

2. Designation of Beneficiary.

Each Firefighter shall complete a form prescribed by the Board designating a Beneficiary or Beneficiaries.

SECTION 3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

1. The sole and exclusive administration of and responsibility for the proper operation of the System and for making effective the provisions of this ordinance is hereby vested in a Board of Trustees. The Board is hereby designated as the plan administrator. The Board shall consist of five (5) Trustees, two of whom, unless otherwise prohibited by law, shall be legal residents of the City, who shall be appointed by the Punta Gorda City Council, and two of whom shall be Members of the System, who shall be elected by a majority of the Firefighters who are Members of the System. The fifth Trustee shall be chosen by a majority of the previous four Trustees as provided for herein, and such person's name shall be submitted to the Punta Gorda City Council. Upon receipt of the fifth person's name, the Punta Gorda City Council shall, as a ministerial duty, appoint such person to the Board of Trustees as its fifth Trustee. The fifth Trustee shall have the same rights as each of the other four Trustees appointed or elected as herein provided and shall serve a two (2) year term unless he sooner vacates the office. Each resident Trustee shall serve as Trustee for a period of two (2) years, unless he sooner vacates the office or is sooner replaced by the Punta Gorda City Council at whose pleasure he shall serve. Each Member Trustee shall serve as a Trustee for a period of two (2) years, unless he sooner leaves the employment of the City as a Firefighter or otherwise vacates his office as Trustee, whereupon a successor shall be chosen in the same manner as the departing Trustee. Each Trustee may succeed himself in office. The Board shall establish and administer the nominating and election procedures for each election. The Board shall meet at least quarterly each year. The Board shall be a legal entity with, in addition to other powers and responsibilities contained herein, the power to bring and defend lawsuits of every kind, nature and description.

2. The Trustees shall, by a majority vote, elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Secretary. The Secretary of the Board shall keep a complete minute book of the actions, proceedings, or hearings of the Board. The Trustees shall not receive any compensation as such, but may receive expenses and per diem as provided by law.

3. Each Trustee shall be entitled to one vote on the Board. Three (3) affirmative votes shall be necessary for any decision by the Trustees at any meeting of the Board. A Trustee shall have the right to abstain from voting as the result of a conflict of interest provided that Trustee complies with the provisions of Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

4. The Board shall engage such actuarial, accounting, legal and other services as shall be required to transact the business of the System. The compensation of all persons engaged by the Board and all other expenses of the Board necessary for the operation of the System shall be paid from the Fund at such rates and in such amounts as the Board shall agree. In the event the Board chooses to use the City's legal counsel, actuary or other professional, technical or other advisor, it shall do so only under terms and conditions acceptable to the Board.

5. The duties and responsibilities of the Board shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- A. To construe the provisions of the System and determine all questions arising thereunder.
- B. To determine all questions relating to eligibility and membership.
- C. To determine and certify the amount of all retirement allowances or other benefits hereunder.
- D. To establish uniform rules and procedures to be followed for administrative purposes, benefit applications and all matters required to administer the System.
- E. To distribute to Members, at regular intervals, information concerning the System.
- F. To receive and process all applications for benefits.

- G. To authorize all payments whatsoever from the Fund, and to notify the disbursing agent, in writing, of approved benefit payments and other expenditures arising through operation of the System and Fund.
- H. To have performed actuarial studies and valuations at least as often as required by law, and make recommendations regarding any and all changes in the provisions of the System.
- I. To perform such other duties as are required to prudently administer the System.

SECTION 4. FINANCES AND FUND MANAGEMENT.

Establishment and Operation of Fund.

1. As part of the System, there exists the Fund, into which shall be deposited all of the contributions and assets whatsoever attributable to the System.

2. The actual custody and supervision of the Fund (and assets thereof) shall be vested in the Board. Payment of benefits and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the disbursing agent but only upon written authorization from the Board.

3. All funds of the Firefighters' Retirement System may be deposited by the Board with the Finance Director of the City, acting in a ministerial capacity only, who shall be liable in the same manner and to the same extent as he is liable for the safekeeping of funds for the City. However, any funds so deposited with the Finance Director of the City shall be kept in a separate fund by the Finance Director or clearly identified as such funds of the Firefighters' Retirement System. In lieu thereof, the Board shall deposit the funds of the Firefighters' Retirement System in a qualified public depository as defined in §280.02, Florida Statutes, which depository with regard to such funds shall conform to and be bound by all of the provisions of Chapter 280, Florida Statutes. In order to fulfill its investment responsibilities as set forth herein, the Board may retain the services of a custodian bank, an investment advisor registered under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 or otherwise exempt from such required registration, an insurance company, or a combination of these, for the purposes of

investment decisions and management. Such investment manager shall have discretion, subject to any guidelines as prescribed by the Board, in the investment of all Fund assets.

4. All funds and securities of the System may be commingled in the Fund, provided that accurate records are maintained at all times reflecting the financial composition of the Fund, including accurate current accounts and entries as regards to the following:

- A. Current amounts of Accumulated Contributions of Members on both an individual and aggregate account basis, and
- B. Receipts and disbursements; and
- C. Benefit payments, and
- D. Current amounts clearly reflecting all monies, funds and assets whatsoever attributable to contributions and deposits from the City, and
- E. All interest, dividends and gains (or losses) whatsoever, and
- F. Such other entries as may be properly required so as to reflect a clear and complete financial report of the Fund.

5. An audit shall be performed annually by a certified public accountant for the most recent fiscal year of the System showing a detailed listing of assets and a statement of all income and disbursements during the year. Such income and disbursements must be reconciled with the assets at the beginning and end of the year. Such report shall reflect a complete evaluation of assets on both a cost and market basis, as well as other items normally included in a certified audit. The Board shall furnish to the City Auditor such available investment and actuarial information regarding the System as shall be requested. At its option, the Board may select the City's independent auditor for purposes of preparing an independent audit of the System provided said auditor meets the requirements of Section 175.351(12), Florida Statutes.

6. The Board shall have the following investment powers and authority:

- A. The Board shall be vested with full legal title to said Fund, subject, however, and in any event to the authority and power of the Punta Gorda City Council to amend or terminate

this Fund, provided that no amendment or Fund termination shall ever result in the use of any assets of this Fund except for the payment of regular expenses and benefits under this System, except as otherwise provided herein. All contributions from time to time paid into the Fund, and the income thereof, without distinction between principal and income, shall be held and administered by the Board or its agent in the Fund and the Board shall not be required to segregate or invest separately any portion of the Fund.

B. All monies paid into or held in the Fund shall be invested and reinvested by the Board and the investment of all or any part of such funds shall be limited to:

- (1) Annuity and life insurance contracts with life insurance companies in amounts sufficient to provide, in whole or in part, the benefits to which all of the Members in the Fund shall be entitled under the provisions of this System and pay the initial and subsequent premium thereon.
- (2) Time or savings accounts of a national bank, a state bank insured by the Bank Insurance Fund or a savings/building and loan association insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund which is administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or a state or federal chartered credit union whose share accounts are insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.
- (3) Obligations of the United States or obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by the government of the United States or by an agency of the government of the United States.
- (4) Bonds issued by the State of Israel.
- (5) Stocks, commingled funds administered by national or state banks, mutual funds and bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, provided that:
 - (a) Except as provided in subparagraph (b), all individually held securities and all securities in a commingled or mutual fund must be issued or

guaranteed by a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, any state or organized territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia.

- (b) Up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the assets in the Fund may be invested in foreign securities.
- (c) The Board shall not invest more than five percent (5%) of its assets in the common stock, capital stock, or convertible securities of any one issuing company, nor shall the aggregate investment in any one issuing company exceed five percent (5%) of the outstanding capital stock of that company; nor shall the aggregate of its investments in common stock, capital stock and convertible securities at cost exceed seventy percent (70%) of the assets of the Fund.
- (d) The board shall identify and publicly report any direct or indirect holdings it may have in any scrutinized company, as defined in Florida Statutes Section 215.473, and proceed to sell, redeem, divest, or withdraw all publicly traded securities it may have in such company beginning January 1, 2010 and shall thereafter be prohibited from purchasing or holding such securities. The divestiture of any such security must be completed by September 30, 2010. In accordance with Chapter 2009-97, Laws of Florida, no person may bring any civil, criminal, or administrative action against the board or any employee, officer, director, or advisor of such board based upon the divestiture of any security pursuant to this paragraph.

- C. At least once every three (3) years, and more often as determined by the Board, the Board shall retain a professionally qualified independent consultant, as defined in Section 175.071, Florida Statutes, to evaluate the performance of all current investment

managers and make recommendations regarding the retention of all such investment managers. These recommendations shall be considered by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

- D. The Board may retain in cash and keep unproductive of income such amount of the Fund as it may deem advisable, having regard for the cash requirements of the System.
- E. Neither the Board or any Trustee shall be liable for the making, retention or sale of any investment or reinvestment made as herein provided, nor for any loss or diminishment of the Fund, except that due to his or its own negligence, willful misconduct or lack of good faith.
- F. The Board may cause any investment in securities held by it to be registered in or transferred into its name as Trustee or into the name of such nominee as it may direct, or it may retain them unregistered and in form permitting transferability, but the books and records shall at all times show that all investments are part of the Fund.
- G. The Board is empowered, but is not required, to vote upon any stocks, bonds, or securities of any corporation, association, or trust and to give general or specific proxies or powers of attorney with or without power of substitution; to participate in mergers, reorganizations, recapitalizations, consolidations, and similar transactions with respect to such securities; to deposit such stock or other securities in any voting trust or any protective or like committee with the Trustees or with depositories designated thereby; to amortize or fail to amortize any part or all of the premium or discount resulting from the acquisition or disposition of assets; and generally to exercise any of the powers of an owner with respect to stocks, bonds, or other investments comprising the Fund which it may deem to be to the best interest of the Fund to exercise.
- H. The Board shall not be required to make any inventory or appraisal or report to any court, nor to secure any order of court for the exercise of any power contained herein.

- I. Where any action which the Board is required to take or any duty or function which it is required to perform either under the terms herein or under the general law applicable to it as Trustee under this ordinance, can reasonably be taken or performed only after receipt by it from a Member, the City, or any other entity, of specific information, certification, direction or instructions, the Board shall be free of liability in failing to take such action or perform such duty or function until such information, certification, direction or instruction has been received by it.
- J. Any overpayments or underpayments from the Fund to a Member, Retiree or Beneficiary caused by errors of computation shall be adjusted with interest at a rate per annum approved by the Board in such a manner that the Actuarial Equivalent of the benefit to which the Member, Retiree or Beneficiary was correctly entitled, shall be paid. Overpayments shall be charged against payments next succeeding the correction or collected in another manner if prudent. Underpayments shall be made up from the Fund in a prudent manner.
- K. The Board shall sustain no liability whatsoever for the sufficiency of the Fund to meet the payments and benefits provided for herein.
- L. In any application to or proceeding or action in the courts, only the Board shall be a necessary party, and no Member or other person having an interest in the Fund shall be entitled to any notice or service of process. Any judgment entered in such a proceeding or action shall be conclusive upon all persons.
- M. Any of the foregoing powers and functions reposed in the Board may be performed or carried out by the Board through duly authorized agents, provided that the Board at all times maintains continuous supervision over the acts of any such agent; provided further, that legal title to said Fund shall always remain in the Board.

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