

VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DISABILITY MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

AGENDA

**TRUSTEES
PRESENT:**

Mike Sedell, Chair, Public Member
Arthur E. Goulet, Vice-Chair, Retired Member
Aaron Grass, Safety Employee Member
Sue Horgan, Treasurer-Tax Collector
Tommie E. Joe, Public Member
Kelly Long, Public Member
Jordan Roberts, General Employee Member
Robert Ashby, Alternate Safety Employee Member
Donald Brodt, Alternate Public Member
Will Hoag, Alternate Retired Member

**TRUSTEES
ABSENT:**

Anthony Rainey, Public Member
Cecilia Hernandez-Garcia, General Employee Member

**STAFF
PRESENT:**

Rick Santos, Interim Retirement Administrator
Amy Herron, Chief Operations Officer
Lori Nemiroff, General Counsel
La Valda Marshall, Chief Financial Officer
Josiah Vencel, Retirement Benefits Manager
Brian Owen, Sr. Information Technology Specialist
Michael Sanchez, Sr. Information Technology Specialist
Chris Ayala, Program Assistant

PLACE:

Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association
Second Floor, Boardroom
1190 S. Victoria Avenue, Suite 200
Ventura, CA 93003

TIME:

9:00 a.m.

ITEM:

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call.

Chair Sedell called the Disability Meeting of November 6, 2023, to order at 9:01 a.m.

Roll Call:

Trustees Present: Robert Ashby, Donald Brodt, Aaron Grass, Art Goulet, Will Hoag, Sue Horgan, Tommie Joe, Jordan Roberts, Mike Sedell

Trustees Absent: Cecilia Hernandez-Garcia, Kelly Long, Anthony Rainey

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Approve.

Moved by Goulet, seconded by Roberts

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Brodt, Grass, Goulet, Horgan, Joe, Roberts, Sedell

No: -

Absent: Hernandez-Garcia, Long, Rainey

Abstain: -

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Notice: Any item appearing on the Consent Agenda may be moved to the Regular Agenda at the request of any Trustee who would like to propose changes to or have discussion on the item. Note that approval of meeting minutes are now part of the Consent Agenda.

A. Receive and File Pending Disability Application Status Report.

B. Receive and File Report of Checks Disbursed in September 2023.

C. Approve Disability & Business Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2023.

D. FY 2022-23 Quarterly Financial Statements and Budget Summaries, as of June 30, 2023 (Unaudited).

1. Staff Letter from Chief Financial Officer.

2. Financial Statements.

3. Budget Summaries.

E. Approval of Staff Recommendation for Request for Proposal (RFP) Actuarial Audit Services Firm Selection.

1. Staff Letter from Chief Financial Officer.

Trustee Long arrived at the meeting at 9:08 a.m., before the vote on the item.

After discussion by the Board and staff, the following motion was made.

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda.

Moved by Long, seconded by Roberts

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Brodt, Grass, Goulet, Horgan, Joe, Long, Roberts, Sedell

No: -

Absent: Hernandez-Garcia, Rainey

Abstain: -

IV. APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY RETIREMENT

- A. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement—Ferguson, Renee; Case No. 21-035. (New Model) (Law Enforcement)

1. Staff Recommendation to Grant the Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement, dated October 24, 2023.
2. Supporting Documentation for Staff Recommendation.
3. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement, filed by Applicant's Attorney, Thomas Wicke, dated October 13, 2021.
4. Hearing Notice, dated October 24, 2023.

Josiah Vencel was present on behalf of VCERA. Thomas Wicke, Attorney at Law, was present on behalf of the applicant, Renee Ferguson, who was also present.

Mr. Vencel provided a summary statement.

Mr. Wicke declined to make a summary statement.

MOTION: Approve Staff's Recommendation to Grant the Service-connected Disability Retirement, Effective March 19, 2022.

Moved by Grass, seconded by Goulet

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Brodt, Grass, Goulet, Horgan, Joe, Long, Roberts, Sedell

No: -

Absent: Hernandez-Garcia, Rainey

Abstain: -

- B. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement—Egnatchik, Stephen; Case No. 22-007. (New Model) (Law Enforcement)

1. Staff Recommendation to Grant the Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement, dated October 30, 2023.
2. Supporting Documentation for Staff Recommendation.
3. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement, filed by Applicant's Attorney, Thomas Wicke, dated February 25, 2022.
4. Hearing Notice, dated October 30, 2023.

Josiah Vencel was present on behalf of VCERA. Thomas Wicke, Attorney at Law, was present on behalf of the applicant, Stephen Egnatchik, who was also present.

Mr. Vencel provided a summary statement.

Mr. Wicke declined to make a summary statement.

MOTION: Approve Staff's Recommendation to Grant the Service-connected Disability Retirement, Effective October 29, 2022.

Moved by Goulet, seconded by Grass

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Brodt, Grass, Goulet, Horgan, Joe, Long, Roberts, Sedell

No: -

Absent: Hernandez-Garcia, Rainey

Abstain: -

C. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement—Leake, Todd; Case No. 22-009. (New Model) (Fire)

1. Staff Recommendation to Grant the Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement, dated October 24, 2023.
2. Supporting Documentation for Staff Recommendation.
3. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement, filed by Applicant, dated March 11, 2022.
4. Hearing Notice, dated October 24, 2023.

Josiah Vencel was present on behalf of VCERA. The applicant, Todd Leake, was also present.

Mr. Vencel provided a summary statement.

MOTION: Approve Staff's Recommendation to Grant the Service-connected Disability Retirement, Effective March 23, 2022.

Moved by Ashby, seconded by Long

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Ashby, Brodt, Goulet, Horgan, Joe, Long, Roberts, Sedell

No: -

Absent: Hernandez-Garcia, Rainey

Abstain: -

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 Board of Retirement Meeting Calendar.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve.

1. Staff Letter from Interim Retirement Administrator.
2. Proposed 2024 Board of Retirement Meeting Calendar.

Mr. Santos presented a proposed Board of Retirement Meeting Calendar for 2024, which kept the same format of scheduling one meeting per month every other month, with the remaining months having two meetings per month. Also, at the upcoming Special meeting on December 4th, staff would like to discuss the option of utilizing more committees, and depending on the outcome of those discussions, staff may also propose a one-meeting-per-month Board Calendar.

MOTION: Approve the 2024 Board of Retirement Meeting Calendar, as Presented.

Moved by Horgan, seconded by Roberts

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Brodt, Grass, Goulet, Horgan, Joe, Long, Roberts, Sedell

No: -

Absent: Hernandez-Garcia, Rainey

Abstain: -

VII. INFORMATIONAL

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. STAFF COMMENT

None.

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Long provided a verbal report on her attendance at the Nossaman Fiduciary Form for 2023.

Trustee Ashby announced his resignation from the Board of Retirement, effective today. He would also be retiring from the Ventura County Fire Department and had taken a position at another fire department. He said that his announcement was bittersweet because he enjoyed his time on the Board, and it had been a pleasure to work with both the Board members and VCERA staff.

Chair Sedell thanked Trustee Ashby for his dedication and service as a trustee of the Board.

Trustee Goulet said that it was bittersweet for the Board as well, but he wished him well in his new position.

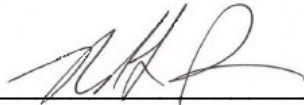
Trustee Long thanked Trustee Ashby for his service to the employees, and that it had been a pleasure to work with him.

Chair Sedell also provided a brief update on the recruitment for VCERA's new Retirement Administrator. He noted that the Recruitment Committee had recently reviewed the recommendations from the consultant overseeing the recruitment process, and there were 5 candidates that the committee was looking to meet with, and afterwards they planned to bring 2 to 3 of them to the Board for consideration.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

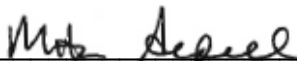
The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



RICHARD SANTOS, Interim Retirement Administrator

Approved,



MIKE SEDELL, Chair