



CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE
JUNE 20, 2024

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, June 20, 2024 at 11:02 a.m.

Table with 3 columns: MEMBERS PRESENT, MEMBERS ABSENT, STAFF PRESENT. Lists names and roles of attendees and staff.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of May 29, 2024.

It was moved by Boardmember Sheppard, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of May 29, 2024 be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those voting.

FIRE PENSION BOARD

2. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Firefighter Michael Lee.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Firefighter Michael Lee to the meeting. She encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Mr. Lee's pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Lee stated that his injury is related to cumulative calls, not one specific call.

(The Local Fire Pension Board recessed at 11:04 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 11:34 a.m.)

Discussion ensued relative to the fitness for duty evaluation conducted by Dr. Kirkorsky at the request of Human Resources, including comments made by the doctor which indicated he was not provided sufficient valid or credible evidence to determine that Mr. Lee could perform the duties required of a Firefighter, and that more medical and disciplinary records are needed. Boardmembers requested that Mr. Lee provide a timeline of his injury and treatment, including calls and events causing his condition.

Boardmember Brady expressed concern regarding an increase in applications related to this type of condition coming before the Board. He stated that repeated exposure to traumatic events is expected in a public safety position due to the nature of the position, and this program was intended for those who are disabled due to being exposed to significant, extraordinary events, not as a way to escape discipline. He advised that he will not support applications associated with pending discipline or performance issues.

Mr. Lee responded that he was not undergoing discipline at the time of his application, that the fitness for duty evaluation which states he cannot perform the duties of a Firefighter was triggered by Human Resources. He voiced that he did not intend to medically retire, and that he would be willing to continue treatment while working in records or as a 12-hour shift EMT.

Boardmember Brady stated that he would work with the Fire Department to get Mr. Lee back to work as a 12-hour shift EMT.

It was moved by Boardmember Silides, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Firefighter Michael Lee be tabled.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Mickelsen-Sheppard-Silides

NAYS - None

ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

3. Conduct a rehearing to discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Fire Captain Christopher Love.

Chairperson Mickelsen advised the Local Board that Fire Captain Christopher Love is not in attendance. She stated that Mr. Love did not sign a waiver allowing the Board to discuss his medical condition in an open public meeting, so all discussion of his medical condition was discussed in executive session. She encouraged the Board to discuss anything not related to his medical condition or to make a motion.

Boardmember Castaneda commented that although more records were received there is still some confusion and a lack of a long-term treatment plan. He requested that Human Resources provide all documents related to all discipline, that was considered or implemented, to the Board as allowed by statute. He concluded that with the addition of all documents related to discipline and a timeline of treatment and discipline, the Board could send Mr. Love for an IME.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Brady, that Accidental Disability Retirement applicant, Fire Captain Christopher Love, be sent for an Independent Medical Evaluation with all existing and requested records.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Mickelsen-Sheppard
NAYS - Silides
ABSENT - None

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried by majority vote.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Chairperson Mickelsen advised that Boardmembers Lentz, Sheppard, and Silides have all reached the end of their terms on the Board. She thanked them all for their service to the Board and said they will be missed.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

(The Local Police Pension Board recessed at 11:35 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 11:42 a.m.)

4. Certification of full-time Law Enforcement Officers pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-842.24(A), 38-842.27, 38-842.31 and 38-847(D)1.

Subsequent to a review of all medical reports, Local Boardmembers requested the record reflect that applicants Cornelius Banks, Ashley Bounsana, Kyle Burk, Porter Davis, Natasha Erickson Carr, Kyle Fleming, Noah Fraser, Aidan Moser, Tyler Muller, Walker Oliver, and Hunter Stanley have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that Law Enforcement applicants Cornelius Banks, Ashley Bounsana, Kyle Burk, Porter Davis, Natasha Erickson Carr, Kyle Fleming, Noah Fraser, Aidan Moser, Tyler Muller, Walker Oliver, and Hunter Stanley be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Lentz-Mickelsen-Russell-Sheppard
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

5. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of retired Police Officer Anthony Lupo.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed retired Police Officer Anthony Lupo to the meeting. She encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Lupo's pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

Discussion ensued relative to Officer Lupo's duty-related injury, ongoing treatments, and permanency.

Boardmember Russell commented that to his knowledge the Mesa Local Board has not addressed this type of injury before and would like to ask a physician additional questions regarding how any further trauma could affect Officer Lupo's condition.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that Accidental Disability Retirement applicant, retired Police Officer Anthony Lupo, be sent for an Independent Medical Evaluation with supplementary questions.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Lentz-Mickelsen-Russell-Sheppard
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 12:12 p.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 20th day of June 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK