

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
CHAMPAIGN FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION FUND**

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
DISABILITY APPLICATION OF:)
)
ENGINEER MARK DOERFLER,)
)
APPLICANT.)

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Board of Trustees of the Champaign Firefighters' Pension Fund ("Pension Board") upon the disability application of Engineer Mark Doerfler ("Applicant"). The Pension Board, pursuant to the statutory authority set forth in 40 ILCS 5/4-101 *et seq.*, of the Illinois Pension Code, renders the following decision concerning Applicant's claim for line-of-duty disability pension benefits.

A hearing was held before the Pension Board on November 22, 2022. Applicant was duly and properly notified of the hearing and present for the hearing. At the hearing, Applicant was represented by counsel, Stephen Kelly. Applicant submitted evidence during the hearing regarding his claim.

In reaching its decision, the Pension Board carefully considered all testimony elicited of witnesses at the hearing and reviewed all exhibits made part of the administrative record. The Pension Board considered all arguments made by Applicant and documentation submitted. To the extent arguments, findings and conclusions submitted by Applicant are in accordance with the findings, conclusions and views stated herein, they have been accepted, and to the extent testimony of witnesses or documentation submitted is not in accord with the findings herein, such testimony or documentation is not credited.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

Based upon a preponderance of the evidence in the administrative record, the Pension Board makes the following findings of fact:

Preliminary Matters

1. Applicant is a regular member of the Champaign Fire Department ("Fire Department"), holding the rank of engineer. (Bd. Ex. 1, p. 1).¹
2. Applicant is married and has two (2) dependent children under the age of eighteen (18). (Tr. 8-9).
3. Applicant received his probationary appointment to the Fire Department on August 28, 2006. (Bd. Ex. 1, p. 1).
4. Prior to being hired by the Fire Department, Applicant passed a pre-employment physical examination. (Tr. 30-31).
5. Prior to March 13, 2021, Applicant received recurrent medical treatment for his lower back from 1999 to 2020. Applicant was able to continue performing full and unrestricted firefighter duties with respect to each instance. (Tr. 12-14).
6. On or about April 20, 2022, Applicant submitted to the Pension Board an application for a line-of-duty disability pension benefit pursuant to 40 ILCS 5/4-110. Applicant cited a lower back injury incurred from moving a large patient from his/her bed to a cot as the reason for the application. (Bd. Ex. 1, p. 1-3).
7. The Pension Board held a hearing on Applicant's line-of-duty disability application on November 22, 2022. (Tr. 1).

¹ Citations to Board Exhibits will be referenced as "(Bd. Ex. __, p. __)". Citations to November 22, 2022 Hearing Transcript will be referenced as "(Tr. __)".

8. Pension Board Exhibits 1 through 15 were admitted into the administrative record without objection. (Tr. 5).

9. Applicant Exhibit 1 was admitted into the administrative record without objection. (Tr. 6).

The March 13, 2021 Injury

10. On March 13, 2021, Applicant and his company responded to a call for lift assistance involving a roughly 350-400 lbs. elderly patient in need of transport to the hospital. (Tr. 15-16). (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4017).

11. In assisting the elderly patient, Applicant and his company intended to transfer the patient from her bed to a cot and ultimately to an ambulance to secure her transport to the hospital. (Tr. 15).

12. Applicant felt a “twinge” in his lower back while lifting the patient and transferring her to the cot. (Tr. 16).

13. Despite the twinge in his lower back, Applicant completed the call and successfully secured the patient in the ambulance for transport to the hospital. (Tr. 16).

14. The following morning, March 14, 2021, Applicant awoke to significant lower back and contacted the Fire Department to report his injury. (Tr. 16).

15. Applicant completed an accident report regarding the injury on March 15, 2021. (Tr. 17).

16. Despite his lower back pain growing progressively worse, Applicant continued working in a full, unrestricted capacity until June of 2021. (Tr. 17).

17. On or about June 10, 2021, Applicant awoke to significant lower back pain and numbness radiating into his left foot. As a result, Applicant contacted the Fire Department to advise his Chief he would be unable to work. (Tr. 17).

Applicant's Medical Care and Treatment

18. In February of 1999, Applicant was diagnosed with spondylolysis at L5 of his lumbar spine. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 3999).

19. Following his spondylolysis diagnosis, Applicant underwent multiple treatments for recurrent lower back pain from February of 2005 through January of 2021. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 3999-4000).

20. On June 10, 2021, Applicant was evaluated by Dr. Imari Shah, his primary care physician at Northwestern Medicine, for complaints of left-sided lower back pain radiating into his left leg/foot. (Bd. Ex. 7, p. 2404-2414).

21. Based on her evaluation, Dr. Shah diagnosed Applicant with acute left-sided lower back with left-sided sciatica and recommended he take Prednisone (*i.e.*, prescription muscle relaxant) and undergo a course of physical therapy to treat his symptoms. (Bd. Ex. 7, p. 2407, 2410, 2414).

22. On June 25, 2021, Applicant was evaluated by Dr. Tasso Papagiannopoulos at Northwestern Medicine for complaints of lower back pain radiating into his left leg/foot. Based on x-ray imaging, Dr. Papagiannopoulos diagnosed Applicant with grade II spondylolisthesis at L5-S1, narrowing at L4-L5 and L5-S1, and facet arthropathy at L4-S1. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4001).

23. Based on his diagnosis, Dr. Papagiannopoulos recommended Applicant undergo a course of physical therapy and prescribed him Gabapentin (*i.e.*, nerve pain medication) to treat his lower back symptoms. (Bd. Ex. 7, p. 2385-2386).

24. On July 7, 2021, Applicant began a course of physical therapy at Northwestern Medicine, which he engaged in through August of 2021. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4001). (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4018).

25. On August 6, 2021, Applicant was reevaluated by Dr. Papagiannopoulos regarding his response to physical therapy. Finding he had not improved through physical therapy, Dr. Papagiannopoulos recommended Applicant undergo an MRI of his lumbar spine. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4001).

26. On September 2, 2021, Applicant underwent an MRI of his lumbar spine, which revealed bilateral L5 pars defects with anterolisthesis, advanced degenerative disc disease at L5-S1, moderate degenerative changes at L4-L5 and L5-S1, central and foraminal stenosis at L3-L4 and L4-L5, and central disc protrusion at L4-L5. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4001).

27. On September 23, 2021, Applicant was evaluated by Dr. Alexander Ghanayem, an orthopedic spine surgeon at Loyola Medicine, regarding his persistent left-sided lower back pain despite conservative treatment. (Bd. Ex. 8, p. 2805).

28. Dr. Ghanayem opined Applicant sustained or aggravated a disc herniation, and additionally aggravated pre-existing spondylolisthesis, in the March 13, 2021 incident, and recommended Applicant undergo epidural injections and additional physical therapy to treat his symptoms. (Bd. Ex. 8, p. 2806).

29. On October 26, 2021, Applicant underwent a lumbar transforaminal epidural steroid injection (“TESI”) in his lumbar spine administered by Dr. Papagiannopoulos. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4001).

30. On November 23, 2021, Applicant underwent a second TESI in his lumbar spine administered by Dr. Papagiannopoulos based on his improvement in response to the first injection. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4001).

31. On November 30, 2021, Applicant met with Dr. Papagiannopoulos regarding his response to the second TESI. Dr. Papagiannopoulos found, despite 75% improvement in his lower back pain and mobility, Applicant was still functionally limited due to his residual pain, and recommended he undergo a course of work conditioning. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4001).

32. On December 3, 2021, Applicant restarted his course of physical therapy as recommended by Dr. Papagiannopoulos and Dr. Ghanayem, which he engaged in through March of 2022. (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4018).

33. On December 28, 2021, Applicant underwent a third TESI in his lumbar spine administered by Dr. Papagiannopoulos. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4002).

34. On January 7, 2022, Applicant met with Dr. Papagiannopoulos regarding his response to the third TESI. Dr. Papagiannopoulos released Applicant to return to light duty with respect to his lumbar spine and referred him to work conditioning. (Bd. Ex. 7, p. 1790).

35. On February 2, 2022, Applicant sought a second opinion regarding his lumbar spine with Dr. Andrew Chenelle, a neurosurgeon at Northwestern Medicine. Dr. Chenelle concluded Applicant was not a surgical candidate with respect to his lumbar spine due to his elevated body mass index ("BMI") and advised him to continue conservative treatment. (Bd. Ex. 7, p. 1722-1723).

36. On February 14, 2022, Applicant consulted with Dr. Ghanayem with respect to further treatment for his lumbar spine. While finding him disabled due to his lumbar spine

condition, Dr. Ghanayem concluded Applicant was not a surgical candidate based on the risks associated with his elevated BMI. (Bd. Ex. 8, p. 2826-2827).

37. On March 22, 2022, Applicant met with Dr. Peter Lee, a neurosurgeon at Northwestern Medicine, for a surgical consultation with respect to his lumbar spine. Dr. Lee concluded Applicant was not a surgical candidate due to the risks associated with his elevated BMI and recommended continued conservative management. (Bd. Ex. 8, p. 1457).

38. On April 29, 2022, Applicant was reevaluated by Dr. Papagiannopoulos regarding the status of his lower back symptoms. While noting a lumbar fusion would benefit his symptoms, Dr. Papagiannopoulos reiterated Applicant was not a surgical candidate due to his BMI. (Bd. Ex. 7, p. 1387).

39. In addition, Dr. Papagiannopoulos discontinued Applicant's course of physical therapy without recommending any further treatment, noting Applicant's intention to undergo a functional capacity evaluation ("FCE") with respect to his lumbar spine. (Bd. Ex. 7, p. 1387).

40. As of the date of hearing, Applicant has followed all recommended treatment and has not been released to return to full, unrestricted firefighter duties by any of his treating physicians.

Applicant's Work and Pay Status

41. Applicant received one (1) year of Public Employee Disability Act ("PEDA") benefits, which terminated on or about June 10, 2021. (Tr. 28).

42. Applicant utilized accrued benefit time following the termination of his PEDA benefits. As of the date of hearing, Applicant has exhausted all accrued benefit time. (Tr. 28).

43. As of October 15, 2022, Applicant is receiving total temporary disability ("TTD") benefits. (Tr. 28).

44. Applicant's last day of duty was June 10, 2021. (Tr. 31).

45. Applicant is currently employed as an emergency management specialist with the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. (Tr. 33-34).

46. Applicant was offered a temporary light duty position within the Fire Department following June 10, 2021, but declined pursuant to the advice of his treating physician. (Tr. 35).

47. Applicant has not been made available or offered a permanent light duty position within the Fire Department.

48. Applicant filed a Workers' Compensation claim related to the March 13, 2021 injury that is still pending. (Tr. 27).

Pension Board's Independent Medical Examinations

49. Pursuant to 40 ILCS 5/4-112 of the Illinois Pension Code, the Pension Board selected three (3) physicians to conduct an independent medical examination ("IME") of Applicant. Those physicians were Dr. Daniel G. Samo (Bd. Ex. 13), Dr. George E. Charuk (Bd. Ex. 14), and Dr. George S. Miz (Bd. Ex. 15). The Pension Board forwarded Applicant's treating medical records and related employment records to each of the independent medical examiners prior to examination.

IME of Dr. Daniel G. Samo, M.D.

50. Dr. Samo is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Illinois and is board certified in emergency medicine. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4010).

51. Dr. Samo examined Applicant on October 10, 2022, and certified him disabled from performing full and unrestricted firefighter duties. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 3998, 4005).

52. Regarding Applicant's disability, Dr. Samo concluded as follows:

"Based on his subjective complaints of pain with walking or standing for [more than] 5-10 minutes I would be of the opinion that this would not allow him to

perform many of the essential job tasks of a firefighter, and therefore unable to perform full and unrestricted firefighter duties.” (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4005).

53. Dr. Samo concluded Applicant’s disability has lasted for more than one (1) year. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4005).

54. Regarding pre-existing conditions related to Applicant’s disability, Dr. Samo concluded, “[Applicant] has a long history of recurrent low back pain.” (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4005).

55. Regarding disability causation, Dr. Samo opined as follows:

“[Applicant] had many years of recurrent back problems which would be treated and he would be able to return to work. Following [the March 13, 2021] event, he stated he had continuous pain, but had no medical treatment for three months. After three months he became suddenly worse to the point that he could no longer work. The event of March 13, 2021 did not cause him disability as he continued to work and did not require any treatment. It seems that the onset of his disabling condition, with increased pain and the radicular symptoms (tingling and pain to the left leg) began on or about 6/10/21. This seems to have occurred spontaneously without any inciting event.” (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4005).

56. Dr. Samo opined Applicant could perform in a limited, light duty capacity if such a position was made available and offered to him and did not require prolonged standing or walking. (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4006).

57. Regarding his recommendation for additional medical care or treatment, Dr. Miz opined as follows:

“It is possible that a discectomy and fusion would relieve [Applicant’s] current symptoms. This is a major surgical procedure and does involve the risks of anesthesia, infection, and nerve damage amongst other potential adverse effects. However, before this can be done [he] would need to lose a significant amount of weight.” (Bd. Ex. 13, p. 4006).

IME of Dr. George E. Charuk, M.D.

58. Dr. Charuk is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Illinois and is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation. (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4027).

59. Dr. Charuk examined Applicant on October 19, 2022, and certified him disabled from performing full and unrestricted firefighter duties based on “spondylolysis with a grade II spondylolisthesis and degenerative disc disease with resultant radicular symptoms down left lower extremity.” (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4017, 4020-4021).

60. Dr. Charuk concluded Applicant’s disability has lasted for more than one (1) year. (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4021).

61. Regarding pre-existing conditions related to Applicant’s disability, Dr. Charuk concluded, “[Applicant] has a long history of low back pain dating back to 1999 when he had spondylolysis noted at L5 in his lumbar spine.” (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4021).

62. Regarding disability causation, Dr. Charuk concluded as follows:

“It is my opinion within a reasonable degree of medical certainty that [Applicant] had a long history of low back pain and was able to return back to work. He had this incident that occurred on 3/12/2021 which caused him to become disabled. He sought appropriate treatment and underwent 3 epidural steroid injections, extensive physical therapy without an ability to return back to gainful employment.” (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4021).

63. Dr. Charuk opined Applicant could perform in a limited, light duty capacity if such a position was made available and offered to him. (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4021).

64. Dr. Charuk opined there is no additional medical care or treatment that Applicant could undergo that would enable him to recover from his disability and return to full, unrestricted firefighter duties. (Bd. Ex. 14, p. 4021).

IME of Dr. George S. Miz, M.D.

65. Dr. Miz is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Illinois and is board certified in orthopedic surgery. (Bd. Ex. 15, p. 4042-4043).

66. Dr. Miz examined Applicant on October 12, 2022, and certified him disabled from performing full and unrestricted firefighter duties based on “chronic low back and left radicular pain resulting from an aggravation of his spondylolisthesis.” (Bd. Ex. 15, p. 4036-4037).

67. Dr. Miz concluded Applicant’s disability is likely permanent. (Bd. Ex. 15, p. 4037).

68. Regarding pre-existing conditions related to Applicant’s disability, Dr. Miz concluded, “[Applicant] has indeed suffered from pre-existing conditions, specifically the spondylolytic spondylolisthesis which has likely been present from his childhood years.” (Bd. Ex. 15, p. 4037).

69. Regarding disability causation, Dr. Miz opined, “In my opinion, [Applicant’s] disabilities resulted from an aggravation of a pre-existing condition from the March 13, 2021 incident.” (Bd. Ex. 15, p. 4038).

70. Dr. Miz opined Applicant could perform in a limited, light duty capacity if such a position was made available and offered to him. (Bd. Ex. 15, p. 4038).

71. Regarding his recommendation for additional medical care or treatment, Dr. Miz opined as follows:

“In my opinion, [Applicant] could, if he is able to complete sufficient weight loss to make him a surgical candidate, [have] treatment with a lumbar decompression and fusion. This likely would result in substantial improvement in his symptoms, however, his prognosis for return to work with full and unrestricted firefighter duties is guarded. I would estimate his probability of returning to work as a firefighter, should the surgery be successful, at approximately 50%.” (Bd. Ex. 15, p. 4038).

Pension Board’s Final Conclusions of Fact

72. The Pension Board voted 5-0 to award Applicant a line-of-duty disability pension benefit pursuant to §4-110 of the Illinois Pension Code effective November 23, 2022, subject to any applicable workers’ compensation offsets. (Tr. 39-40).

73. The Pension Board finds Applicant is disabled as a result of an “act of duty” in that Applicant’s duties as a firefighter required that he respond to a lift assist call on March 13, 2021.

II. APPLICABLE STATUTORY PROVISIONS

The following provisions of the Illinois Pension Code have application:

40 ILCS 5/4-105b Permanent disability.

"Permanent disability": any physical or mental disability that (1) can be expected to result in death, (2) has lasted for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or (3) can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

40 ILCS 5/4-110 Permanent disability – Line of Duty.

If a firefighter, as the result of sickness, accident or injury incurred in or resulting from the performance of an act of duty or from the cumulative effects of acts of duty, is found, pursuant to Section 4-112, to be physically or mentally permanently disabled for service in the fire department, so as to render necessary his or her being placed on disability pension, the firefighter shall be entitled to a disability pension equal to the greater of (1) 65% of the monthly salary attached to the rank held by him or her in the fire department at the date he or she is removed from the municipality's fire department payroll or (2) the retirement pension that the firefighter would be eligible to receive if he or she retired (but not including any automatic annual increase in that retirement pension). A firefighter shall be considered "on duty" while on any assignment approved by the chief of the fire department, even though away from the municipality he or she serves as a firefighter, if the assignment is related to the fire protection service of the municipality.

40 ILCS 5/6-110 Act of Duty.

"Act of duty": Any act imposed on an active fireman by the ordinances of a city, or by the rules or regulations of its fire department, or any act performed by an active fireman while on duty, having for its direct purpose the saving of the life or property of another person.

III. ANALYSIS OF CLAIM

Legal Standards To Be Used

The burden of proving the entitlement to any kind of disability pension rests with the applicant. *Daily v. Bd. of Trustees of Springfield Police Pension Fund*, 251 Ill. App. 3d 119 (4th

Dist. 1993); *Wall v. Police Pension Bd. of Vill. of Schaumburg*, 178 Ill. App. 3d 438 (1st Dist. 1988); *Evert v. Firefighters' Pension Fund of Lake Forest*, 180 Ill. App. 3d 656 (2d Dist. 1989). Due to their personal knowledge of the peculiar physical and emotional demand of the job, the members of the pension board are in the best position to determine pension questions. *Sanders v. Bd. of Trustees of City of Springfield Police Pension Fund*, 112 Ill. App. 3d 1087, 1091 (4th Dist. 1983).

Applicant's Line-of-Duty Disability Claim

The elements a firefighter must prove in order to obtain a line-of-duty disability pension under 40 ILCS 5/4-110 are as follows:

1. He or she is a firefighter;
2. An accident, injury or sickness was incurred;
3. The accident, injury or sickness was incurred in or resulted from the performance of an act of duty; and
4. The firefighter is permanently disabled for service in the Fire District. See *Gloss v. Bd. of Trustees, Firemen's Pension Fund of Chicago Heights*, 132 Ill. App. 3d 736, 739 (1st Dist. 1971).

The Pension Board finds Applicant has sustained his burden of proof in establishing he is disabled and that his disability was incurred in or resulted from the performance of an "act of duty."

1. Applicant is disabled from full and unrestricted firefighter duties.

Applicant was a Champaign firefighter on March 13, 2021, and at the time he applied for line-of-duty disability pension benefits. Applicant suffered a lumbar spine injury while performing the requirements of his job as a Champaign firefighter on March 13, 2021. The objective medical evidence shows Applicant has undergone multiple treatments for his lumbar spine injury. The unanimous opinion of all three (3) independent medical examiners concluded Applicant is disabled from full and unrestricted firefighter duties as a result of his lumbar spine condition. Further, there

is no objective medical evidence contained in the administrative record that concludes Applicant can return to full and unrestricted firefighter duties. In addition, the Pension Board finds no permanent light duty positions exists within the Fire Department. As such, Applicant's lumbar spine injury renders necessary his suspension or retirement from service in the Fire Department.

2. Applicant is disabled as a result of an "act of duty."

Applicant incurred his disabling lumbar spine injury from the performance of an "act of duty." Article 4 of the Illinois Pension Code borrows the definition of the term "act of duty" from Section 6-110 of the Pension Code. *Jensen v. E. Dundee Fire Prot. Dist. Firefighters' Pension Fund Bd. of Trustees*, 362 Ill. App. 3d 197, 205 (2d Dist. 2005). Section 6-110 of the Pension Code defines an "act of duty" as "[a]ny act imposed on an active fireman by the ordinances of a city, or by the rules or regulations of its fire department, or any act performed by an active fireman while on duty, having for its direct purpose the saving of the life or property of another person. *Id.*

In Illinois, an act of duty need not be the sole cause of a firefighter's disability. The Applicant must prove only that the duty-related accident is a causative factor contributing to his disability. See *Luchesi v. Ret. Bd. of Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago*, 333 Ill. App. 3d 543, 550 (1st Dist. 2002). A sufficient nexus must exist between the disability and the performance of the act of duty for line-of-duty disability benefits to be appropriate. *Barber v. Bd. of Trustees of Vill. of S. Barrington Police Pension Fund*, 256 Ill. App. 3d 814, 818 (1st Dist. 1993). As the claimant, Plaintiff has the burden to establish a causal connection between the act of duty and his disability. *Carrillo v. Park Ridge Firefighters' Pension Fund*, 2014 IL App (1st) 130656, ¶ 27.

The Pension Board finds sufficient evidence in the record supports the conclusion Applicant incurred his disabling lumbar spine injury in the performance of an act of duty. The

objective medical evidence shows Applicant suffered from pre-existing lower back pain and spondylolysis noted at L5 prior to the duty-related incident. On March 13, 2021, Applicant suffered an aggravation of his pre-existing lumbar spine condition, resulting in his ongoing symptoms and current disability, while the carrying out his duties as a Champaign firefighter. Specifically, Applicant's duties as a firefighter required that he respond to a call for lift assist involving a roughly 350-400 lbs. elderly patient on March 13, 2021.. This required act, having for its direct purpose the saving of the life of another person, resulted in Applicant's disabling injury and ultimate disability.

Therefore, based on the evidence in the administrative record, the Pension Board finds Applicant is disabled, rendering necessary his suspension from service in the Fire Department, as a result of an "act of duty." Whether the March 13, 2021 incident directly caused his disability or precipitated his ongoing symptoms, the Pension Board finds Applicant's disabling lumbar spine injury was incurred in or resulted from the performance of an act of duty on March 13, 2021.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

1. The Board of Trustees of the Champaign Firemen's Pension Fund has jurisdiction over this subject matter.

2. Applicant is entitled to a line-of-duty disability pension pursuant to §4-110 of the Illinois Pension Code, November 23, 2022, because he sustained a disabling injury in the performance of an act of duty.

3. Applicant shall notify the Pension Board in the event of settlement or receipt of an award from any workers' compensation case in order for the Pension Board to determine whether there should be an offset pursuant to 40 ILCS 5/4-114.2 of the Illinois Pension Code, and the Pension Board will retain jurisdiction over the matter for this purpose only.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

That a certificate of payment be issued to Applicant, Engineer Mark Doerfler, pursuant to §4-125 of the Illinois Pension Code, stating Applicant's entitlement to a line-of-duty disability pension benefit effective November 23, 2022.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
CHAMPAIGN FIREFIGHTERS'
PENSION FUND



Mr. Roger Cruse, President



Mr. Bradley Diehl, Trustee



Chief Gary Ludwig, Trustee



Mr. Pat Devaney, Trustee



Mr. Jeremy Hunt, Trustee

DATE: 2/27/2023

THIS IS A FINAL AND APPEALABLE DECISION. THIS DECISION CAN BE REVIEWED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT BY FILING A COMPLAINT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW WITHIN 35 DAYS FROM THE DATE THAT A COPY OF THIS DECISION WAS SERVED UPON THE PARTY AFFECTED THEREBY.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
CHAMPAIGN FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION FUND**


**IN THE MATTER OF THE)
DISABILITY APPLICATION OF:)
ENGINEER MARK DOERFLER,)
APPLICANT.)**

CERTIFICATE OF PAYMENT

Pursuant to §4-125 and §4-110 of the Illinois Pension Code, 40 ILCS 5/4-101 et seq., this certifies Applicant, Engineer Mark Doerfler, is entitled to payment of a Line-of-Duty Disability Pension Benefit equal to 65% of the salary attached to the rank held by him at the time of his removal from the municipality's payroll, less any and all applicable offsets. The effective date of Applicant's line-of-duty disability pension benefit, subject to applicable offsets, is granted retroactive to November 23, 2022. The salary attached to the rank held by Applicant at the date of suspension of duty or retirement is \$94,463.48.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
CHAMPAIGN FIREFIGHTERS'
PENSION FUND**

By: 
PRESIDENT


SECRETARY

DATE: 2/27/2023

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Richard J. Reimer, being first duly sworn under oath, states that he served a copy of the enclosed Decision and Order and Certificate of Payment on the person named below by depositing same this 2nd day of MARCH, 2023, in the U.S. mailbox at 15 Spinning Wheel Road, Hinsdale, Illinois, properly posted for:

(X) PRIORITY MAIL SIGNATURE CONFIRMATION (X) FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO: Engineer Mark Doerfler
 28W126 Galusha Ave.
 Warrenville, Illinois 60555

(By Priority Mail, Signature Confirmation)

Stephen P. Kelly, Esq.
Stephen P. Kelly, Attorney at Law, LLC
2710 North Knoxville Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61604

(By First Class Mail)



SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN
to before me this 2nd day
of MARCH, 2023.



NOTARY PUBLIC

