**Fire Fighters & Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Meeting**

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**March 12, 2020**

**8:30 to 11:30 am**

**61 State House Station**

**Augusta, ME** **04333**

Committee members in attendance: Paul Gaspar, Daniel Felkel, Ronnie Green, Chief Richard Canton, Kurt Caswell, Ex. Director Employee Health & Benefits, Joan Hanscom, Program Administrator Employee Health & Benefits

Committee members absent: John Martell, Phillip Hamm

Others present: None

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| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action/Next Steps |
| I. Call to Order (8:32am) | Kurt Caswell called the meeting to order |  |
| II. Welcome New Members | Kurt Caswell gave an overview and background information regarding the how the Fire Fighters and Municipal Law Enforcement Subsidy Program is administered. He briefly reviewed the new provisions from LD 1674 effective 9/19/2019. Ronnie Green gave historical background on the intent and how the original law LD 1021 came into effect. Ronnie Green also explained the background and long process required to get the modifications and changes to the law which resulted in LD 1674 and LD 1664 being passed. Ronnie described and updated the Advisory Committee on the status of pending legislation to correct some technical errors to LD 1674. |  |
| III. Membership Update | Joan Hanscom reported there are approximately 555 active plan participants and 123 retirees collecting under the subsidy program. Extensive discussion took place regarding how the Municipalities are responding to the new law. An in-depth conversation took place surrounding the education of the new Retirees Return to Work provision and its administration. Joan is working with the Municipalities to educate them and bring them into compliance. Additional conversations took place regarding determining the method on retro contributions owed by employees coming into the program thru the Open Enrollment provision. | Paul Gasper made a motion that Social Security Earnings reports will be acceptable documentation if the current or former Employer isn’t able to supply salary information. Chief Richard Canton seconded. Motion passed. |
| IV. Financial Reports: | Kurt Caswell gave an update regarding LD 1664 which establishes a dedicated Trust Fund for which the monies from the Fire Fighters & Municipal Law Enforcement Health Insurance Subsidy Program will be transferred. Kurt to draft a letter for the Advisory Board to sign to request more information from the State Controller’s Office on the startup and  setup, investment process, financial reporting and the process for the establishment of the dedicated Trust and how the monies will be administered. Requesting a person from the Controller’s office who will have oversight of this fund to attend the next meeting which will held  May 7, 2020 to discuss and review the Trust process. |  |
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| IV. Updates | The Advisory Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed Bylaws. | Ronnie Green made a motion to accept the Bylaws as written. Motion seconded by Paul Gasper. Motion passed. |
| 1. Town of Saco Appeal | The Town of Saco sent correspondence requesting refunds for two current employees who were erroneously continued to be enrolled in the Fire Fighters & Law enforcement Subsidy Program after they were no longer eligible. | Request tabled. Due to no appeal process outlined in the Bylaws, this requested was deferred until the Bylaws can be revised to include an Appeal process. |
|  | * Kurt Caswell checking with the Attorney Generals’ office for guidance on the Appeal process to make sure there is no conflict of interest issues. |  |
| V. New Business: | None |  |
| VI. Other Business: | None |  |
| VII. Adjourn Meeting (11:41pm) | Next meeting May 7, 2020 8:30 to 11:30 | Motion to adjourn made by Paul Gasper  Motion seconded by Ronnie Green. |

JH 4.16.20