

**CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT TRUST FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 31, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A continuance of an Informal Disability Line-of-Duty Hearing of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT TRUST FUND was called to order by Secretary/Trustee Pavlyshin on Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 11:00 AM, in the Council Chambers of Port St. Lucie City Hall located at 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Paul Griffith, Chairman
Tara Pavlyshin, Secretary/Trustee
Brian Reuther, Trustee
Carmine Izzo, Trustee

Members Not Present: Daniel Kleman, Trustee

Others Present: Bonni S. Jensen, Plan Legal Counsel, Klausner, Kaufman,
Jensen & Levinson
Sandra H. Steele, Retirement Division Manager
Danneshia Brown, Retirement Analyst
Traci Mehl, Deputy City Clerk
Nicholas Lovechio, Police Officer/Applicant
ToniAnn Lovechio, Applicant's Wife

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONTINUANCE OF HEARING ON SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION FOR NICHOLAS LOVECHIO

Attorney Jensen indicated that since the Board last met with Applicant Nicholas Lovechio on September 17, 2024, Applicant Lovechio has converted his service-connected disability application to a nonservice-connected disability application. Attorney Jensen reminded the Board that they left the last meeting with the idea of getting additional information from Applicant Lovechio's doctors regarding the service connectedness of his disability. She explained that given the application has been changed from a duty disability application to a nonduty disability application, this additional information was no longer necessary.

Attorney Jensen stated the Board did not take a vote at the last meeting, but some members had indicated they felt Applicant Lovechio was disabled from performing his functions as a police officer and likely to remain so permanently and continuously. She indicated those are the standards to meet a nonservice-connected disability.

Chairman Griffith indicated Applicant Lovechio had nothing further to add and that Attorney Jensen would be asking the Board to respond to some questions.

Attorney Jensen stated the first question is to determine that Applicant Lovechio is disabled from performing his functions as a police officer. There being no discussion, Trustee Reuther **moved** that Applicant Lovechio is disabled from performing his functions as a police officer. Secretary/Trustee Pavlyshin **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously** by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Trustee Kleman was not present at this meeting.)

Attorney Jensen stated the second question is to determine if Applicant Lovechio is disabled permanently and continuously. There being no discussion, Trustee Reuther **moved** that Applicant Lovechio is disabled permanently and continuously. Trustee Izzo **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously** by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Trustee Kleman was not present at this meeting.)

5. BOARD ACTION ON APPLICATION

Attorney Jensen stated a motion would be in order to grant the nonservice related disability. There being no discussion, Trustee Izzo **moved** to grant the nonservice related disability to Applicant Lovechio. Trustee Reuther **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously** by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Trustee Kleman was not present at this meeting.)

Chairman Griffith noted this meeting was originally scheduled for October 9, 2024, but the Board was unable to meet due to inclement weather. He inquired if it was possible to back date the granting of the disability pension to October 9, 2024. Attorney Jensen stated the Board could provide an effective date, since an act of God prevented them from meeting. Secretary/Trustee Pavlyshin **moved** to back date the granting of the disability pension to October 9, 2024. Trustee Reuther **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously** by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Trustee Kleman was not present at this meeting.)

Chairman Griffith advised Applicant Lovechio that Sandy Steele would get the appropriate paperwork together. Ms. Steele briefly explained the next steps and stated she will inform Human Resources. Attorney Jensen noted the disability payments cannot begin until Applicant Lovechio is terminated from his employment.

Trustee Izzo indicated a ceremony will be held to officially recognize and thank Applicant Lovechio for all his years of service and for everything he has done. Applicant Lovechio thanked everyone for their support.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

For the record, Trustee Reuther indicated that former Assistant Chief William Vega, Jr., pled yesterday to one misdemeanor and received one year of probation. Attorney Jensen stated it would depend on the statutory provisions in Chapter 838, which is a catch-all official misconduct section, to determine where the Board might be concerned on this issue.

Trustee Reuther indicated Bobby Vega did not plead yet and inquired about his unpaid administrative leave, as the City and Bobby Vega are not contributing to his pension. Trustee Reuther asked if Bobby Vega would get credit for that time, if he pleaded to a misdemeanor and gets reinstated. Attorney Jensen stated they had already discussed this matter, so she will review the ordinance and their past discussion.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Trustee Reuther **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 PM. Secretary/Trustee Pavlyshin **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously** by voice vote.

Secretary/Trustee Tara Pavlyshin

Traci Mehl, Deputy City Clerk