

Fire Fighters & Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Meeting



**December 6, 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, Chief Richard Caton, Ronnie Green, Paul Gaspar, Dan Felkel, Susan Ryerson, Employee Health & Wellness. Joan Hanscom, Employee Health & Wellness

Committee members absent: John Martell

Others present:

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Next Steps
I. Call to Order (8:32am)	Joan Hanscom called the meeting to order.	
II. Approval of Meeting Minutes	Meeting minutes from September 6, 2023, were reviewed	A motion to accept the September 6, 2023, meeting minutes was made by Ronnie Green. Seconded by Chief Richard Caton. Motion approved to accept the September 6, 2023; meeting minutes as is.
III. Legislation Update	Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez recapped we don't have any legislative changes on the horizon. Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez asked Ronnie Green if he was aware of any pending legislation this year. Ronnie Green states he is not aware of any pending legislation at this time and that it was a short session.	
IV. Financial Reports	None	
V. Membership Update	<p>Susan Ryerson presented membership numbers effective 12/1/23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipalities that are currently participating is 82. 	<p>Ronnie Green requested a breakdown of the direct reimbursement amounts being paid out to the 55% Subsidy retiree group.</p> <p>Ronnie Green was pleased to see the membership numbers increasing.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active members that are contributing increased by 31. • New hires that waived participation in the program is 26. • Members that withdrew is 2. • Total members terminated is 9. <p>Members are having the subsidy credited through their MEPERS retirement checks are 115. Below is the breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMEHT 68 participants • Cigna 23 participants • Anthem 24 participants <p>Direct Reimbursement Retirees being directly reimbursed monthly is 25</p>	
V1. Updates	<p>Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez – responded to FF-LEO Committee Member question pertaining to a possible increase to the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy percentage.</p> <p>Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez informed the FF-LEO Advisory Committee that The State Controller’s office in collaboration with the Office of Employee Health and Wellness manages the FF-LEO Retiree Health Insurance contract. As a result, Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez will reach out to the actuaries to request an analysis regarding the feasibility of increasing the FF-LEO subsidy.</p>	
a. Appeals	<p>Joan Hanscom reported from the Appeals Committee meeting that the Appeal from the Firefighter from the City of Lewiston was granted with one condition required before retroactive subsidy payments can occur. Paul Gaspar, Chief Caton and Jon Martell sat on the Appeals Committee. Formal letters will be issued to both the retiree and the Municipality regarding the necessary information requested. Once the required information is received, retroactive subsidy will be granted. The Appeals Committee will</p>	<p>Susan Ryerson will work on finalizing the letters to be mailed.</p>

	be kept abreast of the progress of obtaining the required information from the Municipality.	
V11. New Business:	There was a discussion regarding the development of appeals guidelines and criteria for the appeals process.	Joan Hanscom and Susan Ryerson will develop draft guidelines to be reviewed by the Committee regarding the appeal process.
reV111. Other Business:	<p>Susan Ryerson established 2024 meeting dates and times.</p> <p>March 13,2024 from 8:30-10:00</p> <p>June 12, 2024, from 8:30-10:00</p> <p>September 18, 2024, from 8:30-10:00</p> <p>December 11, 204 from 8:30-10:00</p>	Susan Ryerson will send invites with dates and times of meetings.
V1111. Adjourn Meeting (9:27 am)	Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez adjourned the meeting, Next meeting is March 13, 2024 @ 8:30 to 10.00 am. It will be held both virtually 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 Chief David Groder. Meeting adjourned.

SR 3/6/2024