



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
FIRE & POLICE LOCAL BOARD OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS)
JOINT REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Thursday, August 17, 2023

North Corporation Yard
Anasazi Conference Room
9191 E San Salvador Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

PRESENT: Hugo Meraz, Chairperson/Mayoral Designee
Monica Boyd, Citizen Member/Merit Head
Ken Strobeck, Citizen Member
Rodger Paliwoda, Elected Member
Matt Heeren, Elected Member
Steve Springborn, Elected Member
Todd Cavner, Elected Member

STAFF: Autumn Asmus, PSPRS Local Board Secretary
Darlene Ganger, Senior HR Benefits Analyst

GUESTS: Cindy Kelley, PSPRS Local Board Attorney

Call to Order

Chair Meraz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Possible Executive Session

1. Approval of Minutes (Joint)
 - a. Regular Meeting: March 19, 2020

BOARD MEMBER CAVNER MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 19, 2020, PSPRS POLICE AND FIRE JOINT LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER PALIWODA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, PALIWODA, HEEREN, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Discussion regarding IME Dr. Joel Parker

Discussion ensued regarding the use of Dr. Joel Parker as an IME. Board Member Springborn talked about the Board's recent experience with Dr. Parker as an IME for a PTSD diagnosis. He felt that the doctor did not provide appropriate information and based his recommendation on the notes of the previous IME and that the Board should eliminate Dr. Parker from their IME list. He noted that during the recent PTSD presentation, the presenter spontaneously brought up Dr. Parker and noted that he is known for denying PTSD workers comp claims. Ms. Ganger explained that she has the ability to request specific doctors when she is setting up an IME, but there is a limited number of doctors available and scheduling is dependent upon their availability. Board Members felt that Dr. Parker provided the information that he was requested to provide during the one examination that he has performed for the PSPRS Fire Board. They were opposed to eliminating him from the list of IME doctors based on the one experience they have had and felt that unsolicited comments from another source should not be considered at this time. Board Members debated the issue and Board Member Springborn called for a consensus count on the idea of eliminating Dr. Parker from the list at this time. Board Members Springborn and Cavner agreed with eliminating Dr. Parker from the list. Chair Meraz, Board Members Boyd, Strobeck, Paliwoda, and Heeren felt Dr. Parker is a qualified licensed physician and should be retained as a Board IME doctor at this time.

3. Discussion and possible action on Board Counsel Cindy Kelley's memo to the Board regarding Board member elections

BOARD MEMBER CAVNER MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. BOARD MEMBER PALIWODA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, PALIWODA, HEEREN, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD FROM 9:34 A.M. TO 9:47 A.M.

4. Discussion and possible action on Board Attorney Cindy Kelley's letter and move to new law firm beginning October 1, 2023

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING BOARD ATTORNEY CINDY KELLEY'S EXISTING CONTRACT TO HER NEW FIRM BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7)

TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, PALIWODA, HEEREN, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Discussion and action regarding the Board Secretary's attendance at a City sponsored program held on Thursdays, beginning September 7th through November 9th from 8:00 a.m. until noon. If accepted to attend this will impact the Board on 9/21 & 10/19. The Board may vote to move those two meeting dates to another day of the week or to 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. on those dates. The Board also has the option to appoint a Board member to act as secretary for those two meetings and keep the meetings as scheduled.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED THAT IF THE BOARD SECRETARY IS ACCEPTED INTO A CITY SPONSORED PROGRAM HELD ON THURSDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER 7TH THROUGH NOVEMBER 9TH, 2023 FROM 8:00 A.M. UNTIL NOON, THAT THE BOARD MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 AND OCTOBER 19, 2023 BE SCHEDULED ON THE AFTERNOON OF THOSE DATES. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, PALIWODA, HEEREN, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

6. Suggestions for upcoming agenda items

Chair Meraz suggested that as a follow-up to the PTSD presentation the Board recently received, it might be beneficial for the Board to invite an IME practitioner to give a presentation about what things they consider when evaluating someone with PTSD.

Commissioner Heeren asked for clarification regarding what type of communication Board Members are allowed to have with applicants. Discussion ensued regarding directing applicants to either the Board secretary or an outside counsel for questions pertaining to specifics of their application. It was noted that during the PSPRS training session, it is outlined that elected Board Member responsibilities include provide members with basic guidance during the application process. Ms. Kelley noted that guidance should be limited and if a line is crossed, the Board Member should recuse themselves from voting on the item.

Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, PALIWODA, HEEREN, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

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