



# COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT**  
REGULAR RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING  
**Wednesday, September 9, 2020 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 Chairman, Roland Hill.

## II. ROLL CALL

Voting Trustees Present: Cass Cook, Roland Hill, Wayne Ross, Gary Reed, Nathan Polk,  
Dave Kehler, Pete Vander Poel

Voting Trustees Participating  
Remotely: Jim Young

Alternate Trustees Present: George Finney

Alternate Trustees Participating  
Remotely: Paul Sampietro

Trustees Absent: Laura Hernandez

Alternate Trustees Absent: David Vasquez

Staff Present: Leanne Malison, Retirement Administrator

Staff Participating Remotely: Mary Warner, Assistant Retirement Administrator

Counsel Participating  
Remotely: Marit Erickson, County Counsel

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

## III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. 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 so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. Please state your name for the record.

Ms. Malison reminded the trustees that Board meetings are recorded and that the microphones pick up side conversations during open session.

## IV. X-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

## V. DISABILITIES – Time Certain: 8:30 a.m.

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

Closed session was held from 8:41 a.m. to 8:44 a.m. to discuss disability matters listed on the agenda.

2. In the matter of the disability application of Mark Wallace, 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: Vander Poel

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Accept as filed: Disability Status Report Overview.

## VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve Minutes of the following Meetings:
  - a. Retirement Board Minutes of August 26, 2020.
2. Approve payments to:
  - a. BNY Mellon – invoice for master trust custodial services for the quarter ended March 31, 2020, in the amount of \$86,224.01.
  - b. Nossaman – invoice for outside legal services for the period ending July 31, 2020, in the amount of \$5,427.00.
  - c. Verus – invoice for investment consulting services for the month of August, 2020, in the amount of \$20,000.00.
3. Approve reports:
  - a. Retirement applications, option selections and deceased pensioners for the month of August, 2020.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Motion: Reed

Second: Kehler

Motion passed unanimously.

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Update by Laura Hernandez regarding the Administrative Committee meeting of August 27, 2020. Discussion and possible action regarding the following items:

Ms. Hernandez was not in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Malison reviewed the Administrative Committee items for the Board.

- a. TCERA and TCERA Property, Inc. Preliminary Financial Statements – June 30, 2020

Ms. Malison reported that the Committee reviewed the financial statements. They are preliminary, pending interest posting, and do not require action at this time.

- b. TCERA Staffing – Account Clerk Vacancy and Recruitment.

Ms. Malison informed the Board that Staff has promoted an existing employee to the position of Accountant I. This created a vacancy in the Account Clerk position. Given that the County has implemented a hiring freeze, Staff is notifying the Board of the need to fill this position. No action is required as TCERA is exempt from the freeze.

c. TCERA Trustee Election Procedures Revision.

Ms. Malison informed the Board that a revision to the TCERA Trustee Election Procedures was initiated by the County Elections Office in association with the review of TCERA's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County. Because the procedures are separately determined and adopted by the Board of Retirement, Staff asked the Elections Office to submit the requested changes directly to TCERA. Staff has worked with the Elections Office to reach mutually agreed upon changes. The document presented for consideration is the result of those efforts.

Mr. Kehler requested that the Administrative Committee review the Board's options if no qualified candidate submits nomination papers within the time frame identified in the procedures. The Board directed Staff to place this on a future Administrative Committee agenda.

Motion to approve the revisions to the TCERA Trustee Elections Procedures as presented.

Motion: Young  
Second: Cook  
Motion passed unanimously.

#### VIII. INVESTMENTS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding TCERA's strategic investment allocation and investment managers, including performance, contracts, and fees.

No action.

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the rates for crediting interest to TCERA member accounts and reserves for the six month period ended June 30, 2020.

Ms. Malison reviewed the information prepared by TCERA's accounting staff regarding options for determining the interest to be credited to member accounts and reserves for the six month period ended June 30, 2020.

Motion to maintain TCERA's contingency reserves for all tiers at 3.0% resulting in interest crediting of 3.1611% for Tiers 1, 2 and 3 and 2.5809% for Tier 4.

Motion: Reed  
Second: Kehler  
Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of legal fees for the review of the revised Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Tulare.

Mr. Cook informed the Board that he is recusing himself from discussion and action regarding this item due to a conflict of interest in his position of Auditor Controller/Treasurer Tax Collector. Mr. Cook left the meeting at 9:11 a.m. prior to any discussion and returned at 9:15 a.m. after the discussion and action on this item were completed.

Ms. Erickson informed the Board that County Counsel has determined that a conflict of interest exists and neither Ms. Erickson nor other staff members of County Counsel can advise the Board of Retirement on this matter. Ms. Erickson ended remote participation at 9:11 a.m. prior to any discussion and returned to remote participation at 9:15 a.m. after the discussion and action on this item were completed.

Ms. Malison reminded the Board that because of the conflict of interest with County Counsel, independent legal service are required for this document. She informed the Board that the costs of the independent legal review of the revised Memorandum of Understanding will exceed the Retirement Administrator's authority of expenditures of \$7,500. She estimated that an additional \$5,000 authorized expense should be sufficient to complete the work.

Motion to authorize up to \$12,500 in legal fees for the independent legal review of the revised Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion: Ross

Second: Polk

Motion passed unanimously.

## X. EDUCATION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding Summary Education Reports as filed:
  - a. George Finney – CALAPRS Principles for Trustees; Fiduciary Duty, August 18, 2020 – 1.5 hours
  - b. George Finney – CALAPRS Investment Policy Basics and Overseeing the Investment Program, August 25, 2020 – 3 hours.
  - c. Paul Sampietro – CALAPRS Fiduciary Duty, Investment Policy Basics, August 18, 2020 – 5 hours.
  - d. Jim Young – PIMCO Global Economics from Pandemic, June 16, 2020 – 1 hour.
  - e. Jim Young – DWS Private Real Estate Markets, June 15, 2020 – 1 hour.
  - f. Jim Young – Institute for Local Government Ethics Training, August 25, 2020 – 2 hours.
  - g. Leanne Malison – SACRS Planning for the Pandemic, August 20, 2020 – 1.5 hours.
  - h. Leanne Malison – SACRS The ERA after the Corona Virus, August 19, 2020 – 1.5 hours.
  - i. Mary Warner – SACRS UC Berkeley Pension Investment Management Program, July 28, 2020, July 30, 2020, August 4, 2020, August 6, 2020, August 11, 2020, August 13, 2020 – 18 hours.

Motion to approve the Summary Education Reports as presented.

Motion: Ross

Second: Cook

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding available educational events.

No action.

## XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. September 9, 2020 Investment Committee meeting at 10:30 a.m.
2. September 9, 2020 Pension Task Force ad hoc Committee meeting at 1:30 p.m.
3. September 23, 2020 Retirement Board meeting at 8:30 a.m. (Possible joint meeting with Board of Supervisors – location pending).
4. September 24, 2020 Administrative Committee meeting at 3:00 p.m.

## **XII. TRUSTEE / STAFF COMMENTS**

1. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time.

None

## **XIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. For Your Information:
  - a. Biennial portfolio update materials from the following managers. Discussion and possible action.
    - 1) American Realty Advisors
    - 2) William Blair

## **XIV. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.



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Roland Hill, Chair