



COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT REGULAR RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. TCERA Board Room, 136 N. Akers Street, Visalia, CA 93291

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Pete Vander Poel, Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Voting Trustees Present: Cass Cook, Ty Inman, Thomas Morgan, Gary Reed, Jim Young, Nathan Polk, Roland Hill, Pete Vander Poel
Alternate Trustees Present: David Vasquez, George Finney, Jorge Garcia
Staff Members Present: Leanne Malison, Retirement Administrator, Paul Sampietro, Assistant Retirement Administrator, Melanie Tyler, Secretary II
Board Counsel Present: Aaron Zaheen, Deputy County Counsel

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. BOARD ELECTIONS

1. Annual nominations and elections for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for the TCERA Board of Retirement effective January 10, 2024.

Mr. Reed nominated Mr. Vander Poel as Chair and Mr. Young as Vice Chair. No further nominations were presented.

Motion to elect Peter Vander Poel as Chair and Jim Young as Vice Chair of the Tulare County Board of Retirement, effective January 10, 2024.

Motion: Reed

Second: Polk

Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Please state your name for the record.

VI. X-AGENDA ITEMS

None

VII. DISABILITIES

Ms. Lopez addressed the Board prior to the closed session.

1. Closed session to be held regarding disability matters listed on this agenda.

Time for closed session was 8:36 a.m. – 8:58 a.m.

2. In the matter of the disability application of Tracie Corazzini, consider and take action regarding the application for a disability retirement.

Motion to deny a disability retirement by determining that, based on the medical evidence submitted, the applicant has not met the burden of proof on the question of permanent disability as it relates to the applicant's current claim regarding the left shoulder. The action taken by the Board of Retirement on May 25, 2022 regarding the previously filed disability retirement application with a claim of right shoulder injury stands. That application was dismissed with prejudice.

Motion: Young

Second: Cook

Motion passed unanimously.

3. In the matter of the disability application of Donald Patterson, consider and take action regarding the application for a disability retirement.

Motion to grant a service-connected disability retirement. Based on the medical evidence submitted, the applicant has met the burden of proof on the question of permanent disability and the question of job causation.

Motion: Polk

Second: Morgan

Motion passed unanimously.

4. In the matter of the disability application of George Sierra, consider and take action regarding the application for a disability retirement.

Motion to grant a service-connected disability retirement. Based on the medical evidence submitted, the applicant has met the burden of proof on the question of permanent disability and the question of job causation.

Motion: Hill

Second: Reed

Motion passed unanimously.

5. In the matter of the disability application of Dennis Chabiel, consider and take action regarding the application for a disability retirement.

Motion to deny a disability retirement by determining that, based on the medical evidence submitted, the applicant has not met the burden of proof on the question of permanent disability.

Motion: Polk

Second: Inman

Motion passed unanimously.

6. In the matter of the disability application of Maria Lopez, consider and take action regarding the application for a disability retirement.

Motion to grant a service-connected disability retirement. Based on the medical evidence submitted, the applicant has met the burden of proof on the question of permanent disability and the question of job causation.

Motion: Hill

Second: Inman

Ayes: Cook, Inman, Morgan, Reed, Young, Hill and Vander Poel

Noes: Polk

Motion passed. 7/1.

7. Accept as filed the Disability Status Report Overview.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve Minutes of the following meetings:
 - a. Retirement Board Minutes of December 13, 2023.
2. Approve payments to:
 - a. Brown Armstrong – invoice for work in progress on audit processes in the amount of \$3,134.04.
 - b. County Counsel – invoice for legal services to the Board of Retirement in the amount of \$1,771.20 for the period ending November 30, 2023.
3. Pension Board Reports and Actions
 - a. Ratify Retirement Administrator actions regarding Retirement Application approvals and Option Selections for the month of December 2023.
 - b. Approve Reports regarding Retirement Applications, Option Selections and Deceased Pensioners and 30-Year Members for the month of December 2023.
4. Administrative Financial Reports and Actions
 - a. TCERA and TCERA Property, Inc. Financial Statements – November 30, 2023.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar as presented.

Motion: Hill

Second: Polk

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. EDUCATION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding available educational events.

Ms. Malison reviewed the difference between the SACRS and CALAPRS conferences and what education a trustee can expect to receive at each opportunity.

No Action

X. COMMUNICATIONS

1. SACRS Legislative Update, December 2023. Discussion and possible action.

Ms. Malison reported that AB 1020 (Grayson) – CERL Disability Presumptions has passed, and that staff will be consulting with county counsel regarding training for the new disability presumptions.

No Action

XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. Board of Retirement Meeting January 24, 2024, 8:30 a.m.
2. Board of Retirement Meeting February 7, 2024, 8:30 a.m.
3. Trustee Education/Presentation Calendar – Discussion and possible action.

No Action

XII. TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.



Pete Vander Poel, Chair