

Volunteer Fire Subcommittee on Pensions  
October 10, 1975 Meeting  
Moorhead, Minnesota

MINUTES:

The meeting was opened by the subcommittee chairman, Rep. Al Patton.

PRESENT: Representatives Al Patton, John Biersdorf, and David Beauchamp;  
also, John Mandeville, Exec. Sec.

Rep. David Beauchamp introduced the members of the volunteer subcommittee and the staff. He stated that the meeting was held to discuss some problems and questions relating to the volunteer firemen's relief pension program, and that volunteer ambulance drivers and others interested in this area were invited.

John Mandeville, Exec. Sec. of the commission, summarized a memo relating to the subject of volunteer pensions which provided background information.

Gus Welter, Secretary of the State Fire Department Association discussed the association's position and views. Mr. Welter stated that they did negotiate with the League of Municipalities on pension problems. They are in favor of removing the limits from 69.06. It is their position that the amount of the pensions should be negotiated between the local governing body and the relief association because they are responsible for maintaining the special fund; that this has caused unnecessary legislative activity because the sole purpose of many of the bills is to raise the limits.

Mr. Welter stated that H.F. 1390 states that the pensions should be subject to levy limit and that he doesn't know how that got into the bill; that it was never the League's idea to have it in the bill.

Mr. Welter also stated that the association believes that some form of earlier vesting would be preferable to portability.

Because some departments have very little demand for service--only 10 calls a year-- and others have over 800 a year, it would be difficult to equate what was actually earned.

Disability is not job related. There is nothing in the law to prohibit payment of disability benefits.

Vesting should start at 5 years, but not at the full rate; 15 years, somewhere in that area, would be full vesting--with increments inbetween.

It was brought out that most of the investing was in certificates or in savings and loan associations

In summary:

1. Remove the limits
2. Partial vesting at 5 years; full vesting at 15 years -  
(the local community to decide if it wants to go to 20 years)
3. Not in favor of portability

The volunteer fire departments were invited to bring their questions and problems to the members of the subcommittee and also the commission staff.