

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

**Tuesday, April 9, 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 Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 9:02 a.m.

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

Members Absent: 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

Chairperson Vette read the following statement: This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. Those wishing to address the Golder Ranch Pension Board need not request permission in advance. A member of the public may speak for a reasonable time as determined by the Board on an oral presentation. The Board may adjust time limitations and all individuals desiring to address the Board will have the same opportunity. The Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item raised in the Call to the Public, which are not on the agenda due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law; however, individual members of the Board are permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct staff to review the matter or that the matter be placed on a future agenda.

Dane Antrum, a captain at Tucson Fire Department (TFD) for 17 years. He worked with Taylor Parrish for a year and a half at station 8. In his opinion, Taylor is no longer able to work on a firetruck. He believed it would be detrimental to Taylor's health and would put others at risk. He and Taylor have been through thirty fires. When Taylor returned to work, it was against every bit of advice Mr. Antrum gave Taylor. Mr. Antrum read a personal text from Taylor. He believed Taylor was not the same person after his incident. He stated it is the worst thing that could happen to someone. He would urge



(the board) that it be strongly considered that (the board) grant him what he believes he earned.

Dan Heflinger, at the time of Taylor's incident, he was his battalion chief (at TFD). Taylor went to work every day ready to work. He echoed everything Dane Antrum stated. He too believes Taylor has changed. Taylor went to work willing to do what is asked of a firefighter every day. He demonstrated he was willing to give his life for someone else. Through education, time and commitment to the fire department they are told that is what is expected of them. They are also told that if they get injured, or worse, doing the job, that there are protections in place for them and their families. He believed what Taylor was asking was for those protections. He believed Taylor should receive the pension back from the Pension, the City and the employers for the sacrifice he made.

Jason Lewis, worked with Taylor at TFD. When the incident occurred at TFD, he went to visit him at the hospital. When someone is injured on the job, workman's comp wants to know if the person can do the job or not before they close the case. He explained Taylor was cleared to go back to work at TFD. He believed Taylor's head injury attributed to not making the best decisions. If he saw his spouse go through what they (Taylor and his family) did, trying to go through the process of workman's comp and the fire department he could understand cutting ties and going to another department. Ultimately, it was a bad decision. Taylor was cleared to work for Golder Ranch. He believes something can be done to help Taylor's mental and physical health as well as his family's to make sure they are taken care of. He told Taylor he was sorry that he was going through this, but regardless of the outcome, he told him to move on.

Keith Cuberly, worked for Tucson Fire for 25 years. He was there the day Taylor experienced the incident. He echoed everything the gentlemen before him said. It was one-hundred percent accurate. He thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. He stated he wanted to narrow it down to what believed were the facts: Taylor was involved in a life changing event; as most people said, Taylor should have quit, but he kept going; this has ultimately come back to hurt him. He knows Golder Ranch Fire District (GRFD) has policies and procedures to follow as a protector of public funds. He appreciates this responsibility. His understanding was that there had been a tremendous amount of challenges with the case that had to do with Taylor changing departments. Taylor changed departments to finish his career. Taylor is not trying to game the system. He deserves medical retirement. There has been misinformation, and challenges, he does not know what they are. Many times Taylor does not know what is required of him and what paperwork needs to be filled out, what therapy he needs to go to in order to fulfill the requirements the Board has. His hope is that (the Board) has what it needs to grant Taylor his retirement. If (the board) does not have what it needs, he asks that Taylor is given the opportunity to do so. He is one-hundred percent certain once Taylor knows what he needs to do and that is clearly spelled out for him, he will do so. If the first request can't be granted, he asked that Taylor be given the opportunity to get his wife and kids what they deserve.



Billy Erich worked at TFD with Taylor. He was at the call for the initial incident. He witnessed Taylor's love for the fire service. If Taylor could be a firefighter, he would be for as long as he could. He was also a witness to Taylor's sleepless nights. If he could be working as a firefighter he would, he is not because he is unable to.

Mariah Parrish, the wife of Taylor Parrish. She would love to tell the Board what it felt like to be Taylor's wife the day of the incident or what it has felt like the past four years to be his wife. She conveyed that she does not want to be here, this is the last place that they want to be. Taylor loves being a firefighter. He loves everyone in the room and she would even say that he is envious that they get to go to work because he loved being a firefighter. It feels like he is being chastised for returning to work. He was raised with a good work ethic and was raised as someone who doesn't quit. Their family tried to go back to normal. He switched departments to try to go back to normal. It did not work. She expressed how much Taylor loves being a firefighter.

Dustin Caviatti, member of the community and a resident of Golder Ranch Fire District. He wants the men and women of Golder Ranch to know that, no matter where they are in their career, if something traumatic happens and they are unable to do the job, that they are taken care of. He wants those members to know their families will be looked after. He asks that the Board look after the members that they hired.

Taylor Parrish requested an extension of the three-minute limitation for the call to the public to be able to tell his story. He thanked the members of the other fire departments and TFD. As a firefighter of TFD, he responded to a call where a trench collapsed on him. He thanked the crews who saved him. He spent three days in the hospital and explained the injuries he experienced. He returned to duty a month after the incident. He initially went back on light duty. He said TFD never told him of the benefits such as disability retirement or their workman's comp policy. When he returned to light duty he faced a bombardment of people who told him the decisions he made the day of the incident were wrong. . A year after the incident, he said he became symptomatic of PTSD, major depressive disorder and anxiety disorder. He was sent to a psychologist the City of Tucson contracts with for treatment. The psychologist recommended treatment that, while he acknowledges he did not complete all of it, he felt it did very little in terms of treating him. Around one year after the incident, he was told by TFD HR that he needed to seek ADA accommodation or leave the department. The verbiage in the letter scared him and made him feel like he needed to return to the field. He bluffed his way through IMEs, occupational visits, and a NFPA 14 essential functions test for firefighters. He worked a year and a half at Station 8. Things did not get better after several subsequent events. In one event, he and another firefighter exited a structure fire just before the building collapsed. His Captain at the time told him he was stupid for entering the building. He went to GRFD for change. During a routine drill he experienced what he would describe as a mental breakdown. He believed it was different and believed he felt more fear than before, even though he experienced similar events while at TFD. He said this event and these experiences are a textbook example of why this benefit exists. If denied, the system is flawed and has failed him and his family and firefighters in the future and their families as well.



Tom Duran, fire engineer at Tucson Fire. He has limited experience with the Parrishs'. His wife works with Mariah Parrish. She conveyed to her husband the anguish and pain the Parrish family felt. Public safety personnel have dealt with people who abuse a great system that is broken. There are great people on the Boards but there are systems that are not working right. Dealing with those people, thousands of people all the time, abuse the system because they don't want to work. He believed the Board had the opportunity to help someone he believed deserved it.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVE MINUTES – MARCH 25, 2024, LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Vice-Chairperson Mayes to approve the April 9, 2024, Consent Agenda

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Delong

MOTION CARRIED 4/0

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(1) THE PSPRS LOCAL PENSION BOARD MAY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO THE REHEARING OF AN APPLICATION FOR AN ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT IN REFERENCE TO AN INDEPENDENT PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAM (IPE) FOR FIREFIGHTER TAYLOR PARRISH

- B. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(1) THE PSPRS LOCAL PENSION BOARD MAY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO THE HEARING OF AN APPLICATION FOR AN ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT IN REFERENCE TO AN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAM (IME) FOR FIREFIGHTER TAYLOR PARRISH

MOTION by Board Member Delong to enter into executive session for item 5A- for the rehearing of an application for an accidental disability retirement in reference to an independent psychological exam for firefighter Taylor Parrish pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(1) and item 5B- the hearing of an application for an accidental disability retirement in reference to an independent medical exam for firefighter Taylor Parrish pursuant to the same statute

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Stevens

MOTION CARRIED 4/0

Those present in executive session were Chairperson Wally Vette, Vice Chairperson Lee Mayes, Board Member Allison Delong, Board Member Dean Stevens, Local Board Secretary Shannon Ortiz, and Attorney Steve Bosse.



The Board entered executive session at 9:42 a.m.

The Board ended executive session at 10:04 a.m.

The Board reconvened into regular session at 10:06 p.m.

Chairperson Vette reminded those in attendance, Executive Sessions are confidential pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(C).

C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PSPRS LOCAL PENSION BOARD REHEARING FOR AN APPLICATION FOR AN ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT REGARDING AN IPE FOR FIREFIGHTER TAYLOR PARRISH

MOTION by Board Member Stevens to re-deny the application for accidental disability submitted by Firefighter Taylor Parrish based on his independent psychiatric exam and supplemental documentation as it does not meet the requirements for an accidental disability retirement as outlined by A.R.S. §38-844

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Delong

MOTION CARRIED 4/0

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PSPRS LOCAL PENSION BOARD HEARING FOR AN APPLICATION FOR AN ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT REGARDING AN IPE FOR FIREFIGHTER TAYLOR PARRISH

MOTION by Board Member Stevens to deny the application for accidental disability submitted by Firefighter Taylor Parrish based on his independent medical exam as it does not meet the requirements for an accidental disability retirement as outlined by A.R.S. §38-844

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Delong

MOTION CARRIED 4/0

6. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There are no future agenda items at this time.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Board Member Delong to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Vice Chairperson Mayes

MOTION CARRIED 5/0



Wally Vette, Chairperson
Public Safety Personnel Retirement System



Golder Ranch Fire District
Local Pension Board
s/o

