

Fire Fighters & Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Meeting



**March 1, 2023
8:30 am to 10:00 am**

MICROSOFT TEAMS Meeting/Dial Conference Number 207-209-4724 ID# 247424586# PIN 247424586#

Committee members in attendance: Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez, Employee Health & Wellness, Chief David Groder, Ronnie Green, Paul Gaspar, Dan Felker, Susan Ryerson, Employee Health & Wellness. Joan Hanscom, Employee Health & Wellness

Committee members absent: Chief Richard Caton, John Martell

Others present: Kurt Caswell, Employee Health & Wellness

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Next Steps
I. Call to Order (8:33am)	Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez called the meeting to order.	
II. Approval of Meeting Minutes	Meeting minutes from Dec 7, 2022 were reviewed	A motion to accept the Dec. 7, 2022, meeting minutes was made by Ronnie Green. Seconded by Paul Gaspar. Motion approved to accept the Dec.7, 2022 meeting minutes.
III. Legislation Update	<p>Ronnie Green reported that Senator Joe Baldacci resubmitted the legislation that was suggested last year, that didn't go through and didn't make it through to legislative Council. It's a work in progress. The recent scheduled work session was cancelled. Waiting for it to be rescheduled.</p> <p>Kurt Caswell spoke about LD 362 – the intent is to confirm eligibility for the FF LEO Subsidy Program under sections 286 and 5285 which confirms who is eligible to participate in the State of Maine's health insurance coverage.</p> <p>Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez- explained that she has had discussions with our Legislative Liaison; Anya Trundy, regarding this legislation. Shonna is working with Anya</p>	

	<p>to confirm statutory language so that it can't be misunderstood or misinterpreted. Shonna wants to make sure the Municipalities without specific retiree eligibility criteria don't misunderstand this legislation and attempt to try end enter their retirees into the State of Maine's retiree health plan.</p> <p>Ronnie Green – advised his organization is keeping close track of the legislation. Mike Scott is the Professional Fire Fighters Association Legislative Liaison. Ronnie suggested to have Mr. Scott come update the Advisory Community on legislation activities they are tracking. Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez-agreed it would be beneficial to have Mr. Scott be a guest speaker at one of our meetings.</p> <p>Paul Gaspar mentioned there are 4 Bangor police officers who left before they had their full service in with MEPERS but went on to other departments like Ellsworth, which also has MEPERS. There is a portion of some legislation which may include an exception for these individuals to become eligible for their retirement.</p> <p>Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez- explained there have been many Concept draft bills discussed and reviewed. She has been researching the ramifications on a large amount of bills. Over 23 bills have been submitted this session related to health insurance.</p>	
<p>IV. Financial Reports</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>V. Membership Update</p>	<p>Susan Ryerson presented membership numbers. Joan Hanscom explained that membership is holding its own but is not increasing. We are also seeing a large number of retirements. Susan Ryerson also introduced the new billing company Bestco for Cigna.</p>	

V1. Updates	By Laws – Joan Hanscom reviewed the bylaws to remind the committee members that each term is 5 years. A member shall continue to serve after the expiration date of that member’s term until a qualified successor is designated. This does not change the expiration date of term. There are no term limits to which a member may be designated.	Joan Hanscom and Susan Ryerson will follow up with members’ whose term are going to expire and file documentation accordingly.
a. Appeals	Town of Sandford – Joan Hanscom asked for 3 members to be on the board to review an appeal that was submitted.	Paul Gaspar, Ron Green and Dan Felkel all volunteered to be on the board set for March 29, 2023 at 8:30 am via zoom.
V11. New Business:	None	
V111. Other Business:	None	
V1111. Adjourn Meeting (9:19 am)	Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez adjourned the meeting, Next meeting is June 7, 2023 @ 8:30 to 10.00 am. It will be held both virtual and in person. Conference room 400, fourth floor Burton Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, ME.	Ronnie Green made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Paul Gaspar. Motion approved.

SR 11/4/2022

