

**VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD FIREFIGHTERS PENSION BOARD**  
**2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Board is to control and manage the Homewood Firefighters' Pension Fund. All money donated, paid, assessed, or provided by law for the relief and pensioning of disabled, superannuated, and retired firemen, their spouses, minor children, and dependent parents and/or children is placed into this fund.

The Board also: enforces contributions, hears and determines applications and payments, makes rules, pays expenses, invests funds, and keeps records of all meetings, proceedings, and activities.

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP:**

|                |                         | Original<br>Term<br><u>Began:</u> | Current<br>Term<br><u>Expires:</u> | 2024<br>Meetings<br><u>Attended:</u> |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chris Cummings | Mayoral Appointee       | April 2005                        | February 2025                      | 2 of 5                               |
| Gregory Knoll  | Retiree Elected Trustee | April 1974                        | April 2027                         | 5 of 5                               |
| Ryan Tracy     | Active Elected Trustee  | April 2017                        | April 2025                         | 5 of 5                               |
| Shawn Santos   | Active Elected Trustee  | April 2023                        | April 2026                         | 4 of 5                               |
| James Anderson | Mayoral Appointee       | October 2023                      | October 2026                       | 5 of 5                               |

**MEETING DATES:**

The Board held four regular meetings during 2024:

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Scheduled meeting | Wednesday, January 24, 2024 |
| Scheduled meeting | Wednesday, April 24, 2024   |
| Scheduled meeting | Wednesday, July 31, 2024    |
| Scheduled meeting | Wednesday, October 30, 2024 |
| Special Meeting   | Tuesday, November 12, 2024  |

*\*Special meeting was for the board to take action on the application for retirement from Thomas Gaskin*

**SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- Trustee Knoll was re-elected to serve as Board President and Trustee Tracy was elected to serve as Board Secretary.
- All returning Trustees completed their required Trustee Continuing Education requirements.
- As part of the Village's Annual Financial Audit process, The Firefighters Pension Fund was audited for the period May 1, 2023 thru April 30, 2024. A copy of that report was sent to the Finance Director when it was received.
- The pension fund was administratively audited by FPIF, with no significant findings. Since consolidation in 2020, this will now happen every three years.

**FINANCIAL CHANGES:**

Attached please find the April 2024 End of Fiscal Year Statement of Plan Assets and Statement of Changes in Plan Assets from the Fund's accounting firm, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP.

**EMPLOYER CHANGES / DECISIONS EFFECTING PENSION BOARD FUNDING:**

Again the Village has chosen to levy an amount lower than the amount recommended by this Board. This choice results in reduced employer contributions to the fund. As employer costs are being deferred to later years, future employer costs will be significantly higher due to lowering current cost. The Pension Board again advised the Village Board of this issue in its' annual tax levy recommendation letter.

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**FUND PARTICIPANTS:**

**Active Members and Fund Entry Date:**

|                       |            |                    |            |                     |            |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Steve DeJong          | 11/27/2000 | Chris Kieta        | 07/16/2001 | Jason Presnak       | 02/27/2002 |
| John Elashik, Jr.     | 01/05/2004 | Ryan Schneider     | 08/02/2004 | Ryan Tracy          | 06/21/2006 |
| Matt Moran            | 06/21/2006 | Bob Grabowski      | 07/01/2009 | Kevin Wake          | 07/08/2010 |
| Joe Exline            | 09/22/2014 | Kyle Paczesny (T2) | 10/09/2017 | Dave Vitolka (T2)   | 11/12/2017 |
| Edgar Serna (T2)      | 12/06/2019 | Shawn Santos (T2)  | 06/07/2020 | Daniel Uhlmann (T2) | 01/04/2021 |
| Tyler Swyndroski (T2) | 08/02/2021 | Martin Garcia (T2) | 02/14/2022 | Kyle Adams (T2)     | 08/08/2022 |
| Andrew Sline (T2)     | 06/03/2024 |                    |            |                     |            |

**Retired Members and Retirement Date:**

|                |            |                   |            |                |            |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Dan Rossi      | 07/20/2001 | Greg Knoll        | 09/23/2003 | Jody Applegate | 03/31/2010 |
| Clint Johnson  | 05/30/2014 | Scott Moran       | 05/18/2017 | Tim Cameron    | 11/09/2017 |
| William Wright | 11/29/2019 | Lawrence Lipinski | 11/29/2019 | Dave Wolken    | 03/20/2021 |
| Mike Bell      | 05/05/2022 | Thomas Gaskin     | 11/15/2024 |                |            |

**Disabled Members and Disability Date:**

|         |            |                  |            |               |            |
|---------|------------|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Jim Fox | 12/20/1997 | Shawn Washington | 06/30/2010 | Sean Sullivan | 10/24/2021 |
|---------|------------|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|

**Deferred/Vested Members and Service Dates:**

Kevin Welsh                      02/11/1980 thru 07/23/1995

**Surviving Spouses, Dependent Children, or Dependent Parents and Date:**

Georgia Casella                      02/07/2016

**Member Applications:**

Membership – There was one application for new membership in June 03, 2024, Andrew Sline.

**Refunds of Contributions:**

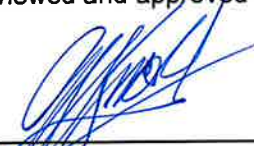
Active member Richard Qualter resigned from his position with the Homewood Fire Department and accepted a position with the Orland Fire District. Qualter combined his service under reciprocity per 40 ILCS 5/4-109.3.


**Review Applications for Retirement /Disability Benefits:**

Active member Tom Gaskin applied for retirement in November 15, 2024.

The Homewood Firefighters' Pension Board would like to thank the Village Board for their ongoing support. Due to this support, the plan is funded above state averages for estimated future liabilities. The Board also thanks the Village Staff for their assistance and allowing active fund Trustees to spend the time necessary to help administer the pension plan.

Reviewed and approved at the January 22, 2024 Homewood Firefighters Pension Board meeting.

  
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Gregory J. Knoll,  
Board President

  
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Ryan W. Tracy  
Board Secretary