

**CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT TRUST FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MAY 7, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Municipal Police Officers Retirement Trust Fund was called to order by Chair Griffith on May 7, 2024, at 10:15 AM in Room 366 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

Excused Absence: Dan Kleman, Trustee

Others Present: Bonni S. Jensen, Board Attorney and Legal Counsel,
Klausner, Kaufman, Jensen & Levinson
Danneshia Brown, Retirement Analyst
Sandra H. Steele, Retirement Division Manager
Daisy Ruiz, Deputy City Clerk

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

**4. UPDATE ON APPLICATION PROCESS FOR IN-THE-LINE OF DUTY
DISABILITY APPLICANT RYAN COOK**

Sandra Steele, Retirement Division Manager provided an update to the Board regarding the retainer check previously provided to Dr. White in the amount of \$2,500. She advised that staff had provided a total of 17 IME appointment dates to Applicant Cook and that Applicant Cook confirmed a date in early March but cancelled. She advised that the \$2,500 check provided to Dr. White could be utilized in the Applicant Matthew Wood's case in the future.

Ms. Steele discussed the spreadsheet provided to the Board regarding the legal costs associated with Applicant Cook's matter from June 2022 to April

**MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT
TRUST FUND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

MAY 7, 2024

2024 and explained that it did not include the fees associated with Attorney Alison Schefer.

Secretary Pavlyshin inquired if the spreadsheet included work provided by the Pension Board staff, to which Ms. Steele responded in the negative and provided an additional handout that read "Synopsis of Mailing USB Drive to Applicant Ryan Cook" which detailed the cost to deliver the USB Drive to the Applicant.

Ms. Steele explained that she did not hear back from Applicant Cook in March regarding the new proposed IME Appointment dates.

Chairman Griffith inquired if the email addressed utilized was same one Applicant Cook has previously used when communicating with Pension Board staff, to which Ms. Steele responded in the affirmative.

Trustee Reuther asked if Applicant Cook revoked his Medical Waiver via email, to which Ms. Steele responded in the affirmative. Attorney Jensen added that she explained to Applicant Cook that the Board would have to deny the claim based on his revocation of Medical Records Waiver.

Chairman Griffith discussed the Board being receptive to pushing off IME appointments in these matters.

Attorney Jensen that it is common practice for the Board to provide dates and the Applicant to attend unless there were extenuating circumstances.

Trustee Reuther stated that he did not recall having issues rescheduling IME appointment dates, in his tenure on the Board, to which Ms. Steele added that normally Applicants are anxious to attend the IME appointment.

Chairman Griffith inquired with the Board about the direction they would like to take with this matter. He stated that staff had gone above and beyond by providing a total of 17 possible dates and the Applicant failed to communicate. He asked when the Applicant had revoked his Medical Release Waiver, to which Attorney Jensen stated that he revoked it on March 1st, 2024, the appointment was supposed to be on March 7th, 2024 and he reinstated his release on March 19th, 2024. Chairman Griffith inquired if there was a motion from the Board to proceed.

Trustee Izzo pointed out that the Applicant did not cancel the day prior but rather a few days before the March 7th appointment.

**MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT
TRUST FUND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

MAY 7, 2024

Ms. Steele noted that previously there were December dates provided to Applicant Cook.

Secretary Pavlyshin **moved** to schedule the continuation of the Cook Disability Hearing to June 18, 2024, prior to the Board's regular Board meeting. Under discussion, Attorney Jensen added that she would provide notice to Applicant Cook. Trustee Reuther **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously** by voice vote.

Trustee Reuther inquired as to what would happen if the Applicant failed to show up, to which Attorney Jensen responded that in the event the Applicant was unable to make the hearing or asked for other dates, the Board could continue with the hearing without him being present. She advised that it was the Applicant's burden to prove to the Board that he suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Secretary Pavlyshin asked if the final decision would be provided to the Applicant, to which Attorney Jensen advised that the Board must provide an order with the findings made by the Board and would include his right to appeal.

6. ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Paul Griffith, Chairman

Daisy Ruiz, Deputy City Clerk