

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

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

MINUTES

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

Board Chairman Gueltzow called the meeting to order on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 2:00 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, Board Members, Diane Price, Sharon Hettick, Jared Randall and Spencer Synder.

Members Absent: None

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

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

Guests: Michael Godleski, Elizabeth Sandoval, Walt Loerzel

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 June 23, 2023.

Board Member Randall moved that the Local Board approve the minutes of the Pension Board Meeting of June 23, 2023. Board Member Price seconded the motion.

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

AYES: Gueltzow, Synder, Price, Randall

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hettick

B. Approve Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Local Board Public Executive Session Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2023.

Board Member Randall moved that the Local Board approve the Executive Session minutes of the Pension Board Meeting of June 23, 2023. Board Member Price

seconded the motion.

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

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

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, Michael Godleski, Elizabeth Sandoval, Walt Loerzel, Henry Lauer, Jennifer Reed, Ethan Stubbs, Manuel Garcia, Christopher Jarvis, and Zachariah Houze 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.

Board Member Hettick entered the meeting at 2:25 pm

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. Enter into record and discuss, the list of participating PSPRS employee membership as of August 27, 2023.

Board Member Price moved that the Local Board approve the minutes of the Pension Board Meeting of May 25, 2023. Board Member Hettick seconded the motion.

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

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

- B. Discussion and possible action regarding acceptance of the review of medical examination and the acceptance of six (6) new firefighter (recruits) with a preexisting condition: Manuel Garcia, Zachariah Houze, Christopher Jarvis, Henry Lauer, Jennifer Reed, and Ethan Stubbs from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to Firefighter into the PSPRS pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859.

Board Member Snyder moved that the Local Board accept six (6) new firefighter (recruits) with a preexisting condition: Manuel Garcia, Zachariah Houze, Christopher Jarvis, Henry Lauer, Jennifer Reed, and Ethan Stubbs from Emergency Medical

Technician (EMT) to Firefighter into the PSPRS pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859. Board Member Price seconded the motion.

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

AYES: Gueltzow, Hettick, Price, Randall, Synder
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. She received medical documentation, but the Dr. did not answer the questions to the letter nor the HEARTFIT for duty form. Welty's IME was completed.

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.

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

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

The Local Board convened in Executive Session at 2:27 p.m.

Michael Godleski, Elizabeth Sandoval, Walt Loerzel exited the meeting.

The Local Board reconvened into public session at 3:26 p.m.

Michael Godleski, Elizabeth Sandoval, Walt Loerzel reentered the meeting.

- D. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the rehire of City of Phoenix retiree, Walt Loerzel, Sun City Fire District Retiree Michael Godleski and Buckeye Valley Fire District Elizabeth Sandoval.

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. Walt Loerzel originally retired in January 2016.
2. Walt Loerzel did not originally retire from the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority but retired from the City of Phoenix.
3. Walt Loerzel was rehired by Buckeye Valley in February 2017 and then Arizona Fire & Medical Authority on July 2023.
4. There was not more than 12 months between the retirement date and the rehire date.
5. Walt Loerzel was rehired into the Battalion Chief position, which is the same as his original position of Battalion Chief.

The Local Pension Board reviewed the job description of the Battalion Chief position and found that this position is considered a hazardous duty assignment, making it eligible for membership in the PSPRS.

Board Member Randall moved that the Local Board approve the rehire of City of Phoenix PSPRS retiree Walt Loerzel into the Battalion Chief position, as hazardous position and therefore eligible for the ACR. Board Member Price seconded the motion.

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

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

The Local Pension Board reviewed the following facts:

1. Michael Godleski originally retired in August 2021.
2. Walt Loerzel did not originally retire from the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority but retired from the City of Phoenix.
3. Walt Loerzel was rehired by Buckeye Valley in August 2021 and then Arizona Fire & Medical Authority on July 2023.
4. There was not more than 12 months between the retirement date and the rehire date.
5. Michael Godleski was rehired into the Wildland Coordinator position, which is the same as his original position of Wildland Coordinator.

The Local Pension Board reviewed the job description of the Wildland Coordinator position and found that this position is considered a hazardous duty assignment, making it eligible for membership in the PSPRS.

Board Member Randall moved that the Local Board approve the rehire of Sun City

Fire District PSPRS retiree Michael Godleski into the Wildland Coordinator position, as hazardous position and therefore eligible for the ACR. Board Member Price seconded the motion.

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

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

The Local Pension Board reviewed the following facts:

1. Elizabeth Sandoval originally retired in October 2019.
2. Elizabeth Sandoval did not originally retire from the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority but retired from the Buckeye Valley Fire District.
3. Elizabeth was rehired by Buckeye Valley in March 2020 and then Arizona Fire & Medical Authority on July 2023.
4. There was more than 12 months between the retirement date and the rehire date.
5. Elizabeth was rehired into the Management Analyst position, which is the same is different from her original position of Firefighter.

The Local Pension Board reviewed the job description of the Management analyst position and found that this position is considered a non-hazardous duty assignment, making it ineligible for membership in the PSPRS.

Board Member Randall moved that the Local Board approve the rehire of Buckeye Valley Fire District PSPRS retiree Elizabeth Sandoval into the Management Analyst position, as non-hazardous position and therefore ineligible for the ACR. Board Member Price seconded the motion.

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

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

E. Discussion on information regarding additional legal representation for PSPRS.

Shauna Fisher, Human Resources Director stated that with the dissolution of the Buckeye Valley PSPRS board, they had their own legal representation and requested us to expand our legal representation as a secondary counsel.

Board Member Randall moved that the Local Board approve respond the Buckeye Valley Fire District PSPRS attorney and decline to offer to retain additional counsel. Board Member Price seconded the motion.

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

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

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€
- B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding acceptance of the review of medical examination and the acceptance of six (6) new firefighter (recruit) with a preexisting condition: Manuel Garcia, Zachariah Houze, Christopher Jarvis, Henry Lauer, Jennifer Reed, and Ethan Stubbs from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to Firefighter into the PSPRS pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859.

7. RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION

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

Board Member Randall moved that the Local Board approved the review of Robert Corcorn’s disability and directed PSPRS Board Attorney to draft a letter to provider to receive responses to the issues that was drafted in the letter by board secretary and responses to the questionnaire. Board Member Hettick seconded the motion.

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

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

Board Member Price moved that the Local Board approved with discussion having been that the information received from the IME is in support of Dryk Welty’s continued receipt of the accidental disability and review by the board at a future date until such time he reaches normal retirement. Board Member Randall seconded the motion.

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

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

8. SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE PSPRS LOCAL BOARD MEETING AGENDAS

- A. Overview of AFMA’s resiliency program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Yvonne Lopez, Secretary

Approved