



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

MINUTES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

North Corp Yard
9191 E. San Salvador Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

PRESENT: Hugo Meraz, Chairperson/Mayoral Designee
Monica Boyd, Citizen Member/Merit Head
Ken Strobeck, Citizen Member
Steve Springborn, Elected Member
Todd Caverner, Elected Member

STAFF: Autumn Asmus, PSPRS Local Board Secretary
Darlene Ganger, Senior HR Benefits Analyst

Call to Order

Chair Meraz called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 16, 2023

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 16, 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. Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2023

BOARD MEMBER STROBECK MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 19, 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.

3. Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2023

BOARD MEMBER STROBECK MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 16, 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.

4. Discussion and vote on the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Fire Captain Steve Leitzell

Board Members reviewed the most recent letter from Dr. Parker, which included his examination of Mr. Leitzell's testimony and notes Mr. Leitzell provided at the last PSPRS Fire Local Board meeting. They also reviewed Mr. Leitzell's testimony from the last PSPRS meeting. They expressed concern about the lack of information in Dr. Parker's determination, the fact that he seemed to have relied heavily on the first IME, and that he was unable to make himself available by telephone for questions. Board Member Springborn commented that although some of the Board Members disagree with the IME's conclusions, the Board is statutorily obligated to follow the direction of the designated medical board, the IME, who have both come back with the conclusion that Mr. Leitzell does not suffer from PTSD caused by a work-related incident.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO DISAPPROVE THE ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION OF FIRE CAPTAIN STEVE LEITZELL. BOARD MEMBER STROBECK 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.

Chair Meraz commented that the PTSD training class will be of benefit to the Board as they continue dealing with these types of situations and claims. Board Members referenced

comments made by Mr. Leitzell regarding setting precedent. It was noted that the PSPRS Fire Local Board makes decisions on a case-by-case basis based on testimony and medical evidence and no precedent is being set by this case.

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

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

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 Springborn expressed interest in having a conversation with legal counsel regarding the IME process when multiple IMEs are required and in discussing qualifications necessary for psychiatric IME doctors.

Future agenda items could include:

- PTSD training
- Discussion with legal counsel
- Discussion about IME qualifications

Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE 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.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.