

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

Thursday, May 25, 2023

MINUTES

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

Board Member Price called the meeting to order on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 1:00 p.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 (late arrival), Board Members, Sharon Hettick, Diane Price and Jared Randall, Shawn Holcomb (via teleconference).

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Assistant Chief Mary Dalton, Human Resources Director Shauna Fisher, Human Resources Specialist Yvonne Lopez.

Legal Counsel: None

Guests: None

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 March 29, 2023.

Board Member Hettick moved that the Local Board approve the minutes of the Pension Board Meeting of March 29, 2023, after correction is made. Board Member Holcomb seconded the motion.

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

AYES: Holcomb, Price, Hettick, Randall

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Gueltzow

B. Approve Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Local Board Public Executive Session Meeting Minutes of March 29, 2023.

Board Member Holcomb moved that the Local Board approve the Executive Session minutes of the Pension Board Meeting of March 29, 2023. Board Member Hettick seconded the motion.

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

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

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 Dryk Welty, Robert Corcoran and Michael Brown via email, First Class Mail, and certified mail.

- B.** Buckeye Valley Fire District JPA updates – reports any updates, actions, confirmations, or correspondences in which the board should be aware regarding BVFD.

No updates to report.

Member Gueltzow entered the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A.** Enter into record and discuss, the list of participating PSPRS employee membership as of May 08, 2023.

Board Member Gueltzow moved that the Local Board approve the PSPRS employee membership list as of May 8, 2023. Board Member Hettick 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 acceptance of the review of medical examination and the acceptance of one (1) new firefighter (recruit) with a preexisting condition: Brown, Michael from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to Firefighter into the PSPRS pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to Firefighter into the PSPRS pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859.

*The Local Board convened in Executive Session at 1:28 p.m.
The Local Board reconvened into public session at 1:33 p.m.*

Board Member Gueltzow moved that the Local Board accept one (1) new firefighter (recruit) with a preexisting condition: Brown, Michael from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to Firefighter into the PSPRS pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859. Board Member Hettick seconded the motion.

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

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

- C.** Discussion regarding annual review of previously accepted accidental disability recipients pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-844€

The Board Secretary stated that she received authorization from Mr. Corcoran to follow up with his provider to obtain the documentation for continuation of disability. Notice has been sent to the provider. Mr. Welty’s IME is scheduled for June 22, 2023, and will update the board when the IME is completed.

- D.** Discussion and possible action pertaining to the rehiring of City of Tempe retiree, Nicholas Ells and City of Glendale retiree, Ashley Losch.

Shauna Fisher, Human Resources Director stated that the Local Board is required to decide as to whether an alternate contribution rate (ACR) is payable to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) when an employee (who has already retired from PSPRS) is rehired, and if that position is considered a public safety eligible position. She also provided an explanation to the Governing Board on the Arizona State Statutes that govern the ACR determination for rehired retirees.

In response to an inquiry, Ms. Fisher stated that individuals who have already retired from PSPRS and then choose to re-enter the workforce, are entitled to continue to collect their pension benefits from PSPRS (without change) and would be required to participate in a separate state pension system if determined that they qualify to do so. However, if they are rehired into a public safety eligible position, they would stop receiving their pension benefit while employed.

The Local Pension Board reviewed the following facts:

1. Nicholas Ells originally retired on August 1, 2022.
2. Nicholas Ells did not originally retire from the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority but retired from the City of Tempe.
3. Nicholas Ells was rehired by the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority on September 12, 2022.
4. There was not more than 12 months between the retirement date and the rehire date.
5. Nicholas Ells was rehired into a EMS Director position, which is different than his original position of Fire Deputy Chief.

The Local Pension Board reviewed the job description of the EMS Director position and found that this position is not considered a hazardous duty assignment, making it ineligible for membership in the PSPRS.

Board Member Holcomb moved that the Local Board approve the rehire of City of Tempe PSPRS retiree Nicholas Ells into the EMS Director position, as non-hazardous position and therefore not eligible for the ACR. Board Member Hettick seconded the motion.

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

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

The Local Pension Board reviewed the following facts:

1. Ashley Losch originally retired on April 1, 2023.
2. Ashley Losch did not originally retire from the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority but retired from the City of Glendale.
3. Ashley Losch was rehired by the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority on March 27, 2023.
4. There was not more than 12 months between the retirement date and the rehire date.
5. Ashley Losch was rehired into the Marketing Director position, which is different than his original position of Fire Captain.

The Local Pension Board reviewed the job description of the Marketing Director position and found that this position is not considered a hazardous duty assignment, making it ineligible for membership in the PSPRS.

Board Member Price moved that the Local Board approve the rehire of City of Glendale PSPRS retiree Ashley Losch into the Marketing Director position, as non-hazardous position and therefore not eligible for the ACR. Board Member Gueltzow seconded the motion.

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

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

E. Discussion pertaining to the PSPRS Board Elections.

The Board Secretary stated she had a nomination period for the vacant seat of board member Shawn Holcomb and has received 3 nominations thus far. The voting period will run until June 6, 2023. Chair Gueltzow was reappointed by the AFMA board chair. The two seats who are currently up for renewal will go board the next AFMA board for appointment.

6. POSSIBLE VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion and Possible Action regarding annual review of previously accepted accidental disability recipients pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-844€

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). Board Member Holcomb second.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

7. **RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

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

- A. Overview of AFMA’s resiliency program.
- B. Approval of revised actuarial valuation
- C. Merging of BVFD PSPRS Board
- D. PSPRS Updated Membership list to include BVFD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Yvonne Lopez, Secretary