



Retirement Board of the Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY – September 26, 2024

Board Meeting Agenda
September 26, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Requests from Members of the Public to Address the Board
3. Approval of Administrative Items
 - a. Approval of Minutes – Board Meeting held August 29, 2024
 - b. Approval of Transcript - Board Meeting held August 29, 2024
 - c. Approval of Minutes - Executive Sessions during Board Meeting held August 29, 2024
4. Approval of Board Orders
 - a. Officer Samantha Webb - Duty Disability
 - b. Officer Richard Arroyo– Duty Disability
 - c. Officer –Roberto Ramirez - Duty Disability
5. Consideration for Approval of Benefit Applications and Expenses
6. Consideration for Approval of Applications for Disability / Reviews
 - a. Hearing for Officer Niagara Craig – Duty Disability
 - b. Hearing for Officer Leon Payne - Duty Disability
 - c. Hearing for Officer Chris Sloniec– Duty Disability
 - d. Hearing for Officer Eric Stillman– Duty Disability
 - e. Status Review for Officer Robert J. Smith - Duty Disability
 - f. Status Review for Officer Vasilios Kefalas - Duty Disability
7. Legal Review*
 - a. In-process case report
 - b. Other
8. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Securities Litigation*
9. Other Business

*Topics may be discussed in closed session in accordance with the applicable Open Meetings Act provisions.

Board Members Present:

Melissa Conyears-Ervin*	Trustee
John Lally	Trustee
Michael Lappe	Trustee
Jeffrey Levine*	Trustee, Vice President
Brock Merck	Trustee
Michael Stiscak	President, Recording Secretary

Staff Present:

Kevin Reichart	Executive Director
Sarah Boeckman	Board Counsel
Paul Rzeszutko	Benefits Manager
Bob Crawford	Disability Manager

Consultants and Advisors Present:

Dr. Susan Buchanan*	Board Physician
Richard Reimer*	Board Attorney/Hearing Officer
Avi Josephson*^	Attorney with Bernstein, Litowitz, Berger & Grossmann
Maya Saxena*^	Attorney with Saxena White, P.A.
Marisa DeMato*^	Attorney with Saxena White, P.A.
Wolf Worms*^	Attorney with Saxena White, P.A.
Donald Broggi*^	Attorney with Scott & Scott
Nancy Kulesa*^	Attorney with Bleichmar, Fonti, Auld, LLP
Javier Bleichmar*^	Attorney with Bleichmar, Fonti, Auld, LLP
John Kehoe*^	Attorney with Kehoe Law Firm
Carol Gilden*^	Attorney with Cohen Milstein
Steven Toll*^	Attorney with Cohen Milstein
Bill Cavanagh*^	Attorney with Robbins, Geller, Rudman & Dowd, LLP
Chad Johnson*^	Attorney with Robbins, Geller, Rudman & Dowd, LLP

City of Chicago Office of the Treasurer Staff

Public in Attendance:

Ralph Licari*	Attorney
Rosemarie Giambalvo*	Retiree, CPD
Beth Svec*	Police Officer, CPD
Robin Kroll*^	Psychologist
Niagara Craig*	Police Officer, CPD
Leon Payne*	Police Officer, CPD
Chris Sloniec*	Police Officer, CPD
Eric Stillman*	Police Officer, CPD
Michael Mette*	FOP
Others in attendance not identified	

*Denotes partial attendance

^ Denotes remote attendance

ROLL CALL

President Stiscak determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.

REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Trustee Stiscak asked if there were any requests from the public to address the Board. No members of the public chose to speak.

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first order of business was review of the minutes of the Board Meeting held August 29, 2024 and the transcript of the Board meeting held August 29, 2024.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting held August 29, 2024 and to approve the transcript of the Board Meeting held August 29, 2024, was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

The next order of business was review of the minutes of the Executive Sessions from the Board Meeting held August 29, 2024.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Sessions held during the August 29, 2024 Board Meeting, was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

Trustee Stiscak noted a correction from August 2024 Board Agenda, agenda Schedule 3 (b) "Approval of Transcript - Board Meeting held June 25, 2024" should have had the date as "July 25, 2024".

APPROVAL OF BOARD ORDERS

Officer Samantha Webb

Application; Duty Disability

Board Counsel provided a draft order to the Board.

A motion to adopt and publish the Board Order as submitted for Officer Samantha Webb was made by Trustee Lappe, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

APPROVAL OF BOARD ORDERS - continued

Officer Richard Arroyo

Application; Duty Disability

Board Counsel provided a draft order to the Board.

A motion to adopt and publish the Board Order as submitted for Officer Richard Arroyo was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

Officer Roberto Ramirez

A motion to enter into executive session per 2 (c) (4) of the open meetings act was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Levine.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

A motion to exit executive session and return to open session was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

A motion to continue the matter to next month's meeting for the Board Order for Officer Roberto Ramirez was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES

DOCKET: SCHEDULE I-A Incurred Expenses for the Month of September 2024

A motion to approve the Incurred Expenses as detailed on Schedule I-A was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES – continued

DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-A Refunds of Contributions

A motion to approve the Refunds as detailed on Schedule II-A was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-B Refunds of Surviving Spouse’s Contributions

A motion to approve the Refunds as detailed on Schedule II-B was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-C Refunds of Exempt Rank Contributions

A motion to approve the Refunds as detailed on Schedule II-C was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-D Refunds Payment to Heirs of Deceased Annuitants

A motion to approve the Refunds as detailed on Schedule II-D was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-E Refund Unused Contributions Post Death

A motion to approve the Refunds as detailed on Schedule II-E was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE III-A Annuities with a Summary page

A motion to approve the Annuities as detailed on Schedule III-A, was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES – continued

DOCKET: SCHEDULE III-B Annuities to Widows with a Summary Page

A motion to approve the Annuities to Widows as detailed on Schedule III-B was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE III-C Annuities to Children

A motion to approve the Annuities to Children as detailed on Schedule III-C was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE IV Duty Disability – Child Benefit Only

Child Disability Benefit to Officer Brian Berka for minor child Easton Berka, birth certificate verified.

A motion to award Officer Brian Berka a disability child benefit for Easton Berka was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE IV-B Disability Applications - New

A motion to approve Officer Kevin J. Cunningham for ordinary disability was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE V Payment of Death Benefits with a Summary

A motion to approve payment of the Death Benefits as indicated on Schedule V was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

PRIOR SERVICE REQUESTS- PORTABILITY

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VII-A Prior Service Requests - Portability 5/5.214.2

Officer Ernesto G. Amparan requested purchase of prior service rendered under Article 3 Des Plaines Police Department for the period of January 2, 2024 through July 7, 2024.

A motion to approve the request to purchase pension credit for the Article 3 service as detailed on Schedule VII-A was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

Officer Ernesto G. Amparan requested purchase of prior service rendered to Phoenix Arizona Police Department (out of state) covering the period of employment from November 19, 2007 through October 27, 2010.

A motion to deny the request to purchase pension credit for out of state service as detailed on Schedule VII was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

Officer Ernesto G. Amparan requested purchase of prior service rendered to Mesa Arizona Police Department (out of state) covering two periods of employment from July 4, 2011 through September 12, 2012 and October 22, 2012 through March 31, 2013.

A motion to deny the request to purchase pension credit for out of state service as detailed on Schedule VII was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

Officer Jermaine M. Young requested purchase of prior service rendered under Article 9 for the period of March 8, 2024 through September 21, 2006.

A motion to deny the request to purchase pension credit for Article 9 service as detailed on Schedule VII was made by Trustee Lappe, seconded by Trustee Levine.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

PRIOR SERVICE REQUESTS- Military

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VII Prior Service Requests – MILITARY – 5/5-214.3

Officer Sebastian Ortiz Hernandez requested purchase of prior military service, documentation verified. *A motion to approve payment for pension credit for the military leaves as detailed on Schedule VII was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.*

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

General docketed items completed.

A motion to appoint Richard Reimer as the Hearing Officer for all disability cases scheduled to be heard at this meeting was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman, Jaworski.

Whereupon, Trustee Conyears-Ervin joined the meeting.

HEARINGS

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII-A DISABILITY HEARINGS

Officer Niagara Craig – Duty Disability Claim

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Officer Niagara Craig.

Officer Craig appeared before the Board, with counsel, on her claim for a duty disability benefit. The records were reviewed and testimony was taken from claimant.

A motion to grant Officer Craig a duty disability benefits at 75% of salary as provided for in the Pension Act, for the period of July 23, 2024 through her date of retirement on August 15, 2024, was made by Trustee Lappe, seconded by Trustee Levine.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

HEARINGS

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII-A DISABILITY HEARINGS - continued

Officer Robert J. Smith – Duty Disability Review

The Board decided to go out of order for item #6 (e) on the Board Meeting Agenda regarding the status review for Officer Robert J. Smith – Duty Disability.

Officer Robert Smith was to appear before the Board for a status review regarding his duty disability benefit. The Board decided not to hear this review and to continue the review in March 2025.

A motion to grant Officer Smith a continuance until March 2025 was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

Officer Leon Payne – Duty Disability Claim

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Officer Leon Payne.

Officer Payne appeared before the Board, with counsel, on his claim for a duty disability benefit. The records were reviewed and testimony was taken from claimant.

A motion to grant Officer Payne a duty disability benefits at 75% of salary as provided for in the Pension Act, was made by Trustee Lappe, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

Officer Chris Sloniec – Duty Disability Claim

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Officer Chris Sloniec.

Officer Sloniec appeared before the Board, with counsel, on his claim for a duty disability benefit. The records were reviewed and testimony was taken from claimant.

A motion to grant Officer Sloniec a duty disability benefits at 75% of salary as provided for in the Pension Act, was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lappe.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

Whereupon, Trustee Lappe left the meeting.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SECURITIES LITIGATION

The Board being ahead of schedule to hear further disability hearings/reviews, it was decided to go out of order to begin discussions regarding agenda item 8, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Securities Litigation.

A motion to enter into executive session per 2 (c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.

A motion to exit executive session and return to open session was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.

The Board took no final action from the executive session.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII-A DISABILITY HEARINGS – Resumed

Officer Eric Stillman – Duty Disability Claim

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Officer Eric Stillman.

Officer Stillman appeared before the Board, with counsel, on his claim for a duty disability benefit. The records were reviewed and testimony was taken from claimant.

Further testimony was taken remotely from Dr. Robin Kroll, Psychologist, who is treating Officer Stillman. The Board and Fund Counsel asked Dr. Kroll several questions regarding the treatment plan of Officer Stillman. Following the question and answer session, the Board thanked Dr. Kroll for attending the hearing.

A motion to enter into executive session per 2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Levine.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.

A motion to exit executive session and return to open session was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Stiscak.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII-A DISABILITY HEARINGS – continued

Officer Eric Stillman – Duty Disability Claim - continued

A motion to grant Officer Stillman duty disability benefits at 75% of salary as provided for in the Pension Act, was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Stiscak.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Stiscak.
 Against: Conyears-Ervin, Merck
 Abstained: Levine
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.
The motion did not carry.

A motion to grant Officer Stillman a duty disability benefits at 50% of salary as provided for in the Pension Act, was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: Conyears-Ervin
 Abstained: Levine
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.
The motion passed.

Officer Vasilios Kefalas – Duty Disability Review

Officer Vasilios Kefalas appeared before the Board, without counsel, for a status review for his duty disability benefit. Officer Kefalas requested a continuance to obtain legal counsel.

A motion to grant Officer Kefalas a final continuance to obtain legal counsel regarding his claim for duty disability, to be considered by the Board at the November 22, 2024 Board meeting was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Stiscak.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.

Disability Hearings/Reviews completed.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SECURITIES LITIGATION - continued

A motion to enter into executive session per 2 (c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act to continue the Board Meeting Agenda item #8 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Securities Litigation was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.

A motion to exit executive session and return to open session was made by Trustee Stiscak, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SECURITIES LITIGATION - continued

A motion to engage with BLB&G (Bernstein, Litowitz, Berger & Grossman) to represent the Fund as legal counsel regarding the securities litigation was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Lappe, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

All business concluded.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin and seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Lally, Levine, Merck, Stiscak.
 Against: 0.
 Absent: Guzman, Jaworski, Lappe.

No further consideration was taken by the Trustees.