

**GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, March 25, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
1600 E. Hanley Boulevard Oro Valley, Arizona 85737**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairperson Wally Vette called the meeting to order on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Wally Vette, Vice Chairperson Lee Mayes, Board Member Allison Delong, Board Member Dean Stevens and Board Member Chris Cavaletto

Attorney Steve Bosse and Local Board Secretary Shannon Ortiz were also present.

2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public issues presented.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVE MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2024, LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
- B. APPROVE MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2024, LOCAL PENSION BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM '5A' MEETING MINUTES
- C. APPROVE MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2024, LOCAL PENSION BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM '5B' MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Board Member Delong to approve the March 25, 2024, Consent Agenda

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Stevens

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. WORK STUDY SESSION



Attorney Bosse gave a presentation on the responsibilities of the local pension board. Arizona is unique in that it is the only state to have pension boards. The board is in essence the gatekeepers of Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). The board approves the entry of new members, exits with disabilities, retirement, and line of duty deaths. Firefighters are allowed to be members because they are engaged in hazardous duty. Upon entry into the system, the applicant must declare any pre-existing conditions. If someone wants to exit early and applies for disability, the board must determine it was not a pre-existing condition.

The board has a couple of responsibilities: 1. It appoints an attorney, secretary and medical board and is responsible for paying administrative expenses, and 2. It receives and reviews disability applications: a. Ordinary- when someone gets injured outside of work; b. Accidental- the person is injured on the job and can no longer do his/her job; c. Catastrophic- the person is injured and becomes totally disabled from any occupation (rare).

When an employee applies for a disability, the board orders an independent medical exam (IME) or independent psychological exam (IPE), the board makes their decision based on the medical information provided as well as the IME/IPE. The board approves or denies the disability application and sends the paperwork to PSPRS. PSPRS will then agree or disagree with the decision. If they disagree, they will send the application back and request additional information. A disability applicant can request a rehearing if they disagree with the local board's findings within 30 days of the local board's decision. If the local board upholds their decision and the applicant still disagrees, the applicant has the right to pursue it through the legal system.

In addition to statutes, there is case law that applies to the board as well. One example is a case where the court determined the board determines payroll classifications with regards to what percentage of an employees pay may be tied to a particular pension system based on duties.

The board needs to ensure that it is in compliance with both common law and statutory regulations.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A rehearing is scheduled for April 9, 2024.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Board Member Cavaletto to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Stevens

MOTION CARRIED 5/0



Wally Vette

Wally Vette, Chairperson
Public Safety Personnel Retirement System
Golder Ranch Fire District
Local Pension Board
s/o

