

Public Safety Memorial Fund Board Minutes June 10, 2024

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board held a meeting on June 10, 2024, at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE Salem, Oregon. The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

Committee Members:

DaNeshia Barrett, Chair, Law Enforcement Representative
Jennifer Cameron, Vice-Chair, Corrections Representative
Chris Heppel, Fire Representative
Scotty Nowning, Law Enforcement Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Matthew English, Corrections Representative
Maria Caballero Rubio, Public Member

DPSST Staff:

Phil Castle, Agency Director
Kathy McAlpine, Professional Standards Division Director
Shelby Wright, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests

No guests attended this meeting

1. Introductions

- *Chair, DaNeshia Barret, began the meeting by introducing herself and invited everyone in attendance to state their name and position for the record.*

2. *Nicholas Berg (DPSST #16489) – Mist-Birkenfield Rural District Fire Protection District; Initial Application for Benefits

Presented by Kathy McAlpine

On June 5th, 2024, Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD had a regularly scheduled drill at 7:00pm. During this time, Division Chief Nicholas Berg and others were working on establishing a draft site on Division Chief Berg's private farm. During this training Division Chief Berg assisted in moving equipment and walking the area to find the best sites to draft from. This training went on until 10:30pm the evening of the 5th of June. At approximately 6:30am, Division Chief Berg had woken his wife, Lea Ann Berg, snoring which was not unusual, so she decided to get up and get ready for the day. After approximately 15 minutes, Mrs. Berg was concerned that he had not gotten out of bed and went to check on him where she noticed that Division Chief Berg was not breathing. Upon checking for a pulse, she determined that there was no pulse. At 6:46am the morning of June 6th, 2024, 911 was called and Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD was toned for a cardiac

arrest at Division Chief Berg's residence. Lifesaving efforts were attempted but were not successful.

On June 6, 2024, the Mist-Birkenfield Rural Fire Protection District provided DPSST with the of Notice of Death or Permanent Total Disability and Initial Application for Benefits.

- *After lengthy deliberation regarding memorial fund eligibility requirements, the timeline in which the event took place and the inability to determine a cause of death, the Board found the provided information to be inconclusive and therefore could not make a final determination on the application for initial benefits for Chief Nicholas Berg's spouse, Lea Ann Berg. The Board requests that DPSST work to obtain additional information surrounding the cause of death and strenuous activity Chief Berg participated in on June 5th.*

Kathy McAlpine noted that DPSST will gather more information pertaining to this case and will present the findings at the next PSMFB meeting to reach a final determination.

8. Next meeting – TBD

- *With no further items to discuss, Chair Barrett adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:14 p.m.*