



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE
OCTOBER 17, 2024**

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in the upper-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, October 17, 2024, at 11:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen, Chair
Chris Brady, City Manager
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)
Chris Fifield (Fire)
Marc Heirshberg (Citizen Member)
Nick Lien (Police)
Ryan A. Russell (Police)

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Felicia Aguirre
Sierra Aulik
Julie Butler
Jessica Campbell
Trevyn Crosser
Yolanda Fierros
Scott Figgins
Melissa Green
Nitra Hawkins
Kelli Holder
Dave Hicks
Cynthia Kelley
Jamie Klimke
Steven Klimke (Applicant)
Michael Lee (Applicant)
Brett Oberly (Applicant)
Teri Overbey
Crystal Parks
Tina Rogers

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of September 19, 2024.

It was moved by Boardmember Heirshberg, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of September 19, 2024 be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Lien-Mickelsen-Russell
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

2. Consider the appointments of Robert H. Gross, M.D., James S. Hawkins, M.D., KJ Hippensteel, M.D., David M. Ott, M.D., and Michael A. Wilmlink, M.D. as Local Board Physicians in accordance with A.R.S. §38-859(B).

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Russell, that the appointments of Robert H. Gross, M.D., James S. Hawkins, M.D., KJ Hippensteel, M.D., David M. Ott, M.D., and Michael A. Wilmlink, M.D. as Local Board Physicians in accordance with A.R.S. §38-859(B) be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Lien-Mickelsen-Russell
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

The following items on the agenda were discussed out of order, but for the purpose of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.

FIRE PENSION BOARD

3. Discuss and take action on the re-hire of retired PSPRS member Daniel Grindle to Fire Inspector Trainee.

Human Resources Director Teri Overbey stated that Daniel Grindle retired as a Firefighter effective February 1, 2024, and recently competed in an open, competitive recruitment process for the civilian, non-supervisory, non-PSPRS, position of Fire Inspector Trainee. She advised that Mr. Grindle was selected to fill the part-time, non-benefited, Fire Inspector Trainee position.

It was moved by Boardmember Fifield, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the re-hire of retired PSPRS member Daniel Grindle, to Fire Inspector Trainee, with an effective date to be determined, be approved as within the statutory requirements and that no alternate contribution will need to be paid.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Mickelsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Fire Captain Steven Klimke.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Fire Captain Steven Klimke to the meeting. She encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Mr. Klimke's pending Accidental Disability Retirement application. She commented that the medical records provided indicate permanent work restrictions.

Boardmember Castaneda indicated that the medical records and timeline provided to the Local Board for review sufficiently documented Mr. Klimke's injuries and subsequent treatments.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, that Accidental Disability Retirement applicant, Fire Captain Steven Klimke, be sent for an Independent Medical Evaluation.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Mickelsen

NAYS - None

ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

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

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Firefighter Michael Lee to the meeting. She stated that the Local Board has reviewed the IME of Dr. Joel Parker. She encouraged the members to discuss and pose any questions they may have regarding the IME report.

Boardmembers advised that the IME report indicates that Mr. Lee does suffer from the claimed disability, that his condition permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties of a Firefighter, that his condition was incurred while performing his duties as a Firefighter, and that there are no pre-existing conditions that contributed to the claimed disability. The IME report also stated that there are limited conflicts in the medical evidence, primarily based on a lack of information at the time of the fitness-for-duty evaluation performed by Dr. Kirkorsky. However, the Local Board considers all conflict resolved by Dr. Parker who stated in the IME report that it is not a substantial conflict and because Dr. Parker was able to make a determination based on the medical records provided.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Mickelsen

NAYS - Brady

ABSENT – None

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried by majority vote.

Boardmembers thanked Mr. Lee for his service to the City.

(The Local Fire Pension Board recessed at 11:12 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 11:25 a.m.)

6. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Fire Engineer Brett Oberly.

Chairperson Mickelsen stated that the Local Board has reviewed the medical records provided to the Local Board for Mr. Oberly's claimed disabilities which indicate that they are considered non-stationary and non-permanent at this time.

Boardmember Brady advised that due to the medical records indicating no permanent condition or injury, the Local Board is unable to move forward with Mr. Oberly's Accidental Disability Retirement application.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Fire Engineer Brett Oberly be denied.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brady-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Mickelsen

NAYS - None

ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

7. Discuss and take action on the re-hire of retired PSPRS member Christopher Riemersma to Time and Labor Specialist I.

Human Resources Director Teri Overbey stated that Christopher Riemersma retired as a Police Officer effective 08/01/2024. He recently competed in an open, competitive recruitment process for the civilian, non-supervisory, non-PSPRS, position of Time and Labor Specialist I.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that the re-hire of retired PSPRS member Christopher Riemersma to Time and Labor Specialist I, with an effective date to be determined, be approved as within the statutory requirements and that no alternate contribution will need to be paid.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Brady-Heirshberg-Lien-Mickelsen-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT - None

Carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 11:04 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 17th day of October 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK