



Yuma County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Local Board Meeting

December 10, 2025

Members present: Darren Simmons
Joshua Farias
Dave McDowell
Kenneth Thrailkill
Patricia Ogden

Members absent: None

Others: Norazel Mejia-Rico, Secretary

A meeting of the Local Board of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Personnel Retirement System was held Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

The board reviewed the minutes of the July 24, 2025 meeting. Mrs. Ogden motioned to approve the July 24, 2025 minutes as presented. Sgt. Farias seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Old Business

None

New Business

New Members: The secretary advised the board members of the new PSPRS members: Vicente Bustamante Jr., and Hugo Meza Ovando, their date of hired 08/11/25; Arnold Prieto, date of hired 11/02/25; Alexis Beltran and Lennox Rodriguez, their date of hired 11/03/25. Their medical evaluations were reviewed for pre-existing conditions. The only member that had a pre-existing condition was Hugo Meza Ovando and he separated employment prior to receiving his letter. Sgt. Thrailkill motioned to approve new PSPRS members. Mrs. Ogden seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Separated Members: The secretary advised board members that the following PSPRS members separated employment with Yuma County Sheriff's Office: Cody Walden, date of separation 09/05/25; Hugo Meza Ovando, date of separation 09/11/25; and Klayton Carter, date of separation 11/20/25. Sgt. Farias motioned to approve members that have separated employment. Mrs. Ogden seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0.

The PSPRS FY2025 Fourth Quarter Newsletter was given to the members prior to the meeting for their review. Chairman Simmons asked the board if they had any questions regarding the newsletter. The board members had no questions.

Current Events: Sgt. Farias advised the board members that the Deputy Academy will be graduating on January 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., at Arizona Western College. The Sheriff's Office currently has three (3) recruits in this Academy. Sgt. Farias welcomed all board members to attend. Chairman Simmons asked time frame of the Academy and how many agencies participate? He answered his questions by stating the Academy is 21 weeks long and the college currently has 8 agencies participating.

The next Deputy Academy graduation is in March of 2026, with four (4) recruits currently attending. The next academy will begin in February of 2026. Mr. McDowell asked the ones scheduled to graduate in March, when did they begin the Academy? Sgt. Farias advised they began in November. Additionally, he advised AWC's total training hours is 800 and they are considering adding another 40 hours for Patrol tactics, an increase to what it used to be a long time ago with 545 hours.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 14, 2026 at 2:45 p.m. The secretary advised the reason why she scheduled the next meeting in January instead of June. She informed the local board she received a Disability application. Chairman Simmons asked who submitted the application, the secretary advised August Turner. The secretary advised she will have Disability packets ready for them to review at least one week prior to the hearing/meeting.

Sgt. Farias advised the local board members of the monthly training available on the second Thursday of every month by the Phoenix Office. This month's training is on Disability. The secretary advised she will request the link and will forward to all board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Norazel B. Mejia-Rico, Secretary of the Board