



# COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

**Leanne Malison**  
Retirement Administrator

136 N AKERS STREET  
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

TELEPHONE (559) 713-2900  
FAX (559) 730-2631  
www.tcera.org

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT REGULAR RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 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 Jim Young, Acting Chair

### **II. ROLL CALL**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Voting Trustees Present:   | Cass Cook, Jim Young, Ty Inman, Roland Hill, Gary Reed, Nathan Polk   |
| Voting Trustees Absent:    | Pete Vander Poel  |
| Voting Alternates Present: | David Vasquez (Voting for Seat 3), 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. 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.

None

### **V. X-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

### **VI. DISABILITIES**

1. Closed session to be held regarding disability matters listed on this agenda.  
Time for closed session was 8:32a.m. through 8:48a.m.
2. In the matter of the disability application of Monica Caro, 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: Vasquez  
Motion passed unanimously.

3. In the matter of the disability application of Sandra Burnitzki, 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  
Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Vasquez recused himself from the discussion on this matter due to a personal conflict of interest. Mr. Vasquez did not excuse himself from the closed session prior to the discussion regarding this application.

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: Reed

Ayes: Cook, Inman, Reed, Young, Polk, Hill  
Abstain: Vasquez  
Absent: Vander Poel  
Motion passed. 6/1

5. In the matter of the disability application of Teresa Godwin, 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: Vasquez  
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Accept as filed the Disability Status Report Overview.

## **VII. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve Minutes of the following meetings:
  - a. Retirement Board Minutes of June 28, 2023.
2. Approve payments to:
  - a. Verus – invoice for investment management services in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the quarter ended June 30, 2023.
  - b. Verus – invoice for investment consulting services in the amount of \$22,500.00 for the month ended June 30, 2023.
  - c. County Counsel – invoice for legal services to the Board of Retirement in the amount of \$2,291.80 for the period ending June 30, 2023.

3. Pension Board Reports and Actions
  - a. Ratify Retirement Administrator actions regarding Retirement Application approvals and Option Selections for the month of June 2023.
  - b. Approve Reports regarding Retirement Applications, Option Selections and Deceased Pensioners and 30-Year Members for the month of June 2023.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar as presented.

Motion: Cook

Second: Hill

Motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Education presentation from Aaron Zaheen regarding disability procedures and applicable case law.

Mr. Zaheen reviewed the educational materials and answered questions regarding disability law.

The Vice Chair authorized 60 minutes for education.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023, Board of Retirement Continuing Education Report.

No Action

3. Discussion and possible action regarding Courtyards Property Owners' Association Notice of Upcoming Election.

No Action

4. Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution Ordering Board of Retirement Trustee Special Election – Third Member Position (General Member Representative).

Motion to approve the Resolution Ordering Board of Retirement Trustee Special Election – Third Member Position (General Member Representative) as presented.

Motion: Hill

Second: Reed

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding adoption of Amendment to Resolution Regarding Pay Codes Included as Pensionable Income.

Ms. Malison presented the new pay codes for bilingual pay for the Board's review that have been created to address new pay scales for this earnings code.

Ms. Malison explained that bilingual pay was previously approved by the Board of Retirement as pensionable. The new codes are necessary only because of specific pay requirements in MOU's for certain positions/bargaining units.

Ms. Malison presented the pay code providing a stipend to county employees required to use cell phones to conduct business related to the job for the Board's review. The TCERA staff analysis is that the code does not fall under the pensionable income category as it is not regular earnings or additional pay associated with any type of expertise that is applied to a specific job classification. Participation in the stipend program is optional and is similar to reimbursement of expense.

Motion to adopt the Resolution Regarding Pay Codes Included as Pensionable Income, identifying pay codes 17A and 17B as pensionable compensation and identifying pay code CS1 as non-pensionable compensation.

Motion: Reed  
Second: Vasquez

Ayes: Cook, Inman, Reed, Young, Polk, Vasquez  
Noes: Hill  
Absent: Vander Poel  
Motion passed. 6/1

#### **IX. EDUCATION ITEMS**

1. Discussion and possible action regarding available educational events.

No Action

#### **X. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

1. Board of Retirement Meeting July 26, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
2. Board of Retirement Meeting, August 9, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
3. Board of Retirement Meeting, August 23, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
4. Administrative Committee Meeting August 23, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
5. Trustee Education/Presentation Calendar – Discussion and possible action.

Ms. Malison noted that Verus will present the requested Cryptocurrency and Blockchain education at the August 23, 2023, Board Meeting.

No Action

#### **XI. TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

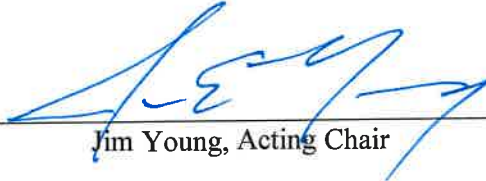
Ms. Malison reminded the Board that their Insurance Waiver of Recourse payments are due and must be paid by a personal check made out to Alliant Insurance. This payment cannot be made by the plan.

Mr. Reed informed the Board that he received word that SB 252 (Gonzalez) – PERS and STRS Fossil Fuel Divestment has been dropped.

Mr. Reed informed the Board that BlackRock is reevaluating their position on ESG investments.

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01a.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Young, Acting Chair