



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

**June 23, 2021**

Members present: Darren Simmons  
Amarion Hand  
Dave McDowell  
Patricia Ogden

Members absent: Israel Navarro

Others present: Norazel Mejia-Rico, Secretary (Via Telephonic/Facetime)  
Yesenia Duenas, YCSO Employee

A special meeting of the Local Board of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Corrections Officer Retirement Plan was held Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

The board reviewed the minutes of the March 02, 2021 special meeting. Mr. McDowell motioned to approve the March 02, 2021 minutes. Ms. Ogden seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

The local board reviewed the application for Survivor's Benefit by Mrs. Donna Urquhart, effective June 1, 2021. The secretary advised the local board of Mr. Gary Urquhart's dates of employment, years of service, date of retirement, date of death, pension amount he was receiving, pension amount Mrs. Urquhart will be receiving, and the effective date for the survivor's benefit. Ms. Ogden motioned to approve the Survivor's Application by Mrs. Donna Urquhart. Mr. McDowell seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

**New Members:** The secretary advised the board members of the new Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP) members: Alfredo Gutierrez, date of hire 03/15/21; Joel Lomeli, date of hire 04/12/21; Samuel Del Valle, Benjamin Guiverra, Gabriel Lopez, Ramon Melendez Jr., Matthew Rios, Elisa Sandoval Verdugo, and Samantha Whitacre, their date of hire 04/19/21; Timothy Nauss, date of hire 05/03/21; Tiana Baker, date of hire 05/10/21; Cristian Castellanos and Juan Ramirez Jr., date of hire 05/24/21, and Michael Orozco, date of hire 06/16/21. Their medical evaluations were reviewed for pre-existing medical conditions. Letters of pre-existing condition(s) were sent to Joel Lomeli, Samuel Del Valle, Benjamin Guiverra, Elisa Sandoval Verdugo, Samantha Whitacre, Timothy Nauss, Cristian Castellanos, Juan Ramirez Jr., and Michael Orozco on June 18, 2021. The secretary advised that Mr. Ramon Melendez Jr. separated from employment prior to receiving the pre-existing letter. She also advised Tiana Baker has a pre-existing condition, however, she had not received the letter as the secretary believed she had separated from employment. The secretary will send her a letter and include her on the next meeting to indicate the notification date of the pre-existing letter.

Mr. McDowell motioned to approve the new CORP members and acknowledge pre-existing conditions. Ms. Ogden seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Separated Members: The secretary advised the board members that the following CORP member(s) have separated from employment with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office: Jason Wiler, date of separation 03/08/21; Esau Quintero Ramos, date of separation 03/17/21; Torilyn Pletsch, date of separation 05/03/21; Francisco Perez-Sarmiento, date of separation 05/10/2021; Ramon Melendez Jr., date of separation 05/24/21; and Anahi Villegas-Guadarrama, date of separation 05/31/21. The secretary advised although Tiana Baker is on the separation list, she is still employed with the Department, therefore, to disregard her name. Ms. Ogden motioned to approve CORP members that have separated from employment with Yuma County Sheriff's Office. DO Hand seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

The board members reviewed FY2021 Second Quarter Newsletter of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). The secretary advised the board members PSPRS has appointed new trustees, Mr. Alan Maguire, Mr. Daren Wunderle, and Mr. Nate Weber. She also advised of the six-minute video designed to show how pensions are valued through current data, future assumptions, and how asset obligations are utilized to measure employer's financial health and determine their contribution rates. She further advised that Chief Investment Officer, Mr. Steed, had an hour-long discussion with medical leaders regarding medical research and vaccine development pertaining to COVID-19. The secretary informed the board members of the Cancer Insurance Policy Benefit changes. Eligible members and retirees can apply for a second cancer diagnosis as long it does not relate to the previous diagnosis. Additionally, genomic and genetic testing are now part of the plan design, and positron emission tomography (PET) scans are now eligible for out-of-pocket reimbursements. The secretary advised 2021 Annual Employer and Local Board Conference Videos are now available on the website, and that the Advisory Committee is requesting feedback from members, retirees, and employers regarding their experiences and thoughts about the retirement.

The board members then reviewed FY2021 Third Quarter Newsletter of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). The secretary advised Public Safety and Corrections employers reached a milestone by paying more than half a billion dollars to address unfunded liabilities, and almost 40 employers have participated. She furthered advised many House and Senate bills have been approved and/or currently going through the process. She emphasized House Bill (HB) 2381, effective December 31, 2021, as it relates to the retirement application process for the local boards. She advised that the local board will only address disabilities and line-of-duty deaths applications, and all other retirements, such as normal and survivor applications will be processed by the Phoenix Office. The Phoenix Office will determine their eligibility, service credits, retirement calculations, and effective dates. She furthered advised after the local board receives a completed application, the board must forward the application to the Phoenix Office within ten (10) days. Any applications for disability and line-of-duty, the board will need to provide a copy of the application also within ten (10) days. The secretary then informed the board any local board members and secretaries appointed/elected on or after January 01, 2022, shall receive training from PSPRS within 180 days; training will include open meeting laws, ethics, legal review, and duties and responsibilities. PSPRS will have the authority to require additional employment records from employers and local boards, require local boards to have a rehearing, and assume local board duties if the local board is non-compliant with state laws and/or the model uniform rules.

HB 2381 allows two (2) or more local boards to consolidate as a single local board. The secretary informed the board, retirees will receive a 2% cost of living adjustment, beginning July 01, 2021. She also mentioned that Mr. James Ko was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Investment Officer (CIO). Furthermore, she advised "members only" portal is changing to simplify members' access to their contribution records and account information through a single portal. Members will need to recreate new passwords in order to reactivate their account. Lastly, PSPRS was honored with Certificate of Transparency from the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) for the Agency's commitment to open disclosure and contribution to the public's understanding of public retirements. PSPRS was one of 138 state/local government pensions that participated in the NCPERS' Study. The local board had no additional comments and/or questions regarding the newsletters.

Current Events: The board members had no comments and/or questions.

The next special meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2021, at 3:15 p.m. due to an upcoming Normal Retirement Application.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

  
Norazel B. Mejia-Rico, Secretary of the Board