



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 1/18/2022

Consent Agenda

Department: Emergency Services

Presenter(s): Taylor Jones, Emergency Services

Contact(s): Taylor Jones, Emergency Services

Subject: Appointments to Swannanoa Fire Department Fire Relief Fund Board

Brief Summary:

The Firefighters' Relief Fund is found in N.C.G.S. 58-84-35 and is funded via a gross premium assessment paid by all North Carolina licensed insurance companies. This assessment is allocated across functions, which includes 20% for relief funds. Each fire department, if a member of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, should have a relief fund and accordingly a board of trustees. The board of trustees shall have entire control of the funds derived from the provisions of this Article, and shall disburse the funds only for the purposes as defined in this Article to provide assistance and protection to firefighters.

The members of this board are elected in multiple ways, including that the City or County Commissioners must appoint two for each fire department in its district. In accordance with statute, the local government appointed trustee must reside in the fire district. Due to a change in residency for the current local government appointee trustee, Doug Morrow, the Swannanoa Fire Department has submitted a recommendation to now appoint Larry Pierson as the local government appointed trustee. Larry Pierson is a current trustee but serves as an appointee of the department (no residency requirement). If his new position appointment is approved by the County Commission, the department appointed place will be vacant and then be occupied by Doug Morrow.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

1. Appoint the following person to the Swannanoa Fire Department Fire Relief Board of Trustees as the local governing body appointee:
 - a. Larry Pierson

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: County Manager recommends appointment