



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

Thursday, April 11, 2024

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
Todd Cavner, Elected Member
Steve Springborn, Elected Member

ABSENT: Robert Leavitt, Citizen Member/Mayoral Designee

STAFF: Darlene Granger, Sr. HR Benefits Analyst

GUESTS: Cindy Kelley, PSPRS Local Board Attorney
Eric Salgado, Fire Engineer

Call to Order

Chair Meraz called the meeting to order at 9:31 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
 - a. Regular Meeting: February 15, 2024

BOARD MEMBER CAVNER MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 15, 2024, PSPRS FIRE LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER BOYD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. CITIZEN MEMBER LEAVITT WAS ABSENT.

2. Discussion and possible action on the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Fire Engineer Eric Salgado

Fire Engineer Eric Salgado reviewed the timeline of his diagnosis. He noted that he was diagnosed with occupational cancer in July 2023, had surgery in September 2023, enacted the Craig Tiger Act in October 2023. Psychological PTSD symptoms increased in January 2024, and at that time, it was determined that his behavioral health/PTSD diagnosis should be combined with the cancer claim into a single worker's comp claim.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. CITIZEN MEMBER LEAVITT WAS ABSENT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD FROM 9:37 A.M. TO 10:02 A.M.

Fire Engineer Salgado was offered an opportunity to provide any additional comments. He stated he had nothing further to add at this time but was willing to answer any questions.

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 FIRE ENGINEER ERIC SALGADO. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. CITIZEN MEMBER LEAVITT WAS ABSENT.

3. Discussion and possible action on the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Fire Captain Robert Welsh

Chair Meraz said that Captain Welsh took advantage of the opportunity to provide additional documentation and did provide a timeline of his treatment. Discussion ensued and it was noted that Captain Welsh is currently separated under normal retirement and has asked to amend his retirement to accidental retirement. It was mentioned that Captain Welsh went back to the Center of Excellence from May to June of 2023, tried returning to work, and then retired in July of 2023. Board Member Cavnier talked briefly about changes he has seen in Captain Welsh over the past couple of years and provided examples of how he has become withdrawn. Board Members talked about the lack of mental healthcare for firefighters in the past and the habit of older firefighters to handle emotional health on their own without professional care.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF A 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 FIRE CAPTAIN ROBERT WELSH. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. CITIZEN MEMBER LEAVITT WAS ABSENT.

4. Discussion and take action regarding moving monthly meetings from two separate meetings to one joint meeting

Board Member Springborn said that the intent is for the PSPRS Police and Fire meetings to remain as two separate meetings, but both with a 9:00 a.m. start time, taking the shortest agenda first and the second meeting to be called to order immediately after the first. Further discussion clarified that both meeting agendas would offer an opportunity for a joint meeting if needed.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO PERMANENTLY SCHEDULE BOTH THE PSPRS BOARD MEETINGS FOR A 9:00 A.M. START TIME WITH THE INTENTION OF HOLDING THE MEETING WITH FEWER AGENDA ITEMS FIRST, AND INCLUDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A JOINT MEETING ON EACH AGENDA. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. CITIZEN MEMBER LEAVITT WAS ABSENT.

5. Induction of new City of Scottsdale Firefighters into PSPRS

There were no new inductees.

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 Cavner reiterated his suggestion that a recap of the PTSD presentation be scheduled. He said the presenter is available in June and July.

Discussion ensued about the rising cost of IMEs. Ms. Granger said that IMEs have gone up to anywhere from \$4,000 to \$8,000 since the pandemic and that the number of IME doctors appears to have shrunk since COVID. It was noted that the use of an IME is required by statute. Board Members requested to have financial updates as a regular monthly agenda item.

Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. CITIZEN MEMBER LEAVITT WAS ABSENT. CITIZEN MEMBER LEAVITT WAS ABSENT.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

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