



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE
MARCH 16, 2023**

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in Conference Room 170, 20 E. Main Street, 1st Floor, March 16, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen, Chair
Chris Brady, City Manager
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)*
Stephen Lentz (Police)
Ryan A. Russell (Police)
Jenny Sheppard (Citizen Member)
David Silides (Fire)

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Holly Moseley, City Clerk
Vanessa Liristis, Sr. Program Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lisa Angiano
Nicole Fazzio
Melissa Green
Dale Hicks
Cynthia Kelley
Patrick Kreuzer (Applicant)
Erin Pierce
Tina Rogers
Jeffrey Silva (Applicant)
Danna Taylor (Applicant)

(* Participated telephonically.)

Chairperson Mickelsen excused Boardmember Sheppard from the beginning of the meeting. She arrived at 11:06 a.m.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of February 16, 2022.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of February 16, 2022 be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Lentz-Russell-Silides
NAYS - None
ABSENT – Sheppard
ABSTAIN - Mickelsen

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present and voting.

FIRE PENSION BOARD

(The Local Fire Pension Board recessed at 11:01 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 11:17 a.m.)

2. Discuss and take action on the Temporary Disability Retirement application of Firefighter Danna Taylor.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Firefighter Danna Taylor to the meeting. She stated that the members of the Local Board have reviewed Ms. Taylor's application and medical records. She encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Ms. Taylor's pending Temporary Disability Retirement application.

It was moved by Boardmember Silides, seconded by Boardmember Brady, that Temporary Disability Retirement applicant Firefighter Danna Taylor be sent for an Independent Medical Evaluation with additional questions posed by the Local Board.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Mickelsen-Sheppard-Silides

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

(The Local Police Pension Board recessed at 11:19 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 11:30 a.m.)

3. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Patrick Kreuzer.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Police Officer Patrick Kreuzer to the meeting. She advised that the Local Board reviewed the independent medical evaluation of Dr. Lisa Jones who indicated that Officer Kreuzer left the military on a partial disability status. She stated that the Local Board needs medical records on his military disability and an explanation from the military stating what the disability benefit is for. She added that the Local Board is required to verify that Officer Kreuzer is not receiving a military disability benefit for the same condition that he is applying for.

Boardmember Russell advised that an approval today would likely result in a rehearing being required by PSPRS to clarify the military disability benefit.

Chairperson Mickelsen indicated that in view of the absence of further questions from the Board, she would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Patrick Kreuzer be continued until military disability medical and benefit records are received by the Local Board.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Lentz-Mickelsen-Russell-Sheppard

NAYS - None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Jeffrey Silva.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Police Officer Jeffrey Silva to the meeting. She stated that the members of the Local Board have reviewed Officer Silva's application and medical records. She encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Silva's pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

In response to questions from Boardmember Russell, Officer Silva stated that he was under investigation from an incident that occurred in December of 2021 and he separated from employment in January 2022 (1/13/2022) after discussions with his family. He said he applied for Accidental Disability Retirement almost a full year after his separation from employment (1/12/2023). He advised that his reason for separation was to avoid further exposure to the allegations and damage to his reputation.

Boardmembers Brady, Lentz, Mickelsen, and Russell all advised Officer Silva that by law the Local Board cannot approve an application for Accidental Disability Retirement if the applicant's reason for separation from employment was not due to disability.

Chairperson Mickelsen indicated that in view of the absence of further questions from the Board, she would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Jeffrey Silva be denied due to Officer Silva's reason for separation not being due to his claimed disability.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Lentz-Mickelsen-Russell-Sheppard

NAYS - None

ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Police Pension Board meeting of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 16th day of March 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK