



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

August 25, 2021

Members present: Darren Simmons
Richard Meraz
Patricia Ogden
Frank Pereda

Members absent: Dave McDowell

Others present: Norazel Mejia-Rico, Secretary

A special meeting of the Local Board of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Personnel Retirement System was held Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

The board reviewed the minutes of the May 26, 2021 special meeting. Ms. Ogden motioned to approve the May 26, 2021 minutes as presented. Sgt. Meraz seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Old Business

None

New Business

The local board reviewed the application for Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) by Sergeant David Callahan, effective September 1, 2021. The secretary advised the local board of Sgt. Callahan's dates of employment, total years of service, estimated pension amount, the effective date of DROP, and sixty (60) months selection for the DROP period. The secretary explained the estimated pension amount as she is waiting for the Phoenix Office to update their records. Based on the PSPRS portal, the three (3) highest consecutive years included a retro payment; the retro payment cannot be included in the pension calculations if it's for different pay periods. Yuma County's Payroll Department sent via-email a breakdown of the retro payment amounts for each pay periods accordingly to the Phoenix Office. Once the Phoenix Office updates their records, she will be able to finalize the calculations. After a brief discussion, Sgt. Meraz motion to approve Sgt. Callahan's DROP application. Sgt. Pereda seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Separated Members: The secretary advised the board members that the following PSPRS member separated employment with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office: Angel M. Correa-Luna, date of separation 05/04/21. Ms. Ogden motioned to approve PSPRS member, Angel M. Correa-Luna, who separated employment. Sgt. Meraz seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

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

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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 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.

Chairman Simmons asked clarification on the new application process. The secretary advised the board they will meet regarding disabilities and line-of-duty deaths applications only. She further advised they will continue to meet regarding new hires, separations, and newsletters information. Sgt. Meraz asked if any of the other PSPRS local boards have reached out regarding consolidating the board; secretary advised she has not heard from any other local boards. Chairman Simmons advised the board that Yuma County was one of the employers who participated in paying the unfunded liabilities, thus saving the County lots of money. Sgt. Meraz asked if the County has an expense after a member retires. The local board discussed their understanding of the expense, to include the retirement tiers. The local board had no further comments and/or questions regarding the newsletters.

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

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for December 8th, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.