



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

January 28, 2026

Members present: Darren Simmons
Joshua Farias
Dave McDowell
Kenneth Thrailkill

Members absent: Patricia Ogden

Others: Norazel Mejia-Rico, Secretary
Lesli Sorenson, Board's Attorney
Yesenia Duenas, YCSO HR
August Turner, PSPRS Member
Travis Turner, PSPRS Member's Guest

A special meeting of the Local Board of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Personnel Retirement System was held Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The board reviewed the minutes of the December 10, 2025 meeting. Sgt. Thrailkill motioned to approve the December 10, 2025 minutes. Sgt. Farias seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Old Business

None

New Business

Separated Members: The secretary advised board members that the following PSPRS members separated employment with Yuma County Sheriff's Office: Alexis Beltran, date of separation 12/22/25; Mario Rivera, date of separation 12/26/25; and Vicente Bustamante Jr., date of separation 01/05/26. Sgt. Thrailkill motioned to accept members that have separated employment. Mr. McDowell seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Yuma County Sheriff's Office Actuarial Valuation for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025: Attorney Sorenson explained the employee's and employer's contribution rates. Basically, the rates had an increase, and the funded liability status decreased from 95.8% to 92.1% for Tier 1 & 2. Tier 3 had a 5% reduction; however, the funds are still overfunded. For the liability to be 100% funded, the office is paying 7.04% towards the unfunded liability. She also discussed the Historical Summary Page and further explained in 2023, the unfunded liability was at 100%, with a 7.75% contribution rate, now the contribution rate is 17.21%, an increase of 10%. Attorney Sorenson discussed the members statistics to include active and inactive members, how many members currently have 20+ years of service, how many are within five (5) years to be retirement eligible, and we currently have two (2) retirees or survivors receiving benefits that are 85-89 years of age. The members' statistical information can be very helpful for future staffing purposes. At the end of the presentation, Chairman Simmons asked for the unfunded dollar amount. The attorney advised \$333,726. Chairman Simmons stated would like to address the unfunded liability sooner than later.

Disabilities Recipients: Attorney Sorenson informed the local board that it is required on an annual basis to review the disabilities recipients to determine if additional medical evaluation is required. The Sheriff's Office has three (3) disabilities recipients, with effective dates from 1982, 1987, and 2007. All three (3) recipients have reached their normal retirement, therefore, there is no need to send them for further medical evaluation.

Ordinary Disability Application – August Turner: Attorney Sorenson advised the board that unfortunately, the board will not be able to discuss the disability today. She advised late yesterday evening, Ms. Turner submitted a request to change her type of disability from ordinary to accidental. Due to the late notice, the secretary didn't have the ability to amend the public notice from ordinary to accidental disability with 24-hour advanced notice to the public. As a result, the board will need to discuss at a different meeting to consider the amendment to her application. Ms. Turner will have the opportunity to amend her application after the meeting. Ms. Turner asked if the change affects the timeline or if she was good with the one (1) year after termination. Attorney Sorenson advised as long as the initial application was submitted within one (1) year of termination. She furthered advised PSPRS recognizes the original date of first time applied for disability, even if there is a future change of type of disability.

Current Events: The secretary informed the board members of an upcoming normal retirement, Sgt. Ronald Voss. Sgt. Voss is exited DROP and will be entering into Normal Retirement. His last day of employment will be January 31, 2026; his effective retirement date will be February 1, 2026. Sgt. Farias advised the board members of the next Deputy Academy scheduled to graduate on April 7, 2026. The graduation will be held at Arizona Western College (AWC) at 1:00 p.m. We currently have three (3) employees in the Academy.

Next Meeting: Secretary advised she will reach out to the board members to determine when available to schedule the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Norazel B. Mejia-Rico, Secretary of the Board