VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DISABILITY MEETING

December 7, 2015

MINUTES

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tracy Towner, Chair, Alternate Safety Employee Member
William W. Wilson, Vice Chair, Public Member
Mike Sedell, Public Member
Deanna McCormick, General Employee Member
Craig Winter, General Employee Member
Chris Johnston, Safety Employee Member
Arthur E. Goulet, Retiree Member
Will Hoag, Alternate Retiree Member

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Steven Hintz, Treasurer-Tax Collector
Joseph Henderson, Public Member
Peter C. Foy, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Webb, Retirement Administrator
Henry Solis, Chief Financial Officer
Lori Nemiroff, Assistant County Counsel
Dan Gallagher, Chief Investment Officer
Julie Stallings, Chief Operations Officer
Vickie Williams, Retirement Benefits Manager
Donna Edwards, Retirement Benefits Specialist
Chantell Garcia, Retirement Benefits Specialist
Stephanie Caiazza, Program Assistant

PLACE: Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association
Second Floor Boardroom
1190 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003

TIME: 9:00 a.m.
ITEM:

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Towner called the Disability Meeting of December 7, 2015, to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Approve the agenda.

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Johnston.

Vote: Motion carried
Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
No: -
Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Business Meeting of November 16, 2015.

   Trustee Sedell requested an amendment to the minutes on master page 10 under item VII.D, changing “draft the letter” to “work with staff to draft the letter”.

   MOTION: Approve the minutes, as amended.

   Moved by Wilson, seconded by Johnston.

   Vote: Motion carried
   Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
   No: -
   Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy
III. RECEIVE AND FILE PENDING DISABILITY APPLICATION STATUS REPORT

MOTION: Approve.

Moved by Goulet, seconded by McCormick.

Vote: Motion carried
Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
No: -
Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy

IV. APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY RETIREMENT

A. Application for Service Connected Disability Retirement, Juan Carlos Benavides; Case No. 15-016.

1. Application for Service Connected Disability Retirement and Supporting Documentation.


Wanda Tuttle was present on behalf of County of Ventura Risk Management. The applicant, Juan Carlos Benavides, was also present.

Both parties declined to make statements.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: Grant the applicant, Juan Carlos Benavides, a service connected disability retirement.

Moved by Goulet, seconded by Wilson.

Vote: Motion carried
Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
No: -
Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy

The parties agreed to waive preparation of findings of fact and conclusions of law.

B. Application for Service Connected Disability Retirement, David Pumphrey; Case No. 14-005

1. Application for Service Connected Disability Retirement and Supporting Documentation.

Wanda Tuttle and Stephen D. Roberson, Attorney at Law, were present on behalf of County of Ventura Risk Management. The applicant, David Pumphrey, was not present.

The representatives from Risk Management declined to make a statement.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: Grant the applicant, David Pumphrey, a service connected disability retirement.

Moved by Johnston, seconded by Wilson.

Vote: Motion carried
Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
No: -
Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy

Risk Management agreed to waive preparation of findings of fact and conclusions of law. Ms. Webb stated that VCERA staff will contact the applicant to offer the same waiver.

C. Application for Service Connected Disability Retirement, Jeffrey Titcher; Case No. 13-017


Stephen D. Roberson, Attorney at Law, was present on behalf of County of Ventura Risk Management. Laurence D. Grossman, Attorney at Law, was present on behalf of the applicant.

Both parties declined to make statements.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: Adopt the Hearing Officer’s recommendation and deny the applicant, Jeffrey Titcher, a service connected disability retirement.

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Sedell.
D. Application for Service Connected Disability Retirement, Karen Anderson; Case No. 11-021


Stephen D. Roberson, Attorney at Law, was present on behalf of County of Ventura Risk Management. Stephen R. Pingle, Attorney at Law, was present via teleconference on behalf of the applicant.

Both parties declined to make statements.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: Adopt the Hearing Officer’s recommendation and deny the applicant, Karen Anderson, a service connected disability retirement.

Moved by Sedell, seconded by Wilson.

Vote: Motion carried
Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
No: -
Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on AB1291

Chair Towner informed the Board that the draft resolution and proposed service agreements had been submitted to Ventura County Human Resources and County Executive Office, and were currently being reviewed.
VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Request to Increase Nossaman Engagement for Work Related to AB1291

   1. Staff Letter

      The following motion was made:

      **MOTION:** Authorize the Retirement Administrator to increase the authorization to $50,000 with an additional $1,000 for expenses, for Nossaman’s continued assistance to VCERA in implementing Government Code Section 31468 (AB 1291).

      Moved by Goulet, seconded by Sedell.

      Vote: Motion carried
      Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
      No: -
      Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy

B. Recommendation to Approve Trustee Towner’s Attendance at PIMCO Institute, January 26-27, 2016 in Newport Beach, CA.

   1. Staff Letter

      **MOTION:** Approve.

      Moved by Sedell, seconded by McCormick.

      Vote: Motion carried
      Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
      No: -
      Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy

C. Discussion of CPI Calculation Methodology, Trustee Johnston

   1. Staff Letter

   2. 2015 Segal COLA Letter

   3. Statutory COLA Provision

   4. Bureau of Labor Statistics Table

   5. CERL System Survey Table
6. **Trustee Johnston Reference Table**

Ms. Webb provided a correction to VII.C.5. CERL System Survey Table, stating that both ACERA and Marin use Method #1.

Trustee Johnson proposed that VCERA begin using the month-to-month averaging method instead of the December-to-December method used currently. Trustee Johnston said that the CPI data consistently drops off at the end of the year.

Ms. Nemiroff stated that both methods could be interpreted as correct based on the language of the statute.

Trustee Wilson said that he would like to hear more from Segal on this issue.

After discussion by the Board, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Table this item to allow time to collect additional information, and bring back before the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

Moved by Sedell, seconded by McCormick.

Vote: Motion carried
Yes: Goulet, Sedell, Johnston, Winter, McCormick, Wilson
No: -
Absent: Hintz, Henderson, Foy

**VIII. INFORMATIONAL**

A. Summary of SACRS Colleagues’ Committees

B. 2016 Public Funds Summit, January 13 – 15, 2016, Scottsdale, AZ

C. Investment Education Symposium, February 3 – 5, 2016, New Orleans, LA

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.
X. STAFF COMMENT

Ms. Webb requested feedback on the Board’s preferences on different electronic devices that may be used to view Board materials. Ms. Webb indicated that both an IPad Pro and Microsoft Surface were available for trustees to test after the meeting.

Ms. Webb informed the Board that educational hours will be posted in January. Ms. Webb reminded the trustees to submit any hours that were not yet reported, and to submit their SACRS conference evaluations if they had not already done so.

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

The Board discussed including only recommended educational opportunities in subsequent agenda materials.

Chair Towner clarified that trustees and staff may refer any investment inquiries to VCERA’s Chief Investment Officer Dan Gallagher.

Chair Towner informed the Board that the December 21, 2015 business meeting agenda will include a Closed Session to discuss employee contracts related to the five VCERA positions impacted by Government Code Section 31468 (AB 1291).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA WEBB, Retirement Administrator

Approved,

TRACY TOWNER, Chairman