

MINUTES

POLICE OFFICERS' & FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

Held in person and via communications media technology

FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 24, 2023 - 2:00 PM

PRESENT

Capt. Mo Asim – Chair
Dianne Raulson
(Ret) Chief Linda Loizzo
Commissioner McKenzie Fleurimond

ALSO PRESENT

Renaldo Gayle – Pension Administrator
Via Zoom:
Bob Sugarman – SSBH
Kevin Spanier – BUCK
Lisa Bjornson – BUCK
David Kershner – BUCK
Martin Lebowitz – Pension Consultant

ABSENT

Detective Eric Rivera

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Via Zoom:
Marcia Fennell

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:16 p.m. by Chairman Mo Asim, followed by a roll call of the Trustees by Renaldo Gayle.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

III. CITY'S APPROACH TO 10/1/2022 VALUATION REPORT

The city's Chief Financial Officer, Marcia Fennell stated that at this time, the city is not able to make the additional contribution on October 1, 2023. She added that the City Manager will be making a recommendation at the next City Commission meeting to repeal Ordinance 2010-22. Once the commission decides, another meeting will be scheduled to review follow-up actions.

Trustee Linda Loizzo said that she would like the board to move forward with the hiring of a Constitutional Attorney because the city has an obligation because of Ordinance 2010-22 requiring the funded ratio to be a minimum of 70%.

Mr. Sugarman informed the board that if the city does not make the required contribution, there will be serious financial consequences to the pension fund. He confirmed that a discussion was had with the City Attorney and the city's resolution is that they have no intention of looking into

any alternatives with the actuary to address the funding need. The city intends to repeal the ordinance.

Actuary, Mr. Kevin Spanier was asked about the funding status of similar plans in Florida.

Mr. Spanier's responded that the average funding status of the 158 Police & Fire funds, in the State of Florida, is 101% as of October 1, 2021. This is the most recent information available. This fund, on that date, was 73% funded. This means the fund would be ranked as the fifth lowest in the state.

David Kershner discussed the idea of changing the amortization schedule and its effect on the funded status of the plan.

Trustee Asim asked how long it would take to generate a report showing the impact of changing the amortization schedule to 15 or 20 years.

Mr. Spanier's said that it is a relatively easy analysis to perform and the report could be ready in a short time. He added that it will not change the funded status today. Changing the amortization schedule will affect the length of time it takes to pay off the unfunded liability.

Mr. Sugarman stated that the interpretation of what the actuaries are saying, for the record, is there must be a plan in place to bring the funded ratio up to 70% in three years.

After discussion, motion by Trustee Linda Loizzo, seconded by Trustee Mo Asim to engage the services of a Constitutional Attorney.

Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Trustee Dianne Raulson, seconded by Trustee Mo Asim to delegate to Trustee Linda Loizzo the selection of a Constitutional Attorney in consultation with the fund's legal team.

Motion carried unanimously

IV. REVIEW & POSSIBLE CORRECTION OF J. O'CONNEL DISABILITY BENEFIT

Mr. Sugarman stated that it is a possibility that disability recipient, James O'Connell has been underpaid since attaining age 65 due to the Social Security Disability Offset. This offset no longer applies upon attaining age 65. This means that he has been underpaid for 16 years. Upon attaining age 65, the offset from Mr. O'Connell's benefit should have been removed.

Mr. Gayle and Mr. Sugarman have both reviewed the files thoroughly and are recommending that the benefit is increased, and a retro-active payment issued to cover the underpayment with interest.

Mr. Gayle informed the board that the retiree is owed \$42,579.84. This total does not include interest.

After discussion, motion by Trustee Mo Asim, seconded by Trustee Linda Loizzo to increase Mr. O'Connell's benefit and issue the retro-active payment of \$42,579.84 plus interest as calculated by the actuary of the fund.

Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Trustee McKenzie Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Linda Loizzo to correct Mr. O'Connell's pension payment effective April 1, 2023 by eliminating the wrongfully deducted Social Security Offset and issue an additional payment of \$15,000.00 to address the unique circumstances of the case and associated hardships and challenges.

Motion carried unanimously

V. REVISIT ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT – M. LEBOWITZ

Trustee Mo Asim informed the board that the reason for revisiting Mr. Lebowitz' contract is that the General Employees' Retirement Committee agreed to a different contract. That fund agreed to a lesser contract and length in the amount of \$500 per month for a period of six months. This is contrary to the agreement made in the amount of \$750 per month for one year by the Police & Fire Retirement Committee.

Trustee Asim stated that throughout the years, there has always been an equal partnership with the General Plan, and he wants to mimic their actions.

Mr. Lebowitz agreed to the revised contract that would mimic that of the General Plan.

Motion by Trustee Linda Loizzo, seconded by Trustee Mo Asim to revisit the employment agreement made with Mr. Lebowitz at the February 14, 2023 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Trustee McKenzie Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Linda Loizzo to withdraw their motions to approve the employment agreement made with Mr. Lebowitz at the February 14, 2023 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

After discussion, motion by Trustee Mo Asim, seconded by Trustee Linda Loizzo to approve a six-month contract commencing March 1, 2023 performing the duties discussed at a salary of \$500 per month knowing the General Retirement Committee is providing the same terms.

Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Trustee Mo Asim, seconded by Trustee Linda Loizzo to pay Mr. Lebowitz his accrued sick and vacation time in the amount of \$14,477.92 with the caveat that the General Employees' Retirement Committee is responsible for half.

Motion carried unanimously

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

Trustee Linda Loizzo informed the board that over the years, when she needs to reach Mr. Gayle, she has been most successful in doing so via his personal cellphone. As a result, she would like to see an allowance in place to address the associated costs on the agenda for the next meeting.


VII. NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is on May 9, 2023.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Trustees officially adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Renaldo Gayle
Plan Administrator