



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
FIRE LOCAL BOARD OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS)**

MINUTES

Thursday, September 21, 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 (MS Teams; left at 2:00 p.m.)
Ken Strobeck, Citizen Member
Steve Springborn, Elected Member
Todd Cavner, Elected Member (telephonic)

STAFF: Autumn Asmus, PSPRS Local Board Secretary
Lynna Soller

GUESTS: Cindy Kelley, PSPRS Local Board Attorney
Clinton Ewing
Chad Hopkins

Call to Order

Chair Meraz called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.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
 - a. Regular Meeting: August 17, 2023

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 17, 2023, PSPRS FIRE LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Discussion and vote on the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Firefighter Cason Coyle

Ms. Asmus noted that Firefighter Cason Coyle is retiring with 18.248 years of service. His monthly benefit is \$3,316.31. His IME was sent out on September 7, 2023. He retired on September 9, 2023. All of his paperwork is in order.

Board Member Springborn referenced the physician's notation about a conflict in the medical evidence, noting that the indication referred to a reluctance to taking any psychiatric medications. Board Member Springborn commented that it is in Firefighter Coyle's nature to abstain from taking medications.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION FOR FIREFIGHTER CASON COYLE. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Board Members reviewed and agreed upon answers to questions on the P5-PBA form.

3. Discussion and vote on the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Firefighter Clinton Ewing

Firefighter Ewing read aloud a prepared statement, which is attached to these minutes.

Chair Meraz acknowledged Firefighter Ewing's frustrations with the Fire Department and Human Resources, noting that once the case reached the Fire Local Board, the process moved as quickly as possible.

Ms. Asmus noted that Firefighter Ewing is retiring with 5.977 years of service. His monthly benefit will be \$3,041.27. His IME was sent out on September 7, 2023. He will retire on September 29, 2023. All of his paperwork is in order.

Board Member Springborn thanked Firefighter Ewing for his strength in standing up to express concerns about how things were handled within the department. Board Member Boyd said that she will look into whether there could be an opportunity within the Human Resources department to make improvements in the communication process.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION FOR FIREFIGHTER CLINTON EWING. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Board Members reviewed and agreed upon answers to questions on the P5-PBA form.

4. Discussion and vote on the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Firefighter Toru Kawana

Board Member Springborn commented that he had previously opposed the issuance of an IME based on injury reports that did not include an elbow injury. The Board has since received additional information from the City risk department indicating the injury was to both the elbow and back. He asked that the IME doctor be instructed to focus on both injuries in his evaluation.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION THROUGH ONE OF THE BOARD'S CONTRACTED MEDICAL PROVIDERS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEDICAL SPECIALIST TO SERVE AS THE MEDICAL BOARD FOR THE ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION OF FIREFIGHTER TORU KAWANA. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Induction of new City of Scottsdale Firefighters into PSPRS, if any

BOARD MEMBER STROBECK MOVED TO APPROVE THE INDUCTION OF NEW SCOTTSDALE FIREFIGHTERS TRAVIS DAWSON, TYLER HALVORSEN, MICHAEL HEAGNEY, AND APRIL JESSUP, WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF AUGUST 28, 2023. SAMUEL HENNING, AND DYLAN KWIATKOWSKI WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2023. EACH WILL BE INDUCTED WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS, IF ANY, AS NOTED ON THE LISTING THAT IS INCLUDED WITH THE BOARD PACKET. BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Board Member Springborn noted that he was verbally authorized to sign forms for Board Member Cavner, in his absence.

6. Report to the Board on recently completed service transfers, if any

There were no recently completed service transfers.

7. Board suggestions for upcoming agenda items

Board Member Strobeck announced his resignation from the Board.

Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER STROBECK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS STROBECK, BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. BOARD MEMBER BOYD WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.