

**ARIZONA FIRE & MEDICAL AUTHORITY  
LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, October 24, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS / AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Board Chairman Gueltzow called the meeting to order on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 09:00 a.m. at the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority Administrative Office, 18818 N. Spanish Garden Drive, Sun City West, Arizona. The meeting was held in person and telephonically.

Members Present: Board Chairman Karen Gueltzow, Board Members Diane Price, Sharon Hettick, Shawn Holcomb and Jared Randall (via teleconference).

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Human Resources Director Shauna Fisher, Human Resources Specialist Yvonne Lopez.

Legal Counsel: Nicolas J. Cornelius, Esq. (via teleconference).

Guests: Grace Nolan, Bill Klein (in person), Andrew Craker, (via teleconference).

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A.** Approve Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Local Board Public Session Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2022.

**Board Member Price moved that the Local Board approve the minutes of the Pension Board Meeting of August 15, 2022. Board Member Holcomb seconded the motion.**

No further discussion. Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**AYES:** Gueltzow, Hettick, Holcomb, Price, Randall,

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

4. **CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARIES AND REPORTS**

- A. Secretary updates – reports any updates, actions, confirmations, or correspondences in which the board should be aware.

The Board Secretary stated for the record, notification of meeting was given within the required time to Shane Mackelprang and Andrew Craker. The Board Secretary also stated that the agenda packet sent to Mr. Craker only included the agenda, but not a copy of his independent medical review results. Nicolas J. Cornelius, Esq, attorney, asked Mr. Craker if he had any objection to the Board proceeding on his matter today. Mr. Craker did not have any objections. He stated he had received it in enough time for him to review.

The Board Secretary also stated that the request that was made at the last meeting for an overview of Arizona Fire & Medical Authority’s (AFMA) Resiliency program would be added to the next meeting agenda.

5. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding annual review of previously accepted disability recipients pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-844E.

Board Secretary stated that the AFMA PSPRS Local Board Procedures Section G.2 states that at its discretion, the Local Board may require members receiving accidental or ordinary disability benefits to undergo an annual review to determine whether they are still disabled and qualified for continued disability benefits.

Member Holcomb inquired about receiving a status update on the condition of each disability recipient so the Board can make informed decisions.

Attorney Nicolas J. Cornelius, Esq stated that the Local Board can request members sign a HIPAA Release so that AFMA can request a status from each member’s medical provider. If there is a change in status, then an IME may be requested.

Board Member Hettick stated that it would be beneficial to the Board to have a medical status update at every annual disability review meeting.

**Board Member Hettick moved that the Local Board receive an annual report on each of the disability retirees and to include the HIPAA release if necessary to receive the records. Fire Board Member Price seconded the motion.**

No further discussion. Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Gueltzow, Hettick, Holcomb, Price, Randall  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

- B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding medical examination of and the acceptance of one (1) new firefighter (recruit) with a preexisting condition: Mackelprang, Shane from

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to Firefighter, into the PSPRS pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859.

**Board Member Holcomb moved to approve Tier 3 Firefighter recruit Shane Mackelprang into the PSPRS system WITH preexisting conditions.**

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Gueltzow, Hettick, Holcomb, Price, Randall  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

C. Discussion and Possible Action regarding personnel matters pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1), (2) and/or (3) re: Accidental Disability Application submitted by Andrew Craker.

Mrs. Noland and Mr. Klein were present to offer the Local Board answers to any questions they may have regarding the process of the independent medical examination (IME).

Member Hettick inquired about how the IME consultant determines which medical provider is best suited to take the cases.

Mrs. Nolan, President of PAX Resource Consulting explained that the most available and reliable medical provider is selected. When given the application an extensive selection process is made to find the best suited medical provider, there are criteria that they follow and depending on the condition they may have to recommend or suggest two specialists.

6. **POSSIBLE VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Possible vote to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1); for review of records exempt from public inspection pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(2); and for legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) re: Accidental Disability Application submitted by Andrew Craker pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-844 (E).

**Board Member Price moved that the Local Board move into executive session to review personnel matters pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1); for review of records exempt from public inspection pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(2); and for legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) re: Accidental Disability Application submitted by Andrew Craker pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-844 (E). Board Member Hettick seconded the motion.**

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Gueltzow, Hettick, Holcomb, Price, Randall  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

*The Local Board convened in Executive Session at 9:40 a.m.*

*The Regular Meeting reconvened at 11:03 a.m., with all members present.*

**7. RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

A. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Accidental Disability Retirement Application submitted by Andrew Craker; Independent Medical Examination regarding same; possible decision on the Craker application for accidental disability; possible approval of Board Resolution related to same or instructions to legal counsel and/or staff related to same.

The Board received Mr. Craker’s medical records, treating provider notes and recommendations from licensed forensic psychologist Dr. Dara Rampersad, and the Independent Medical Exam (IME) from licensed forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Parker. The Board Members and Mr. Craker had a discussion related to the documentation and the findings therein.

The Board considered the report from both Dr. Rampersad and Dr. Parker which indicates that in time Mr. Craker will be able to return to work if he complies with the recommendations from medical providers. Board Member Holcomb noted that according to the IME, Mr. Craker’s condition is treatable, and that Mr. Craker has not taken the steps or treatment to help him. Board Member Holcomb and the Board’s concerns included that Mr. Craker has been provided options by his treatment provider but has refused to follow recommendations.

After careful consideration of the IME as the primary medical evidence, and the documentation from documentation from Mr. Craker’s treating psychologist, the Board concluded that Mr. Craker’s application for an accidental disability be denied and instead grant him a temporary disability status with conditions that Mr. Craker seek and continue treatment, follow medical direction, and comply with recommended treatment including but not limited to more intensive treatment options and a quarterly review of his status. The Board agreed to reconvene to determine Mr. Craker’s eligibility for continued disability status in one quarter (three months), and also on an annual basis.

**Board Member Holcomb moved that the Local Board approve a Temporary Disability for Andrew Craker with conditions that Andrew Craker seek and continue treatment, follow medical direction, and comply with recommended treatment including but not limited to more intensive treatment options and a quarterly review of his status. Board Member Hettick seconded the motion.**

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Gueltzow, Hettick, Holcomb, Price, Randall

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

**B.** Discussion and Possible Action regarding the medical examination and the acceptance of one (1) new firefighter (recruit) with a preexisting condition: Mackelprang, Shane, from EMT to Firefighter into the PSPRS pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859.

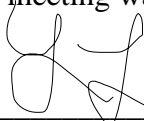
See Item 5B for motion and vote.

8. **SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE PSPRS LOCAL BOARD MEETING AGENDAS**

- A. Discussion and annual review of previously accepted disability pension list with medical status from providers.
- B. Overview of AFMA’s resiliency program.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.



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Yvonne Lopez, Secretary

Approved