



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE
FEBRUARY 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, February 16, 2023 at 11:05 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen, Chair

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayra Araujo
Eric Butler (Applicant)
Marisa Butler
Jennifer Cooper
Nicole Fazzio
Scott Figgins
Chris Hayes
Nitra Hawkins
Dave Hicks
Cynthia Kelley
Jared Organ (Applicant)
Katie Organ
Teri Overbey
Erin Pierce
Tina Rogers
Danna Taylor (Applicant)
Richard Taylor
Christy Trevino

(* Participated telephonically.)

Acting Chairperson Sheppard excused Chairperson Mickelsen from the meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of December 15, 2022.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Brady, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of December 15, 2022 be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Lentz-Russell-Sheppard

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

ABSTAIN – Castaneda-Silides

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

2. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of January 19, 2023.

It was moved by Boardmember Brady, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of January 19, 2023 be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Lentz-Sheppard-Silides

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

ABSTAIN – Russell

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

FIRE PENSION BOARD

(The Local Fire Pension Board recessed at 11:13 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 11:32 a.m.)

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

Acting Chairperson Sheppard welcomed Firefighter Danna Taylor to the meeting. She encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Ms. Taylor's pending Temporary Disability Retirement application.

Boardmember Castaneda thanked Ms. Taylor for providing some additional documentation, including a screenshot of her VA (Veteran's) compensation, but advised Ms. Taylor that the Local Board needs a complete medical history of the claimed disability to provide to the IME physician in order for the physician to complete an IME.

Boardmember Silides advised Ms. Taylor that the screenshot of VA compensation provided has no name and does not include complete information.

Boardmember Castaneda agreed that the document should be complete and include her name.

In response to questions from the applicant, Local Board Attorney Cynthia Kelley explained that although decisions on Temporary Disability Retirement applications are not affected if an applicant receives a VA compensation, pre-existing conditions shown in documentation of VA compensation do affect decisions. She added that the screenshot of VA compensation provided

to the Local Board shows a service-connected injury; therefore, the veteran's compensation documentation is part of the medical records related to her claimed disability. The Local Board needs a complete medical history of that service-oriented injury.

Boardmember Brady indicated that he does not see a complete sequence of events or history for the claimed disability and stated that the Local Board must consider the entire history to determine if there are pre-existing conditions. He advised Ms. Taylor that the Local Board will be asking the IME about injuries prior to her membership in PSPRS.

Boardmember Castaneda explained that there are dates of injuries and surgeries related to the disabling condition mentioned in the records provided to the Local Board, such as 2019, 2012, and 2006, but no coordinating documentation was provided for those dates. He asked Ms. Taylor if another month would allow her to provide those records and asked City Clerk staff to send her dates of the missing records through email by the end of the week.

Ms. Taylor responded that she had no injuries or surgeries in 2006 relating to her claimed disability and stated that she believes there is an error in the records previously provided to the Local Board. She agreed to review the dates of missing records that will be provided by City Clerk's staff and provide records accordingly.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Silides, that the Temporary Disability Retirement application of Firefighter Danna Taylor be continued until the next Local Board meeting to allow Ms. Taylor to obtain additional records.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Acting Chairperson Sheppard declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

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 Alfonso Alcaraz, Justin Alvarez, Fernando Barraza, Jake Hestand, Devon Meredith, Coty Mikita, Timoteo Polanco II, and Jose Vera have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that Law Enforcement applicants Alfonso Alcaraz, Justin Alvarez, Fernando Barraza, Jake Hestand, Devon Meredith, Coty Mikita, Timoteo Polanco II, and Jose Vera be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Acting Chairperson Sheppard declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Eric Butler.

Acting Chairperson Sheppard welcomed Police Officer Eric Butler to the meeting. She encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Butler's pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

Boardmember Russell stated that the Local Board has reviewed the IME reports of Lisa Jones, M.D. and Glenn Clouse, Psy. D. He indicated that while Dr. Jones and Dr. Clouse disagree with each other regarding whether the condition permanently prevents Officer Butler from performing a reasonable range of duties, the Local Board must rely on Dr. Jones' evaluation to be in accordance with statute requirements. He noted that Dr. Jones is in agreement with the findings of Officer Butler's attending physician, that Officer Butler's condition was incurred in the performance of his duty, that his condition totally and permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties within his job classification, and that any conflicts in the medical evidence have been resolved by the Local Board.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Eric Butler be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Lentz-Russell-Sheppard

NAYS - None

ABSENT - Mickelsen

Acting Chairperson Sheppard declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Boardmember Russell thanked Police Officer Eric Butler for his service to the City.

6. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Jared Organ.

Acting Chairperson Sheppard welcomed Police Officer Jared Organ to the meeting. She encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Organ's pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

Boardmember Russell stated that the Local Board has reviewed the independent medical evaluations of Dr. Lisa Jones and Glenn Clouse. He indicated that both agree with the findings of Officer Organ's attending physician, that Officer Organ's condition was incurred in the performance of his duty, and that his condition totally and permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties within his job classification.

Acting Chairperson Sheppard 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 Jared Organ be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Lentz-Russell-Sheppard

NAYS - None

ABSENT - Mickelsen

Acting Chairperson Sheppard declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Boardmember Russell thanked Police Officer Jared Organ for his service to the City.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 11:12 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 February 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK