



## **Yuma County Sheriff's Office Corrections Officer Retirement Plan Local Board Special Meeting**

**December 22, 2022**

Members present: Darren Simmons  
Dave McDowell  
Israel Navarro  
Patricia Ogden  
Martin Sanchez

Members absent: None

Others present: Norazel Mejia-Rico, Secretary

A special meeting of the Local Board of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Corrections Officer Retirement Plan was held Thursday, December 22, 2022, at the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Sgt. Martin Sanchez arrived at the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

The board reviewed the minutes of the June 28, 2022 special meeting. Mr. McDowell motioned to approve the June 28, 2022 minutes as presented. Ms. Ogden seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0.

### **Old Business**

The secretary provided board members with proposals from Ryan Rapp Underwood and Pacheco, and Goering, Roberts, Rubin, Brogna, Enos & Treadwell-Rubin, survey results from clients from both laws firms, and e-mail correspondents regarding contract termination notices, if needed. The board reviewed all the material presented, to include contract services, costs, list of clients, and customer services rendered to the local board secretary. Mr. McDowell inquired who pays for the attorney's fees. The secretary advised the Sheriff's Office pays. If the Department has a complicated case where it will cost thousands of money, maybe Risk Management can absorb the cost. Chairman Simmons indicated the Sheriff's Office might need to ask for special funding from the Board of Supervisors. After a discussion, Mr. McDowell motioned to accept Ryan Rapp Underwood and Pacheco as legal counsel for the local board. Sgt. Sanchez seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0.

### **New Business**

The local board welcomed new board member, Sergeant (Sgt.) Martin Sanchez, serving a four (4) year term. He replaced DO Amarion Hand as he resigned from the Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Sanchez briefly introduced himself to the board.

New Members: The secretary advised the board members of the new Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP) members: Jesus Becerra, Steven Knight, Ryleigh Speer, and Juan Soto Vega, their date of hire 06/27/22; Manuel Perez Esparza, Sebastian Torres, and Didier Vanegas, their date of hire 07/05/22; Juan Silva Coronado, date of hire 07/11/2022; Alejandro Reyes, date of hire 08/08/22; Katarina Gonzalez, and Olga Heredia Lomeli, their date of hire 08/22/22; Heidi Huante, Angel Lopez, and Joseph Cha Vaughan, their date of hire 08/29/22; Jentry Goforth, date of hire 10/03/22; Jesus Puga Garcia, date of hire 10/10/22, Leslie Andrade Madrigal, date of hire 10/23/22; Yelithza Alderete

Talamantes, and Marcos Meza, their date of hire 11/21/22; Alejandro Diaz Quintero, date of hire 11/28/22, David Arciniega, and Andrew Lemarr, their date of hire 12/12/22. Their medical evaluations were reviewed for pre-existing medical conditions. A letter of pre-existing condition(s) were sent to Ryleigh Speer, Alejandro Reyes, Katarina Gonzalez, and Olga Heredia Lomeli on September 09, 2022. Additionally, pre-existing letters were sent to Jentry Goforth, David Arciniega, and Andrew Lemarr on December 19, 2022. Mr. McDowell motioned to approve the new CORP members and acknowledge pre-existing condition(s). Ms. Ogden seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Separated Members: The secretary advised the board members that the following CORP members have separated from employment with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office: Juan Torres Jr., date of separation 06/24/22; Esteban Cabrera, and Gabriel Lopez, their date of separation 06/30/22; Yennifer Arcos Samaniego, date of separation 07/02/22; Stephanie Ojeda, and Juan Saenz Jr., their date of separation 07/22/22; Juan Silva Coronado, and Juan Soto Vega, their date of separation 07/25/22; Araceli Urrea, date of separation 08/10/22; Jesus Becerra, date of separation 08/15/22; Anahi Alvarado Mendiola, date of separation 09/08/22; Amarion Hand, date of separation 09/16/22; Aaron Combs, date of separation 09/17/22; Katarina Gonzalez, date of separation 09/26/22; Alfredo Gutierrez, date of separation 09/28/22; Esteban Lopez, date of separation 10/18/22; Leslie Andrade Madrigal, date of separation 11/10/22; Nicholas Scheulen, date of separation 11/23/22; Yelithza Alderete Talamantes, date of separation 12/01/22; and Michael Orozco, date of separation 12/11/22. Ms. Ogden motioned to approve the CORP members that separated employment with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office. DO Navarro seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0.

The board members reviewed FY2022 Third Quarter Newsletter of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). The secretary advised that employers eliminated \$2.85 billion of unfunded pension debts, and the largest state contributions were Arizona Dept. of Corrections (\$475 million), and Department of Public Safety (\$420 million). In addition, City of Tempe (\$341 million) was the largest city for police/fire department, and Pima County (\$268 million) was the largest for Sheriff/correctional Department. She also advised the PSPRS Phoenix office is now open by appointment for members, retirees, and survivors. The Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) was extended to seven (7) years from five (5) years. The new law allows current DROP participating members to seek employer's approval to extend their service beyond the traditional five (5) year limitation. At the conclusion of the five (5) year in DROP, the pension balance, accrued interest, and the monthly pension amount will transfer into a 401(a) account. She also explained the tax changes pertaining to the cancer insurance premiums. By taxing the premiums, the cancer diagnosis payments will be tax-free in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. The secretary briefly mentioned to the board members to read "Legislation Summary 2022" article in the newsletter as these changes were effective September 24, 2022. She further mentioned to the board members Tier 3 defined contribution (DC) plan can participate in contributing towards health insurance subsidies. Participation is voluntary and the decision is irrevocable. Members will have 90 days from their hiring date to make a determination. Lastly, she advised that the Board of Trustees lowered the assumed rate of return from 7.3% to 7.2%.

The board members then reviewed FY2022 Third Quarter Newsletter of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). The secretary advised board members the Phoenix Office has extended their consultations, to include walk-in visits. She reiterated Tier 3 defined contribution (DC) plan can participate in contributing towards health insurance subsidies. Participation is voluntary and the decision is irrevocable. Members will have 90 days from their hiring date to make a determination. She further explained employers would receive notification via email if a member elects to participate in the health insurance subsidy. The member and the employer will split the cost (.017%) equally. The secretary then advised about 90 PSPRS/CORP employers would receive a break from making payments to the 401a DC plan because members who have terminated employment prior to being fully vested are considered that they forfeited the employer's matching contributions.

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As of June 30, 2022, approximately \$3.2 million of forfeited money has accumulated. PSPRS Defined Contribution Committee and Board of Trustees approved to redirect the funds to employers in the form of contribution credits against future contributions. She informed board members Arizona's oldest living retired firefighter, Benny Ashley, celebrated his 105<sup>th</sup> birthday; he received the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Phoenix Office encouraging employers to adopt electronic billing instead of writing checks to reduce errors. The secretary concluded with reminding the board of the Integrity Hotline for employers, local boards, members, and retirees to report suspected behavior (i.e. fraud, waste, abuse, unethical behavior).

Current Events: The Secretary advised board members of Mr. McDowell reappointment to the Sheriff's Office CORP Local Board. He will be serving a four (4) year term.

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for March 08, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Norazel B. Mejia-Rico", written over a horizontal line.

Norazel B. Mejia-Rico, Secretary of the Board