

# Working with your Plan Sponsor



By Kolby Beckham

# TLFFRA Board Design

Under the TLFFRA statute (Section 19), each board of trustees must have seven members:

- The chief operating officer (e.g., the mayor or board president) of the plan sponsor, or their appointee
- The chief financial officer of the plan sponsor, or his/her appointee
- Three members of the retirement system, elected by the members
- Two public trustees, who can be neither members of the plan nor officers or employees of the plan sponsor, elected by a majority of the city and plan trustees

# Plan Sponsor positions on the Board

- Plan Sponsor representatives are tasked with multiple duties as a member of the Board.
- They are there to represent the Plan Sponsor
- They have a Fiduciary duty to uphold
- The two plan Sponsors positions should not only attend the meetings to represent the City, but to also serve as a liaison to the City management on the health and needs of the Fund.
- City representatives can help you get in the door with the City Manager or Budget Boards.

# Cities Budgeting processes

- Most cities start their budget process as early as February or March (for Sept 30 end of year).
- Most Cities will need to know the needs of the Pension Plan as early as possible to account for needs in the upcoming budget year/years.
- Pension needs should not be a surprise to the City.
- Try to establish a consistent line of communication with your City leaders, Mayor and Council members.

# Partners

- Pension plans and Sponsors are partners in this process.
- Neither side should be expected to “fix” the problem alone.
- Educate your City on the history of your Fund. Both the good and the bad.
- Avoid laying blame to one party or another. Usually both sides have contributed to the path that has landed you here.
- Leave the past problems in the past. Focus on what needs to be done to fix the issues moving forward. “Mend Fences”
- Document meetings and ideas to reference in the future.

# Transitions

- If your Board Chairman or City Manager are leaving their positions, try to introduce them to the people you have been working with. Educate them on what plans have been laid and share the notes from those meetings.
- Keep the working relationships moving forward.

# Contact Information

Kolby Beckham

Longview Firemen's Relief & Retirement Fund

TLFFRA Education Foundation

TEXPERS Board Member

Cell 903-738-7545

Email [Kbeckham@longviewtexas.gov](mailto:Kbeckham@longviewtexas.gov) or [TLFFRAconference@gmail.com](mailto:TLFFRAconference@gmail.com)