No.
Q Are you currently taking any medications prescribed by a physician for pain relief for either ankle?

A I am no longer taking anything.
Q Do you have any scheduled appointments with your physicians who are treating you for your ankles?

A I do not.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you. That is all the questions $I$ have of the applicant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any questions?

No questions, Vince.
MR. PINELLI: Then $I$ think we have a
witness. Is there a witness on the line?
MS. OESTERLE: Yes.

MS. MARTINEZ: There should be Maria
Oesterle.
MS. OESTERLE: I am present.
MR. PINELLI: Good morning, ma'am. I am one of the attorneys for the Fund. I just have a few questions for you but before I do that could you just raise your right hand?
(Witness sworn.)
MARIA OESTERLE
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Could you state your name and spell your last name for the record?

A My name is Maria Oesterle, O-e-s-t-e-r-l-e.

Q What's your rank with the Fire Department currently?

A Currently I am PIC. At that time $I$ was $a$ PM.

Q What is your current assignment?
A I am with Field Division North. I am on medical layup.
$Q \quad$ I'd like to direct your attention to the date of March 9th of 2021. Were you on active duty and working that day?

A Correct.

Q Do you recall having occasion to be at a scene at 540 North Wells Street in Chicago?

A I do.
Q Do you recall Paramedic in Charge Michele Martinez also being at that location?

A Correct.
Q Did you see or observe her sustain any injuries that day?

A I witnessed her on the floor. I did not see the actual fall.

Q Can you tell us where she was and what you did observe of her that day?

A Sure. When I came out of the driver's side, $I$ went around the ambulance, I looked for her and then $I$ saw her on the ground. She was on kind of like a manhole cover holding one of her legs. I don't remember which one. I asked her what happened? I went down. I could tell that it was fractured. At that point $I$ went to the back of the ambulance to get the stretcher. A retired
firefighter came up and asked if we were okay and he asked if he was able to assist us or assist me. Pulled the stretcher by Michele. He assisted me getting Michele inside the ambulance. I rendered medical care. An IV was stared. Medical care was provided. And when the second ambulance came care was transferred to the second ambulance.

Q When the incident happened at first it was just the two of you there as far as fire personnel?

A Correct. Yes.

Q She exited the passenger side and you exited the driver's side. As you say you saw her on the ground then, is that right?

A Correct.
Q Okay. Had you worked with her prior to that date?

A I believe once or twice.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you. That is all the questions I have.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any questions?

No questions, Vince.
MR. PINELLI: No questions. Thank you,
very much for being on the line today. We appreciate it. You are excused.

MS. OESTERLE: Thank you.
MR. PINELLI: At this time $I$ would call
Dr. Peters to testify.
(Witness previously sworn.)
MICHAEL I. PETERS, M.D.
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Sir, please state your name.
A Michael I. Peters.
Q You're a physician, is that correct?
A Yes, it is.
Q You perform a function as a physician consultant to this fund?

A Yes, I do.
Q In that capacity, do you review medical records, examine or interview applicants and report to the Board?

A Yes.
Q Did you file a written report with the Board that is marked as Board Exhibit Number 2?

A Yes, I did.
Q Doctor, did you interview the applicant due to the current Covid restrictions?

A By telephone, yes.
Q Was the information she provided you consistent or inconsistent with the medical records that you had reviewed prior to your interview?

A Consistent.
Q Can you just summarize for us, please, doctor, what your findings were after reviewing the medical records and interviewing the applicant?

A Yes. Ms. Martinez, as she described, stepped out of the ambulance, inverted her left ankle and suffered a multiple bone fracture and dislocation of the left ankle, that required surgical repair and fixation.

As a complication of that procedure and that injury, she developed complex regional pain syndrome, which has a set of criteria some of which are objective and she meets the established criteria for that disorder. Because of that she has chronic pain and other symptoms that make it hard for her to walk for prolonged periods of time.

Q Doctor, this CRPS that you described is
that something that could result from the type of injury that she suffered in her left ankle?

A Yes, it can.
Q She's currently undergoing treatment for that, is that correct?

A Yes, she is.
Q And, doctor, did you also see that she underwent a Functional Capacity Evaluation, which is Board Exhibit 9 in this matter?

A Yes. On November 3rd of 2021 and she only achieved a moderate physical demand level.

Q Did it indicate that she gave maximum effort and that the results of the test were valid as far as the tester was concerned?

A Yes, it did.
Q Were there limitations described in there of lifting for her based upon her condition?

A Yes. She did not meet the requirements for her full-time duties.

Q Based upon those conditions and those results, do you believe she could perform her duties with the Fire Department at this time?

A No.
MR. PINELLI: Thank you, doctor. That is
all the questions I have.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any
questions for the doctor?
Hearing none.
MEMBER MURPHY: I'd like to make a motion
to grant the benefit requested by Paramedic in
Charge Michele Martinez.
MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Murphy made the motion. Trustee Martin made the second.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Absolutely.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, I'd like to make a motion for reexam consistent with the Board's policy.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Second.


CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan. MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.

Motion carries.
Based on the Findings of Fact and

Conclusions of Law made by the Trustees, the Trustees have voted to grant you the benefit you have requested.

You will be notified by mail of the Findings of Fact and the Board's decision.

Thank you and good luck.

MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you, very much and thank you for all your time, gentlemen and women. MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, next we have a hearing for Firefighter EMT Anthony Pucci Truck 47.

MR. PINELLI: Good morning, sir. My name is Vince Pinelli. $I$ am one of the attorneys for the Pension Fund. I will be conducting this hearing for the record. I'd like to advise you of
some preliminary matters before we start the
evidence.

First of all, there are five Trustees present at this time to hear the evidence on your application. The Pension Code requires that you get the yes vote of those five Trustees, all five of them, in order to receive this benefit. Do you understand that?

MR. PUCCI: Yes, sir.
MR. PINELLI: Okay. The record indicates you do not have an attorney representing you. Is it your desire to proceed without an attorney?

MR. PUCCI: That is correct.
MR. PINELLI: It is the applicant's burden of proof to present sufficient evidence in order for the Board to grant the benefit that the applicant is seeking. Do you understand it is your burden of proof?

MR. PUCCI: Yes, sir.
MR. PINELLI: By way of procedures, I am going to start by asking you some questions under oath. The board members may or may not have questions of you. Then $I$ will call some witnesses. If there is anything $I$ don't ask the witnesses that
you think is important for the Board to know, please let me know and you will be given that opportunity. Do you understand the procedures?

MR. PUCCI: Yes, I do.
MR. PINELLI: Is Dr. Peters still on the line?

DOCTOR PETERS: Yes.
MR. PINELLI: Sir, would you please raise your right hand and Dr. Peters as well?
(Witnesses sworn.)

## ANTHONY PUCCI

a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Sir, would you please state your name and spell your last name for the record?

A My name is Anthony Pucci, P-u-c-c-i.
Q What's your rank with the Fire
Department?
A Firefighter EMT.
Q What was your last assignment before you went on layup?

A Truck 47.
$Q$ Directing your attention to the group of Board Exhibits marked 1 through 12, you should have been provided a copy of those before today's date. Did you receive them?

A Yes, we did.
Q Do you have any objection to their admission into the record in this matter?

A No.
MR. PINELLI: Mr. Chairman, I move for admission of Board Exhibits 1 through 12, without objection from the applicant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Admitted without objection.
(Board Exhibits 1 through 12 were admitted into evidence.)

BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Now, sir, you are applying for this Duty Disability benefit based upon injuries that you sustained on two different dates; February 16 th of 2021 and March 15 th of 2021 , is that correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q Understanding that the Board has your written submission with your statement of what occurred on those two dates, nevertheless, could
you please just briefly describe for us what occurred on those dates to cause you the injuries that are the basis of your application?

A Sure. Well, I believe it started back on February 16 th. We responded to a still on Hollywood. I believe the address was like 1040 Hollywood. We did truck work, engine work, whatever, and on my way out -- on that day it was very icy, snowy.

Obviously, when $I$ was coming out, I must have misjudged my foot and I slipped and I fell forward. I fell forward. When I did fall, I had full equipment on. I had tools in both hands. That is when $I$-- the Chief was there and a few workers behind me and asked me if I was okay. And when $I$ rolled over and I said my shoulders were -I said I hurt my shoulders.

From there, we went back to quarters. We had an ambulance meet us there and take me to the hospital. From there they did their -- whatever they had to do and they released me even though I had pain.

The second incident, which was about three weeks later approximately, even though I did
have pain during that time, we responded to a still on Ashland Avenue. I believe it was like 4950 North Ashland.

Since $I$ am the driver, $I$ do have an SCBA but it is in a compartment not like the other firefighters where they are sitting on their backs.

So when I got out, I went and opened my compartment. I went to put on my SCBA. When I went to put it on, $I$ had some major sharp pains in my shoulders. I was unable to lift the SCBA. I dropped it down and from there is when $I$ requested to be taken and have my shoulders looked at again.

Q Okay. With respect to the first incident, on February 16 th of '21, you described how you fell. Did your arms like extend out as you hit the ground or was it like you landed on your shoulders?

A In my left hand, I had a 12-found sledge. In my right hand, I had my ax tight pulled and SCBA on and everything.

When I fell, I kind of fell awkward like rolling forward and when $I$ feel $I$ fell on my forearms like outward a little bit. Not straight down, but out a little bit. Clenching my tools in
my hand in case $I$ didn't fall on them. I didn't fall straight down on them. I fell outward a little bit on my forearms and my shoulders.

Q Like your arms were a little extended so there was pressure on your shoulders, I would assume?

A Correct.

Q So you were released to go back to work but you indicated you continued to have pain in both shoulders right up until the second incident?

A Yes. Well, the thing is -- sure, I had pain so $I$ would take Aleve or whatever. And hopefully was hoping that, you know, once again it was just a bruise or whatever basically is what the doctor was saying. Yes, I did continue to work hoping for the best.

Q Sure. They didn't do a MRI on either of your shoulders after that first incident, correct?

A The first incident they did -- what happened was they took $x$-rays and like $I$ said it was either an intern or doctor came up to me and told me there was nothing broke and that -- I told them I was still in pain. They advised me to take some Aleve or Advil or something like that for the
pain.
Q
So then fast forward to after the March 15th incident where you had pain, significant pain, that you couldn't even put on your gear. Then you went and did you have a MRI after that?

A I was taken to the same hospital, St.
Francis. I was seen by a Dr. Orozco. We explained -- I believe the Chief was with me at that time also. Anyways, we explained that to the doctor and she looked and she told me that I should have been laid up, that $I$ should not return to work until -I need to see an orthopedic surgeon or an ortho.

Q Subsequently, you did see an ortho and you ultimately underwent surgery on your right shoulder, is that correct?

A Left and right both.
Q In August of last year, was that your right first?

A That is correct.
Q And then the surgery on your left shoulder you just recently had, right?

A I did. Three weeks ago.

Q Three weeks ago. Okay. So let's talk about after the first surgery on your right
shoulder, in August, tell us about your current condition with respect to your right shoulder, pain, limitations and so forth, or is it all healed up?

A Well, the right shoulder -- let's put it this way, since $I$ needed shoulder on the left, what we did after the surgery on the right when $I$ had to wait five weeks because it was in a sling. After that, the therapist suggested -- I guess what happens is you have to get the range of motion, okay. The strength $I$ guess comes later on with a lot of work. But the range of motion was the big thing because they could only get me so far even during therapy because my left shoulder was affected so $I$ could only do certain things. I guess the main goal was to get the right shoulder active with the range of motion good so that we could have surgery on the left, get that done, and then basically work at them both together for the finale to strengthen it.

Q So your current condition, obviously, since you're just so recent postsurgery on your left, you haven't started PT or anything at this point?

A I just started. I was there yesterday I was at therapy.

Q All right. Is that designed for both shoulders?

A I am hoping. What I am doing, though, even though when $I$ was there yesterday, it was very -- since it is the initial state of it, they are going to be working both shoulders. Because $I$ will do something, they check the range and everything. But also I have to remind them that I was there for my right shoulder and that once again range of motion was there but that still needs to be worked on also. I mean, it is in their paperwork and it is in their notes but both shoulders have to be worked on, correct.

Q Since you went on layup have you engaged in any activities by which you earn income?

A No. I have been sitting at home every darn day.

Q You haven't engaged in any sporting activities, I take it?

A That is correct, no.
Q Have you taken any pain medication prescribed by a physician?

A I stopped taking that. If I do, from like after therapy yesterday, I would take some Aleve for the pain and ice.

Q Do you have any scheduled appointments with the doctor who did the surgeon on your left shoulder?

A Yes. It is Dr. Gordon Nuber and I will see him May 5th.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you. That is all the questions $I$ have of the applicant.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any questions?

MEMBER MURPHY: No questions.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Hearing none, Vince.
MR. PINELLI: All right. Do we have either District Chief Jurewicz on the line or William Rivera?

MR. JUREWICZ: Yes. Robert Jurewicz is here. Deputy District Chief of the 2nd District.

MR. PINELLI: Thank you, sir. I am one of the attorneys for the Pension Fund. I just have a few questions for you.

Could you please, first of all, raise your right hand?

| (Witness sworn.) |
| :---: |
| ROBERT JUREWICZ |
| a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was |
| examined and testified as follows: |
| EXAMINATION |
| BY MR. PINELLI: |
| Q You have already told us your current |
| rank is Deputy Chief, is that correct? |
| A Yes, it is. |
| Q What is your current assignment? |
| A My current assignment is the 2nd |
| District. |
| Q I'd like to direct your attention to the |
| date of February 16th of 2021. Do you recall |
| working that day? |
| A I certainly do. |
| Q Do you recall being at a scene at 1040 |
| West Hollywood? |
| A Yes, we had a still there. |
| Q Okay. Was the applicant Mr. Pucci there |
| as well? |
| A Yes, he was. He was a driver of Truck |
| 47. At the time I was a Battalion Chief. |
| Q Do you recall, sir, did you learn that |

day or see, hear or observe that he sustained any injuries?

A I certainly did.

Q Could you briefly tell the board members what you know about that?

A Sure. The members had gone into the building to investigate a still. We had a small little fire in the building. Everybody had done their jobs, put the fire out. All the firefighters were coming out of the building. I was giving the office an update.

I turned around to watch traffic to make sure they didn't have a problem getting in their rigs. At that moment, $I$ observed Firefighter Pucci basically his feet went up in the air and he came down on his left shoulder and it was just wow.

First thing I asked him are you okay? He says, yes, but my shoulder is a little sore. So I said, well, $I$ will call an ambulance. He said, no, I think it will be okay.

When we got back to the firehouse, as he was taking his fire gear off, he said, "Chief, I need to go to the hospital". So we sent him to the hospital to have him looked at.
Q Did you happen to notice did he slip
because of the condition of the ground or you don't
know you just saw him slip?

A There was quite a lot of snow and ice on the ground. Especially where the City trucks had plowed everything off the truck earlier that morning. It was all piled up against the side and the truck was right next to it. When he went to put his gear in his compartment behind the cab that is where he slipped and fell. As soon as he opened the compartment up he went and that was it. He came down on it.

Q Had you ever worked with him before that date?

A I have.

Q To your knowledge, was he always able to perform his duties with the Fire Department without any limitations on his shoulders?

A Absolutely. He had no problems whatsoever.

MR. PINELLI: Great. That is all the questions $I$ have. I don't know if the Board does. Hold on one second, if you would.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any
questions?

MEMBER MURPHY: No questions for the Chief.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Hearing none, Vince.
MR. PINELLI: No questions, Chief. Thank you, very much for being here with us today and holding on the line until we got though this hearing. We appreciate it.

MR. JUREWICZ: Thank you, very much. You all have a nice day.

MR. PINELLI: You, too.
At this time $I$ would call Dr. Peters to testify.
(Witness previously sworn.)
MICHAEL I. PETERS, MED.
a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION
BY MR. PINELLI:
Q Sir, please state your name.
A Michael I. Peters.
Q You are a physician, is that correct?
A Yes.
Q Your qualifications are attached to the

Board Exhibits?
A Yes.

Q Do you perform a function as a consultant to this Fund?

A Yes, I do.
Q In that capacity, do you review medical records, examine applicants and report to the Board?

A Yes.

Q Did you follow that procedure with respect to Mr . Pucci?

A Yes, I did.
Q Did you file a written report marked as Board Exhibit 2?

A Yes.

Q Doctor, did you interview the applicant due to the current Covid limitations?

A Yes, by telephone.
Q Was the information he provided you consistent with the medical records you reviewed?

A Yes, it was consistent.
Q Would you briefly describe for us what the medical records indicated to you as far as his condition?

A As he described, he had an initial fall it sounds like onto both forearms while he was holding tools. Probably had acute injuries to his rotator cuffs at that time, that would be most likely.

It was then exacerbated when he tried to swing his SCBA over his head. Ultimately, he required operative repair of both shoulder rotator cuffs. After the first one on the right side, he did recover range of motion but had not recovered full strength. As he mentioned, he just recently had arthroscopy on the left shoulder so he is just initiating rehabilitation for that.

Q I take it he is clearly not at MMI with respect to the left shoulder, right, not yet?

A Correct.

Q Doctor, his testimony that he underwent an $x$-ray after the February 16 th incident, $x$-rays are generally going to tell you if bones are broken but they are not going to tell you if there are rotator cuff tears, right?

A It is not a very sensitive test for that. There are some indirect findings that might support a rotator cuff injury. It is not the standard of
care to make a diagnosis using an x-ray, no.

Q Thank you. Based upon his current condition, would he be able to perform his duties with the Fire Department?

A No.

MR. PINELLI: Thank You, doctor, that is all the questions $I$ have.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustees, any questions for the doctor?

None, Vince.

MEMBER MURPHY: Motion to grant the benefit requested by Firefighter Anthony Pucci.

MEMBER MARTIN: Second.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin.

Trustee Murphy.

MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.

MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin

MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.

Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, I would like to make a motion for reexam consistent with the Board's policy.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion for reexam by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Tebbens.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.

MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Counsel has previously
sent around proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case.

Having had a chance to review those, I would make a motion to adopt those Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

MEMBER SHERIDAN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Motion by Trustee
Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Sheridan.
Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
Anthony, can you hear me.
MR. PUCCI: Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Based on the Findings
of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the
Trustees, the Trustees have voted to grant you the benefit you have requested.

You will be notified by mail of the Findings of Fact and the Board's decision.

Thank you and good luck to you.
MR. PUCCI: Thank you all.
MEMBER MURPHY: Motion to approve the

Board physician reviews of disability recipients.
MEMBER MARTIN: Second.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin. Trustee Murphy.

MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin

MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Moving on to Item 6, Investments. I'd like to move this issue over to Trustee Martin and Lorna.

MEMBER MARTIN: Lorna, do you want to go through it with everything we have on the table?

MS. SCOTT: Sure. All of my reports are in BoardPaq. I shared my screen so you can see them. These are the usual charts related to performance as well as the quarterly charts on securities lending and private market cash flows
and then there are a few extras.
Everything is easy to read. Given the
full agenda, $I$ am going to give you basically some investment highlights.

First of all, we are in a quiet period for the infrastructure RFP and for the Private Credit RFP.

Brady will give us an update on the infrastructure in just a few minutes.

Very quickly to performance, it's been a rough, rough start to the year. Only commodities are doing very well. U.S. growth is lagging and then we have large cap outperforming small cap and value outperforming growth. Those are the big themes.

So what does the Fund do? Well, positive in March but it wasn't enough to cover for the year so the Fund is down 5.9 percent. Underperforming the benchmark which is down 3.9 percent. We are underperforming by 200 basis points and most of that underperformance is coming from manager performance. Poor manager performance is hurting us this year-to-date.

Which managers? It is primarily
international equity managers and the U.S. equity managers. I will tell you it is primarily our growth managers are underperforming.

Brady is going to dig more into performance with his quarterly report so $I$ will leave the rest of the performance to him to cover later on.

Looking at securities lending very, very quickly. This first slide shows us who has borrowed our securities as of March 31st. We have got $\$ 94$ million out on loan.

The big takeaway here is we are not concentrated with any particular borrower and all these borrowers are pretty highly rated. We have received the appropriate level of collateral. All good here.

Other than that, there is the quarterly private cash market flows. The big takeaway there is a cash outflow position. We had more capital calls then we did distributions in the first quarter, not unexpected.

Other than that, Russian exposure, no change.

The diversity review is primarily just
some charts $I$ created based on the diversity charts I receive at year end.

Informational. I will leave that for your review.

Brady, did you want to touch on the Rhumbline organizational change?

MR. O'CONNELL: Sure. A quick update on this. There is a letter from Rhumbline. Their CEO announced his retirement so we're monitoring some turnover senior executive level.

The Board does not need to take action at this point. It is just informational. But this does result in ownership change so after this retirement takes place there is a change in ownership and it results in the firm becoming 51 percent female owned. Historically, it has been a MWDBE firm based on a combination of a female and minority ownership so it is kind of squarely in the female owned category after this change. Just a FYI.

MS. SCOTT: On the infrastructure?
MR. O'CONNELL: In the FYI department, I wanted to report to the Board, we received ten responses to the infrastructure RFP. We have
listed the managers that have responded. We are working to evaluate those responses and we'll be back to the Board in May with a recommendation for the finalists that we think the Board should interview.

MS. SCOTT: The last thing $I$ have on the agenda is the review of sustainable investing. I did want to have a brief conversation on our approach to sustainable investing. It is a reminder that sustainable investing is in the Illinois Pension Code. In our Investment Policy Statement, we do have criteria there that they will regularly consider sustainable investing in evaluating investment decisions.

At this point, we do not have a manager hired to do specifically sustainable investing. Before we even do that, it is probably worth checking out with our current managers how they incorporate sustainable investing principles into their investment process.

What I did was I created a brief, easy survey of 22 firms. I excluded Rhumbline, who is our index manager. I excluded PIMCO, who is our commodities manager. And I excluded two inactive
firms, Mesirow and Apollo.

The big takeaway here the majority of our managers are managing our assets in line with sustainability factors. You can see it from a signatory perspective where they signed on \$766 million, 87 percent of our assets, are managed by firms who have signed on to be an UNPRI signatory. Those signatories commit to integrating ESG into their investment decision making process.

I think the key takeaway is we may not have a specific dedicated manager managing sustainable investment but most of our managers are keenly aware of sustainable investing and have incorporated this into their investment process. Our managers are leaning towards sustainable investing already.

81 percent of our assets are managed by firms where there is a firm wide ESG responsible investing policy. 56 percent of our assets are managed by firms where there is a dedicated ESG function at the firm. It is not just being handled by the investment analysts but a separate group actually manages the ESG of the security.

And then, finally, next to last, this is
the big one, our ESG considerations integrated into the investment decision making process. 95 percent of our assets are managed by firms that currently integrate ESG into their process.

I don't know if Brady wants to comment on what Callan is doing with sustainable investing.

MR. O'CONNELL: Yes. Thank you, Lorna.
Separately, we are working with these managers to understand the steps that they are taking for sustainability.

I think one thing we want to be sensitive to is we talk about managers hiring people to be focused on ESG and having policies and that requires resources. We don't want to penalize small or emerging managers for not having the budget or the head count that giant firms might have to throw at ESG.

We are taking a more kind of proactive approach to working with these managers to bring their ESG into sustainability bracket.

MS. SCOTT: I think $I$ want it on the record that we as a Board had talked about sustainable investing. Other things that we do, we do ask sustainable investing questions in the RFP
and then on an annual basis we ask about each firm's approach to sustainability and how they have incorporated it in that year and to give me examples.

If you are ever asked what do you do with sustainable investing, we do do something. The answer is we don't do anything and now having an annual conversation on what sustainable investing, how it flows into our investments, we can check the box on that one as well.

With that, $I$ will conclude investments.

MEMBER MARTIN: Going back to Brady, I was kind of hoping the two of you could touch on our underperformance. Whether it is just related to the index, whether it is consistent with our peers and what we could do and just kind of how we should think about it going forward. Do you have an answer for us on what we can do to address our underperformance because $I$ think it is significant.

MS. SCOTT: Right.

MEMBER MARTIN: ESG, I think all of that is wonderful. I think the thing $I$ am concerned about most, and $I$ think most of the Trustees are, given our fiduciary duty, is just performance. How
do we get back to where we were? I am not saying get back to where we were because I don't want to say we are doing anything bad. But our performance, from what $I$ have read, is not consistent with our peers or the index. Whether we haven't rebalanced. Whether we need to rebalance more to value. Rhumbline $I$ thought was a placeholder and now they are kind of like in there almost like a staple. I know we were thinking about going to index there. What can we do to right the ship?

MS. SCOTT: Trustee Martin, that is one of the things on our list, to review the structure of the U.S. equity managers to determine whether our allocations to growth and value is appropriate.

Brady actually told me yesterday that he has that report ready to show me. I will definitely include you on that conversation as well. We will get a good sense of that.

As far as current performance, Brady will cover our quarterly performance more in depth next time. Just looking at the current reporting that is out there, we are underperforming in U.S. equity and international equity. Most of that
underperformance you can see is here in our large growth managers. As I mentioned before, large growth has lagged. I know Brady is addressing that with the U.S. equity structure.

Then you can see our small growth has also lagged. We have one small mid value manager that is pulling us down as well.

We hear you on the performance. We definitely are going to address it.

MEMBER MARTIN: My concern is -- I have brought this up. We discussed in the past we had a really massive run with growth. Growth has done well. We historically had a value growth tilt.

Now the problem that $I$ see is that in this market environment we were kind of aware that in an environment like this that value would outperform growth. We really haven't addressed that as of yet. I am hoping it is something that we look at and something that we can address in the near future. I would appreciate it. Thank you.

MS. SCOTT: Absolutely on the list.
Thank you. If no other questions, I think that concludes investments.

MEMBER MURPHY: Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Thank you.
MEMBER MURPHY: Moving on to operating cash expenditures. Is Jackie available?

MS. VLAHOS: Okay. The next section we are going to talk about cash. Basically, through April, if you open up the first section, you're going to see that by as of April 13 th we had approximately $\$ 1.51$ million in our checking account. We're still anticipating $\$ 4.2$ million in contributions. Bringing us to a total of cash of \$155 million.

After we pay our April benefit checks and our normal monthly accounts payable, we are going to be left over with a surplus of $\$ 120.6$ million as of the end of April.

If you go to the next page, you will look at cash flows. Our cash flows as of April 13th, like we just discussed, is basically we have our contributions and after our benefit payments we will have approximately $\$ 120.5$ million.

As you can see, as of 2022, in the first column that says Average Tax Receipts that we have approximately $\$ 170$ million in property taxes that is still owed to us by the end of the year.

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We currently have collected 54 percent of
``` our tax receipts so far for 2022. If everything comes in as projected, we should not have any draw downs for the remainder of 2022 as well as 2023.

Is there any questions?
If we go on to Administrative Expenses, this is for the informational purposes. This is just our normal monthly expenses. There is nothing out of the ordinary. We have our legal expenses, our monthly expenses, as far as just actuary retainers, our shipping. We have for the Chase credit card for April is \(\$ 2,790\). If you go to the next page you're going to see a breakdown of what that entails for our April credit card bank statement. Are there any questions?

MEMBER MARTIN: None.
MS. BURNS: Can I go back for one second on the operating cash? Can you just confirm to the Board that the Fund received all of the City required contributions for 2021? Therefore, there was no need for any kind of intercept filing, correct?

MS. VLAHOS: Sure. As Mary Pat had mentioned, we had some discussions about the
remaining amount. It was approximately for 2021 was owed \(\$ 10.6\) million to us to close off the year. We did in fact receive that by the end of March so we are good for 2021 so there is no intercept needed.

MS. BURNS: Thank you, Jackie.
MEMBER MARTIN: I want to say thank you to Comptroller Soni. She said we were to get that money by the end of March and thanks for your solid work on that.

MS. VLAHOS: She's been a pleasure to work with for everything that have been owed to us. She's been a big help.

The next area is just the investment expenses. We get these from Lorna. These are just kind of off the Northern Trust statement.

Obviously, these are per the contract agreement with all the individual managers. But just for your information only purposes, we just kind of review those. As well as Burke, Burns and Pinelli's bill is also included for March, the details, if anyone has any questions or wants to review that.

The last section is Part \(C\). We have the
year-to-date Budget. So the year-to-date Budget, under Budget, is through the beginning of April. So our current 2022 Budget is \(\$ 3.9\) million. Where we are at so far, we have approximately 20 percent that we have spent. We are at year-to-date expenditures so far has been for operating expenses \(\$ 942,000\).

This makes sense to be at 24 percent considering that a lot of these are the beginning of April so you're talking about three months of bills. So nothing looks out of the ordinary. Is there any questions?

MEMBER MARTIN: NO.
MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, I would like to make a motion to approve the Administrative Expenses as presented.

MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There's a motion to approve by Trustee Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Martin.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes. CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens. MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MEMBER MURPHY: Under 7, we have update on the Intercept, that was covered. So now we're going to be moving on to Legislative.

MR. WELLER: For this part of the meeting, I would like to introduce Brandon Phelps.

MR. PHELPS: Thank you, very much.
Brandon Phelps here with Phelps, Barry and Associates.

As you all know, the House and Senate adjourned on April the 9 th. Senate adjourned at 3:30 in the morning. The House adjourned around 6:09 a.m.

They got everything out of there. I think they got a balanced Budget. The Governor signed the Budget yesterday. It was \$46 billion. I can send some details on that, if you would like.

There are some rumors going around that the House and Senate might come back in the summer
before the June primary to try to do some cleanup. I am not sure if that is going to happen.

As you know, the primary is June 28 th. Then you have the general election. They will probably do veto right after the election around Thanksgiving. Then you have a lame-duck session, which we are going to monitor very closely because a lot of things happen in that lame-duck session.

With that, there was a lot of bills that effect you. There were only five main bills that really moved that really effected you as a fund.

Senate Bill 2952. Senator VanPelt. As you know, that is the Treasurer designates a City employee to take him or her spot at Pension Board meetings.

Senate Bill 3177. Leader Cunningham. It was to cleanup about the Paramedic service credit.

Senate Bill 4053. Senator Martwick.

That was the one that raises the annuity of 150 percent of the poverty line.

That was the three main bills. Just to let the Fund know, and all the board members and officers, those were all unanimous. They passed both chambers not with one no vote whatsoever.

They were all unanimous.
They have not been transmitted to the Governor. We were asking staff to see when that is going to happen.

In the House, House Bill 4488, that did not go anywhere because that was the mirror bill of 2952 so the Senate decided to run VanPelt's and not DelGado's.

Last but not least, House Bill 4435, which is Marcus Evans, that was unanimous as well. As you know that is the MRSA bill that adds to the Occupational Disease Disability Benefit.

Like I said, none of this has gone to the Governor. We will let you know when that happens.

With that, \(I\) will take any questions.
MEMBER MARTIN: I think that is all good news. We appreciate all your hard work.

I do have a question, though. I don't know if this is appropriate or whether you can get me more information on it. But \(I\) do know that in addition to all of those benefit bills, there is a bill in Congress right now to expand the health bill, which is they are going to expand the tax deduction for healthcare expenses from \(\$ 3,000\) to
\$6,000. I think they were also addressing whether the premiums had to be paid by a retirement fund, a qualified retirement plan, as opposed to whether or not individuals can pay them on their own.

I don't have all of the parameters of that bill. Is there any way you can get us more information on that and the status on that bill? \(I\) would appreciate it.

MR. PHELPS: Trustee Martin, we will work on that immediately. We do do some Federal stuff so we will definitely get with our people out there in DC and let you know.

TRUSTEE MARTIN: Thank you.
MR. WELLER: Brandon, just to close the loop on that, we are members of NCPERS and NCPERS has a pretty good focused effort on lobbying those type of bills. We can reach out to them and also seek some guidance.

We did not see any FOIA changes come out of this legislative session, that we are aware of, correct?

MR. PHELPS: I have talked to legal and Senate and on legal into the House staffers, staff makes the world go round as we know, and they did
not see anything that would pertain to us. They are still monitoring everything.

Like \(I\) said, some of the bills that may have been out there, they may tweak and may do something during veto or lame-deck, but we are monitoring that closely, Director Weller.

MR. WELLER: Perfect. Thank you.
MEMBER TEBBENS: This is Rob Tebbens. I do have a question about the refund legislation or bill. I think it was Senate Bill 3177.

MR. PHELPS: Yes.

MEMBER TEBBENS: We had some issues with that where it was inadvertently changed and there was a group of people who had between 10 and 20 years of service that were inadvertently denied a refund based on the language.

So it was changed and essentially it was reverted back to what it was prior. But what it didn't do \(I\) believe, and \(I\) would like to see your thoughts on this and legal counsel as well, we have employees that are not subject to mandatory retirement or an entry age. This was the original reason for the change that was obviously not drafted correctly in the beginning.

We can have a member who gets hired at 47 years of age as a single role paramedic and if they are 58 years of age with 11 years of service, would they be entitled to a refund?

MR. PHELPS: So, Trustee Tebbens, as you
know this was a trailer bill to Senate Bill 6030 that Leader Cunningham inadvertently left some things out.

The way \(I\) understand this, yeah, they can do that. And \(I\) can check with Leader Cunningham. Actually, \(I\) am going to be meeting with him maybe early next week. I can bring that up.

If you don't mind, \(I\) would like to maybe give you a call, \(I\) don't know what the protocol is, but \(I\) can touch base with you so I can get those specifics to make sure that \(I\) get that to him.

MEMBER TEBBENS: I would like to request the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Firemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund to call a meeting maybe where we can address a couple of these things and have it done in that kind of forum. I think that is appropriate.

MR. PHELPS: Yes.
MEMBER TEBBENS: I am part of the

Legislative Committee but we have never convened a committee.

MR. PHELPS: Trustee Tebbens, we miss you down here. I can meet with Leader Cunningham. I think you may want to join us, if the Board is okay with that. If not, we can do something with you and me and him. You let me know what the protocol is. I want to make sure \(I\) do it right.

MEMBER TEBBENS: I understand that. I think you should be included in a meeting, if we do convene a committee meeting of our internal Legislative Committee. But I would like legal counsel to weigh in on that under that scenario where we would have a single role medic at 58 years of age with 11 years of service. If they in fact under this change -- under this reverting back to this previous language, if we need to draft a new bill possibly.

MR. PHELPS: Trustee Tebbens, I pretty much know the answer to this and \(I\) think it is fine, but out of respect to you and the Board and the Fund, \(I\) want to make sure \(I\) do it right. I would like to get Leader Cunningham involved in that as well.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Very good. Our Board is
ultimately going to determine that, too, based on
our legal counsel. I think that is where we need
to start, too. But \(I\) would love to have Chairman
Fortuna call a Legislative Committee meeting so
that we can address a number of these issues and
how they impact our membership.

MR. PHELPS: Absolutely.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Thank you, Brandon. I appreciate all your help.

MR. PHELPS: Thank you, Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER MURPHY: Thank you. Moving on, I would like to have Kelly present the Executive Director Report.

MR. WELLER: Welcome, everyone, today. It has been a long meeting and a good meeting.

I do want to share some news bittersweet Christy Maufas with 32 years commitment to the Board has put in her letter to retire.

We are all very, very happy for her but of course we are saddened that we are going to lose such a seasoned person in the office. Our best to Christy.

We will be talking a little bit more
about that perhaps in the next couple meetings but I did want to make that announcement so we can go ahead and tell staff that Christy is committed to retiring.

The other side, the bittersweet news to that, many of you in the room have seen is Jerod Lockhart was hired as our Program Developer to augment Chris Morales' team. It started off with just a great thunderous beginning. We are very, very proud to have him onboard. I think he brings a ton of programming and development resources to us. We're already moving down the road of moving with the next steps on our consulting projects that we had on deck during Budget.

Look for some of those to begin percolating through the next couple of meetings. We are having meetings this week and next week to make that happen.

I was sent an email this morning from a couple of folks about the Statement of Economic Interest. Those are due by May lst so get on line, get those filled out. They are required by the eight Trustees as well as myself. Some of you have completed them, that is great. But \(I\) want to make
sure that you recognize the May 2 nd deadline to have those completed.

I am happy to discuss it. I am not an expert on it. Perhaps, with legal and myself, if you do have questions, we can make sure we get you filed correctly and timely.

Jackie didn't mention it but \(I\) will
mention it, we are 98.9 percent through the transition with J.P. Morgan into the banking world, that has been quite a laborious effort to dissect ourselves from the City accounts. It is going to be well worth it. I am glad we did it but it's been a long journey. We are finalizing the training. I just got a notice for April 25 th so I believe by next board meeting we should be 100 percent transitioned over. Kudos to Jackie, John and their team there.

In the meantime, they are working with our auditors. The first thing that is in BoardPaq this meeting is a letter from the engagement partner, which is something new. A new standard that happened in 2021.

I don't think there is anything there that should give people pause but it is something
that the auditor wanted you to be aware of.
What they are now required to do is to point out some flaws that they see inside of the audit and identify those risks and tell you that they are going to spend extra effort on them.

I encourage that. I think it is great.
There is a risk in our audit and we want to be aware of it so please read that, that's part of the engagement letter process. I want to be on record that we have provided it to the Board to review.

Actuarial work has started. Segal is quite a ways in. I expect no delays from the reports they have given me so far in terms of timing so both audit and actuary at this point are progressing as we anticipated they would progress so nothing to report there.

We have went out to Guaranteed Rate Field. Both President Fortuna and I have tentatively requested a date for a September retirement meeting that we would like to get on deck. It happens to be a night game date so there is a little bit of logistics we need to work out to make it happen.

I anticipate we will have a contract from
them to execute by the next meeting and we can formalize the agenda in that retirement seminar. I know members have been asking about it.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: We will have that in place.

MR. WELLER: The last thing is the Me Too
Retro. We're still trying to get that corrected because of errors in the payroll system. Contributions have not been paid yet, therefore the programming has not been completed.

Chris, is there anything else that \(I\) need to say about that? That is about where we stand.

MR. MORALES: Yes, that is about where we stand.

MR. WELLER: With that, \(I\) want to be communicative. The President has strongly encouraged us to have in-place meeting for the May 18 th meeting that is coming up.

I know it's going to be a change after two years and three months to have to go back to in-person.

We are looking at the best possible way to provide the most efficient meeting, but the President is very emphatic and \(I\) think the Board of

Trustees has been supportive of having all of us back. So look for that May 18 th, unless there's just an extraordinary change in the virus uptick, but our plan is to be live here in-person May 18 th.

That concludes my report.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Thank you.
MEMBER MURPHY: Thank you.
MEMBER MARTIN: Kelly, a couple of questions.

MR. WELLER: Okay.
MEMBER MARTIN: Just two real quick items. I would like to have a commitment on the part of Segal with respect -- I know you have done a lot of work and you have gotten out these purchase for the guys from downstate and purchase for the military.

I would like at some point in time in the future, it doesn't have to be immediate, from Segal, as far as how long it will take like either a policy or a commitment that they would get those back to us like in four weeks or six weeks so we have like a definitive timeline for people moving forward. I wanted to make that point.

Secondly, I wanted to thank you. I
wanted to thank Sarah. I wanted to thank -- I don't know if everybody knows, but we were contacted by the attorney for Carol Smith and former Chief John Smith and he's making a donation or he is committed to making a donation via their Will of \(\$ 100,000\) for the educational expenses of our most needy children. I think it is truly magnanimous.

I want to thank Sarah for all her work and you and John and Mary Pat and hopefully we can get this realized in the near future.

MR. WELLER: Your words are welcomed and thank you very much. We do truly appreciate the gift that was bestowed upon the EMWQ charity. Thank you for pointing that out to us, Trustee Martin.

With that, Secretary Murphy, my report is closed.

MEMBER MURPHY: Thank you.
Next is Legal Update, counsel.

MS. BURNS: Just a few things, sir.
First, on the agenda is consideration and possible action regarding Member 13150 .

In the Board's material, I believe under

BoardPaq 10-B, the Executive Director and staff provided you with a list of outreach efforts to this Member. This Member is currently on disability.

As you know, under Section 6-153 of the Illinois Pension Code, "A disabled fireman who is receiving a Duty, Occupational Disease or Ordinary Disability benefit shall be examined at least once a year or such longer period as determined by the Board".

Pursuant to that statutory direction, the Board requested that this Member undergo a physical exam to prove that he remained disabled.

In front of you in the material put together by the Executive Director is a listing of communications from the Fund to this Member over a six month period in which the member failed to be responsive to the Fund's outreach requests.

I remind you that this Member is a Member who showed up at the last Board Member during public comment and he did address the Board and asked the Board last month not to take action on his matter in order to allow him to be able to comply with the Board and the Pension Code's
requirement.

An additional month has now gone by. During that month, from the March board meeting date, \(I\) believe there were three or four or maybe even five contacts or attempted contacts by staff to the Member. He has yet to comply with the requirement under Section 6-153 of the Code.

Based on that history, it would be our legal recommendation that this Member's benefits be suspended pending his compliance with the Fund's requirements.

What that means is that if the Board agrees to that action, and that motion passes, the Member will be notified of the Board's action and then if the member complies the Fund staff and the Executive Director can immediately release the money that is being held.

We can certainly update you next month as to whether we have been successful in getting the Member's attention.

MEMBER MARTIN: Mr. President, I would like to make that motion.

MS. BURNS: The motion would be to suspend the disability payment for Member 13150
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until said Member complies with the Fund's
requirements regarding the Section 6-153 of the
Code.

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CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: DO I have a second?
MEMBER TEBBENS: I will second it.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: We have a motion by Trustee Martin. Seconded by Trustee Tebbens.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.
MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin
MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MS. BURNS: Next, sir, Item \(C\) on our
agenda. There have been two cases filed against the Fund in the last month. We would seek a motion appointing Burke, Burns and Pinelli to represent the Fund in both those matters.

The first matter involves a Federal District Court litigation initiated by Lee Ann

McKay. Ms. McKay alleges discrimination, harassment and various actions against the City of Chicago as her employer. However, in the complaint she mentioned all of the board members by name as well as the Pension Fund.

She does not request any recovery or assert any allegations against the Fund so I think it will probably be an easy task to have us either dismissed from the complaint or have Ms. McKay file an amended complaint that seeks some recovery against the Fund. Right now we are just named as defendants but no action is sought against us. So we need counsel appointed to represent the Fund in that matter.

The second matter is the Doyle matter involving the issue of abatement. This might give us a chance to get further clarity on whether or not a Member's rights abate upon their death or whether their heirs or children can continue to recover benefits that previously the Member may have been entitled to receive but which never actually legally vested.

Those are the two matters. So the motion, sir, would be to appoint Burke, Burns and

Pinelli in those matters to represent you.
MEMBER MURPHY: Mr. President, I'd like to make a motion to appoint Burke, Burns and Pinelli to represent the Fund in these matters.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There is a motion by Trustee Murphy.

MEMBER MARTIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Seconded by Trustee
Martin.
MEMBER TEBBENS: I have a question. Is that on BoardPaq somewhere? Can \(I\) find that document or what you were referencing?

MS. BURNS: They are not in BoardPaq. We can certainly send them to you because you have been named obviously in the one action. So we will definitely make sure all Trustees will get those and that will be a practice going forward to ensure that such complaints are sent to you.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Very good. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: There's a motion and a second. Any more discussion? Hearing none.

Trustee Murphy.
MEMBER MURPHY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Sheridan.

\section*{MEMBER SHERIDAN: Yes.}

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Martin MEMBER MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Trustee Tebbens.
MEMBER TEBBENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: I am a yes.
Motion carries.
MS. BURNS: The last issue, sir, which is under Item \(F\) on our legal agenda, is really consideration and adoption of implementation practices relating to Section 6-151 of the Illinois Pension Code.

You will recall this is a relatively new legislative enactment, that allows members who have retired to come back as Occupational Disease recipients. It is the Member's election.

In order to deal with this new legislation, the Executive Director, working with staff and with legal counsel, has developed some practices and implementation procedures, which he can summarize for you. But at the end of his discussion, it would be our recommendation that a formal motion be adopted to allow the Board or the Fund to handle these matters relating to Section

6-151 consistent with Board direction.
Kelly, if you want to walk the members through your implementation suggestions.

MR. WELLER: This is in BoardPaq Item 10-D, which would be implementation of a Public Act that was passed back in July of last year. We had anticipated perhaps there would be some language that would amend it in some way or another.

MS. BURNS: We still may go back and try to fix some of this for the Member. As it is currently drafted, in our opinion, based on positions the City has taken, \(I\) am not sure this legislation accomplishes the goal that was expected by the legislature when it was passed.

MR. WELLER: Basically, this is an acknowledgment form, that we are going to walk through, for any applicant who wants to consider this benefit starting with just the parameters of the law, which is basically defining what we are going to create here in the system, which is Occupational Disability while retired.

It would require a new class of
individuals inside of our benefits administration system piece.

Basically identifying these folks has been retired for some periods of years, but then coming back and petitioning due to disability in cancer or heart disease.

Those particular provisions follow exactly the same requirements that effect the active member participants. Same language. There was no diminishment or change in the way we are to apply those particular hurdles.

Five years is the limit after they have been retired. Compulsory retirement. Can't be any later than that. Obviously, there is some Members that don't subscribe or have to subscribe to a compulsory retirement. Those Members would be allowed more flexibility under this benefit.

Much like in any Occupational Disease, the burden of proof lies with the Member in making this claim. Which is going to require in our minds quite a bit more paperwork because it is going to be coming from perhaps several different places since the Member could have been retired for awhile.

We are looking to the Member to make sure that they are coordinating and streamlining the

> information that is going to be necessary to get this benefit in front of the Board.

They are all going to have to let us, as you would normally do, allow the CFD to transfer any records that they may have to your employment as well as to your medical history.

Once we get all of that in place, we envision that the hearing process will be virtually the same. It will be on the agenda with a different classification but the hearing process will be the same. We think that your positions are going to maybe modify or have to review some of the questions that need to be asked to make sure that the qualifiers are in place. But it is basically in our mind going to follow the same hearing process in front of this Board.

The benefits will be the first day of the month following the Board decision. This is a little different. There is a reason why we are doing that. I don't want to go into a lot of depth here.

We think it is the best way to do this. Once the Member applies for the benefit, is granted the benefit, they are effectively switching from

Retirement to Occupational Disease. That process then can be immortalized at the meeting after that hearing takes place. So that way we are not jeopardizing the person's retirement check while we are making this particular determination.

The amount will be based on the 65 percent of the applicant's salary on the last day they were a Member of the Chicago Fire Department so the term there is eight a.m. The last day that they were under the Fire Department compensation for this benefit will be based on 65 percent of that last day's pay.

QILDRO and alternate payees will remain in place. So anything that would be currently under QILDRO would not be subject to a change, based on this change in classification.

Health insurance. Again, we, as a board, do not want to weigh in on the City's authority over the health insurance and who qualifies and who doesn't and whatnot.

What we are going to do is we are going to continue to withhold the health insurance as if this Member were retired and to keep them for our particular purposes in the retirement pool for
health insurance. If there is pushback from either the Member or the City on that, we can review it. But from where we stand right now, we're going to be this Member in this particular situation for healthcare as retired and continue those payments as a retiree.

We have asked professionals for an opinion on this but as it stands right now we believe the safest way for the plan and the Member is to view these benefits as taxable. Therefore, we're going to send the appropriate tax forms that these are taxable amounts and we are going to withhold accordingly.

The Member will be much like what we are seeing today on disabilities. The Member will also be expected to continue medical reexams to maintain the benefit through the period they are eligible.

When you turn 63, the way we envision this is, you are going to automatically then convert back to your normal retirement. What will happen is the cost of living raises that would have been applicable to you while in this Occupational retired status will then be paid to you as a percentage on that check. There won't be any retro
amounts paid to these individuals but they won't suffer any loss in the COLA area in terms of the calculation or their benefit going forward.

That same application would apply, unfortunately, if the Member should happen to pass while in receipt of that pension.

There is several other minor procedures here. I don't need to spend a lot of time with the Board. I think what the staff wants to convey with the Board is that we have taken a conservative approach here because the language just didn't give us a lot of latitude to view this in any other way.

We anticipate perhaps there will be changes in the future. If there are, that is great. If not, we are prepared to move on and apply this benefit to those who want to apply. We believe we can have these applications as early as May should there be Members that wish to investigate this.

We are going to post this on the internet and by signing this acknowledge, which essentially is a disclosure, they are recognizing the way we are doing this benefit and will accept the calculation accordingly.

So, Mr. Chairman, \(I\) will defer back to our legal counsel's advice, which is a recommendation to implement as we have described.

MEMBER TEBBENS: I have a couple of questions. This just seems like a real mess here. I don't know. If someone is retired, it is going to be -- am I getting this correct, is there a six month diagnosis period before they can apply or can they apply upon diagnosis?

MR. WELLER: We are not envisioning for our process a layup or a wait period that would limit this individual from seeking this type of benefit.

MS. BURNS: They just can't be retired, Trustee Tebbens, for more than five years.

MEMBER TEBBENS: According to the law. I get that. But so someone who is retired that is eligible under the law would then upon diagnosis they would be able to apply for this benefit?

MS. BURNS: Right.
MEMBER TEBBENS: I noticed that there is records at the applicant's own expense also, is that right? Medical records.

MS. BURNS: Only their personal medical
records. We will get the records from the CFD just like we do now.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Okay. I just caught that. So the annuity that is paid in the interim, as if the person was Minimal Formula Annuity, is that reconciled in any way? How do we do that on the board end of it?

MR. WELLER: Our arrival at this, and I think \(I\) touched on it slightly with the payment at the end of the month, we want to make sure that this person continues to receive the retirement annuity that they are entitled to, correct. So that retirement annuity is going to run all the way up until there is a hearing. At which time the hearing will make a determination whether there is a change in the status of this benefit from retired to occupationally disabled while retired. Should the hearing recognize the Occupational while disabled classification, then the next pay coming out of that period will be calculated at the new amount.

Essentially all you are doing is keeping this Member retired through this process until the process is adjudicated. And then the next check
that would follow would be classified differently.
MS. BURNS: Trustee Tebbens, that is consistent with the statute that says that the first Occupational Disease disability payment shall be made not later than one month after the benefit is granted. So, we are just moving that up to the first day of the month following the date the benefit is granted.

So today if you had decided one of these applications, on April 20 th, the individual would receive the Occupational benefit starting on May 1st.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Okay. So the date for salary calculation for Minimum Formula Annuity will change then, correct?

MR. WELLER: No.

MS. BURNS: No because they have been retired. But \(I\) think your question is -- forgive me if \(I\) am misunderstanding.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Let me provide some clarity. Take them to 63. So this person within the time frame of the law is awarded an Ordinary Disability at 65 percent. They maintain that until age 63. At age 63 what occurs? Do they get the
salary recalculation as if they were in the disability or do they then continue based on the calculation at the time when they originally retired?

MS. BURNS: Yes, sir. At the time they originally retired, as that amount may have been increased by the 3 percent annual increase if they are entitled to it.

MEMBER TEBBENS: So you are going to run a parallel track of that while they are going through this disability? In the event that they recovered and wanted to return to retirement status, they could do that as well?

MS. BURNS: Yes, sir.
MEMBER TEBBENS: QILDRO also, obviously, that is a main sticking point there. You're going to have a Member who is receiving a benefit that would typically be an active benefit that would not be subject to any kind of a QILDRO and you feel that under the law this will be all buttoned up and taken care of?

MS. BURNS: Unfortunately, because those are final judgments, they have been entered and more than 35 days has passed, so there is no way
that a firefighter can impact or negatively effect a vested benefit to a third-party like that. There are all kinds of case law on that. So the QILDROs have to be honored even though the person is going to be on Occupational.

MEMBER TEBBENS: Because it is already an order of the court. I understand that.

And then health insurance, you are saying no then. A person that would be otherwise responsible or eligible for an Occupational cancer would not have that health insurance?

MS. BURNS: That is really a City decision, not a Fund decision. So all we can do is say if the City doesn't give you health insurance, you can stay on the retiree health insurance and we will figure out a way to do that.

MR. WELLER: Our goal was to do no harm, Trustee Tebbens. If someone wants to take this road, we felt the worse thing we could potentially do to them given the nature of the disease they are applying for was to anyway compromise their chain of consistency with insurance. Our goal here was to maintain what \(I\) would call coverage with no gaps or anything.
\(\square\)
MEMBER TEBBENS: Understood. It is obviously a well intentioned bill but as we can all see here the implementation of it is very difficult and very questionable.

The taxability of the income who determines that? Is that an IRS rule?

MS. BURNS: Right. This is such a weird kind of situation so what we did was we followed what they do at the downstate pension funds who have this benefit already and this is how they treat it. Somebody may want to get a private letter ruling from the IRS but it is really not the Fund's responsibility.

MR. WELLER: We have engaged our tax professionals to give us opinions on this and the least harm we could do to someone is to claim it is taxable. If for whatever reason down the road an individual wins on this particular issue and gets the IRS to say it is tax exempt, then that is wonderful. Which is much better than the other way with the IRS back trying to crawl back. We think this is the best approach to protect out members.

MS. BURNS: It is consistent with what other public pension funds do. From a prudence
standpoint, from your liability and trustees liability, we are following what others do.

Excuse me, I do note for the record that we have lost our quorum. Trustee Martin has dropped off the call. Therefore, \(I\) believe we only have four trustees.

So I don't want to cut you off, Trustee
Tebbens. We are not going to be able to take a motion on this issue.

If you'd like, Mr. President, under Robert's Rules and rules of governance, we should now adjourn the meeting but we certainly don't want to cut off this discussion. We can either put it back on the agenda for next month or you can address it at a legislative meeting that Trustee Tebbens earlier suggested. We will continue to answer questions but it is prudent to adjourn the meeting and answer any questions you have, if you want to continue talking.

MEMBER TEBBENS: I think it would be appropriate. I think there are a number of things that I think we could cover at a Legislative Committee meeting. So \(I\) would love to have one and this would be appropriate there as well. We could
spend more time on it.
MS. BURNS: Thank you, Trustee Tebbens.
CHAIRMAN FORTUNA: Unfortunately, I have lost a quorum so this meeting is adjourned.

MS. BURNS: It adjourns for lack of a quorum. The time is 11:45.
(WHICH WERE ALL THE PROCEEDINGS
IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED MEETING
AT THIS DATE AND TIME.)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS )

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COUNTY OF DU PAGE )

DEBORAH TYRRELL, being a Certified Shorthand Reporter, on oath says that she is a court reporter doing business in the County of DuPage and State of Illinois, that she reported in shorthand the proceedings given at the taking of said cause and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid; and contains all the proceedings given at said cause.

Debbie Jyrull
DEBBIE TYRRELI, CSR
License No. 084-001078

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\hline action [7]-125:11, & 23:21, 34:14, 34:17, & 44:24, 46:10, 46:18, & anyway [1] - 166:21 & \[
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\end{tabular}} & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
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\]} \\
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\]} \\
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\end{aligned}
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& 7: 10,67: 13,70: 2, \\
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\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
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\] \\
\hline 113:14, 115:14 & \[
\begin{aligned}
& 49: 10,49: 13,52: 11, \\
& 65: 12,68: 9,68: 10,
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
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\begin{gathered}
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26: 9,48: 15,48: 20, \\
48: 23,50: 7,52: 14,
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\]} \\
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Deputy }[4]-2: 16, \\
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\end{aligned}
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& 86: 10,97: 5,104: 5 \\
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\hline decision [10]-32 & \[
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& \text { 107:14, 118:1, 162:3 }
\end{aligned}
\] & & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& 58: 9,58: 17,58: 21 \\
& 59 \cdot a \quad 64 \cdot 0386 \cdot a
\end{aligned}
\]} & driver [2] - 107:4, \\
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\hline decreased [1] - 54:11 & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{details \({ }^{[2]}-134: 22\)
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& \text { dry }[3]-56: 10,56: 14, \\
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\end{aligned}
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\hline \[
\begin{aligned}
& 56: 5,80: 18,91: 7, \\
& 98: 3,117: 17,
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
& 53: 3,92: 18,99: 13 \\
& 139: 16,145: 10,
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
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& 77: 12,77: 21 \\
& \text { eight }[5]-21: 5,67: 4, \\
& 77: 11,144: 23,159: 9 \\
& \text { either }[16]-35: 6,
\end{aligned}
\]} & \multirow[t]{3}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ensure }[2]-7: 11, \\
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\end{aligned}
\]} & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { evidence }[21]-21: 3, \\
& 21: 6,21: 19,23: 21,
\end{aligned}
\]} & :1, 33:18, 33:24, \\
\hline 14, 76:1, 79:1 & & & & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& 34: 10,34: 11,34: 15, \\
& 34: 16,50: 20,65: 17,
\end{aligned}
\]} \\
\hline 15, 94:10, 97:8 & & & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& 33: 6,34: 17,48: 10, \\
& 52: 2,59: 11,63: 14,
\end{aligned}
\]} & \\
\hline 4:12, 113:3 & & \begin{tabular}{l}
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\end{aligned}
\] & \\
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\] & entitled [5]-1:12, & \[
\begin{aligned}
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& 87: 22,103: 2,103: 4,
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 88:11, 105:2, } \\
& \text { 105:10, 105:14, }
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline \[
\begin{gathered}
\text { during }[7]-78: 21, \\
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\end{gathered}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 69:19, 73:24, 88:20 } \\
& \text { 89:3, 93:11, 108:17 }
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
& 141: 4,153: 21 \\
& 163: 12,165: 8
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 87:22, 103:2, 103:4, } \\
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\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { exacerbated }[1] \text { - } \\
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\end{aligned}
\]} & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{gathered}
\text { exited }[3]-88: 24, \\
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\end{gathered}
\]
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\begin{gathered}
\text { exactly }[3]-45: 1 \text {, } \\
55: 20,157: 6
\end{gathered}
\] & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{expand [2]-138:22,
138:23} \\
\hline \[
\begin{aligned}
& 37: 8,52: 10,58: 16 \\
& 75: 4,78: 22,79: 2,
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
\begin{gathered}
\text { election [3] - 137:4, } \\
\text { 137:5, 155:16 }
\end{gathered}
\] & envision [2]-158:8 & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\begin{tabular}{l}
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\end{tabular}} & \\
\hline 17, 99:19, 99:22 & eligible [3] - 16 & & & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\begin{tabular}{l}
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\hline 115:17, 119:3 & 2:18, 166:10 & 162:1 & EXAMINATION \({ }^{[17]}\) - & \\
\hline Duty [6] - 32:11, & email [1] - 144:19 & epi & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& 22: 15,26: 17,36: 8 \\
& 39: 24,42: 10,45: 19
\end{aligned}
\]} & expecting \({ }_{[1]}-8: 5\) \\
\hline 32:13, 63:9, 84:22 & emergency \({ }_{[2]}\) & equipment \({ }_{[2]}\) - 49:15 & & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { expenditures }[2] \text { - } \\
& 132: 3,135: 6
\end{aligned}
\]} \\
\hline 105:17, 150:7 & 68:13, \(88: 15\) & - & \[
\begin{aligned}
& 39: 24,42: 10,45: 19, \\
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\end{aligned}
\] & \\
\hline duty [20]-46:3, 55:3 & emerging [1] - 128: & eq & 76:3, 79:18, 86:17, & expense \([1]\) - 162:22 \\
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\begin{aligned}
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\end{aligned}
\]} & \multirow[t]{3}{*}{Expenses [2]-133:6, 135:16} \\
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { 133:9, 133:10, } \\
& \text { 134:15, 135:6, }
\end{aligned}
\]} \\
\hline 84:13, 89:17, 89:20, & employees [1] - & ERVIN [17] - 2:8, & & \\
\hline 95:2, 129:24 & & 8:20, 9:18, 10:16, & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { examine }[4]-27: 8 \text {, } \\
& 80: 7,97: 20,117: 7
\end{aligned}
\]} & \[
\begin{aligned}
& 134: 15,135: 6, \\
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\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline duty/on [1] - 57:16 & em & 11:4, 11:13, 12:10 & & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { experience }[3] \text { - } \\
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\end{aligned}
\]} \\
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76:2, 79:17, 86:16,
\end{tabular}} & experiencing [1] -
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\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { early }[2]-141: 12, \\
& 161: 17 \\
& \text { earn }[3]-70: 5,93: 4, \\
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\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
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& \text { 113:4, 116:17, 150:8 }
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\]} \\
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\begin{gathered}
\text { excluded }[3]-126: 22, \\
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\end{gathered}
\]} & extended [2]-67:14, \\
\hline 126:21, 153:8 & encouraged [1] - & 7:20 & & \\
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\hline 49:6 & 4:3, 134:9, & 129:21 & excused [1] - 97:2 & 148:3 \\
\hline \[
\begin{aligned}
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& 63: 10,64: 24,65: 10
\end{aligned}
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\hline \[
\begin{aligned}
& 63: 10,64: 24,65: 10 \\
& 73: 11,76: 23,77: 1,
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\] & \[
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\begin{gathered}
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\end{aligned}
\] & \[
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\end{aligned}
\] & \[
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\end{aligned}
\] & \[
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\end{aligned}
\] \\
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\end{aligned}
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\end{gathered}
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\begin{aligned}
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\] \\
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\] \\
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\end{aligned}
\] & \[
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\end{gathered}
\] & \[
\begin{gathered}
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\] & \[
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\end{aligned}
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\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
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\end{aligned}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
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& 86: 3,103: 6,137: 24
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
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& 5: 2,18: 9,41: 7, \\
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\] & \[
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