

Commissioner Ballard asked:

- If we were trying to streamline the numbers (amount contributed by the District), make them all the same? Yes
- Make all the stipend amounts the same? Yes
- How did we come up with \$225.00 per month for the stipend amount? That was already set, however, it seems to be an average of the medicare supplement cost.
- Asked several people in the room what they pay for medicare supplement? Ranged from \$135.00 - \$205.00
- How did the numbers get skewed? They are based on the rate of insurance when someone retires.
- Can these numbers be adjusted? Yes, during the Boards annual review of the policy.
- I am fine with the proposed changes to the policy, except extend the stipend to age 80, instead of 75.
- This item will be on the agenda for the April meeting

Discussion regarding the cut off age of 75 for the stipend.

Chief Beecroft stated he would like to ask for an exemption for one retiree who is currently age 78, and would like to give her 2 more years.

Commissioner Ballard said they would need something in writing for that. Retiree Hagie asked if it was really worth disrupting people to save a few dollars? Yes

Former Chief Pye asked where the magic number of 75 came from? Just allows for 10 years on the policy, in an effort to help with long term liability that we have.

Chief Beecroft discussed the idea of a VEBA (Voluntary Employee Benefits Administration). We recently attended a meeting at the City of Fort Myers Fire, with their VEBA Board of Trustees and their Attorney. The meeting was very informative and detailed. A VEBA would allow our employees hired after October 1, 2014 to have health insurance benefits upon retirement.

Commissioner Hoke asked:

- After age 75, benefits stop? Yes, as this helps with the Actuarial and the liability we have to record as a result.
- Do we have any COBRA participants? No

Commissioner Mere noted that we need to be very cautious because the government is trying to remove Independent Special Districts. He is in favor of streamlining the policy which will allow for an overall reduction in expenditures. He also added that he is not in favor of extending the stipend to age 80, because we are being scrutinized by the government.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. Proposed Retiree Insurance Policy changes