



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

### **MINUTES**

#### **BOARD MEETING**

FRIDAY – December 20, 2024

**Board Meeting Agenda**  
**December 20, 2024, 9:00 A.M.**

1. Roll Call
2. Requests from Members of the Public to Address the Board
3. Election of Board Officers
4. Approval of Authorized Signatories
5. Approval of Administrative Items
  - a. Approval of Minutes – Investment Meeting held November 18, 2024
  - b. Approval of Transcript - Investment Meeting held November 18, 2024
  - c. Approval of Minutes – Board Meeting held November 22, 2024
  - d. Approval of Transcript - Board Meeting held November 22, 2024
  - e. Approval of Minutes - Executive Sessions during Board Meeting held November 22, 2024
  - f. Periodic Review of Closed Session Minutes
6. Approval of Board Orders
  - a. Officer Nilofer Nanlawala – Duty Disability
  - b. Officer Iwona Wrobel – Duty Disability
7. Consideration for Approval of Benefit Applications and Expenses
8. Consideration for Approval of Applications for Disability / Reviews
  - a. Hearing for Lieutenant Michael Keeney – Duty Disability
  - b. Hearing for Officer Mark Friar – Duty Disability
9. Discussion and Consideration for Approval of Suspension of Disability Benefit
10. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding 2025 Conference Schedule
11. Legal Review\*
  - a. In-process case report
  - b. Other
12. Discussion Regarding Cash Flow and Possible Action Regarding the Liquidation of Investments to Assist in the Payment of Benefits
13. Legislative Update

14. Other Business

- a. Annual Training Requirements—Distribution of State of Illinois Sexual Harassment and Security Training for 2024
- b. Annual Training Requirements—Distribution of City of Chicago Harassment Prevention and Bystander Training for 2024

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

Board Members Present:

Melissa Conyears-Ervin	Trustee
Annette Guzman	Trustee
Jill Jaworski ^	Trustee
John Lally	Trustee, President
Thomas Lonergan	Trustee
Jeffrey Levine	Trustee, Vice President
Brock Merck	Trustee
Brian Wright	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

City of Chicago Office of the Treasurer Staff

Public in Attendance:

Ralph Licari*	Attorney
David Di Santi *	Retired, CPD
Thomas Mazur*	Attorney
Derrick Blaida*	Legislative Liaison
Others in attendance not identified	

\*Denotes partial attendance

^ Denotes remote attendance

**ROLL CALL**

Vice President Levine determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:06 a.m.

**REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None

**ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

Trustee Levine presided over the first order of business, the election of Board Officers pursuant to Section 5/5-181 of the Pension Code. Trustee Levine requested nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President and Recording Secretary to serve for fiscal year 2025.

*A motion was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin nominating Trustee Lally for President, Trustee Levine for Vice-President and Trustee Wright for Recording Secretary, seconded by Trustee Guzman.*

ROLL CALL:                    For:            Conyears-Ervin, Jaworski, Guzman, Lally, Levine, Lonergan, Wright.  
                                      Against:     Merck  
                                      Absent:     0.  
                                      Motion passes.

As newly elected President, Trustee Lally presided the remainder of the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES**

Executive Director Reichart requested approval for authorized signatories to execute any and all written instruments, agreements, documents, and contracts on behalf of the Policemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago ("Fund").

*A motion was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Wright naming Trustee Lally as President, Trustee Wright as Recording Secretary, Kevin Reichart as Executive Director, and Ivan Rogic as Assistant Comptroller to execute any and all written instruments, agreements, documents, and contracts on behalf of the Policemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago ("Fund").*

ROLL CALL:                    For:            Conyears-Ervin, Jaworski, Guzman, Lally, Levine, Lonergan, Wright.  
                                      Against:     Merck  
                                      Absent:     0.  
                                      Motion passes.

**APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

The first order of business was approval of the minutes and transcripts of the Investment Meeting held November 18, 2024; approval of the minutes and transcripts of the Board Meeting held November 22, 2024.

*A motion was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Merck to approve the minutes and transcripts of the Investment meeting held November 18, 2024 and to approve the minutes and transcripts of the Board meeting held November 22, 2024.*

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

**APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - continued**

The next order of business was approval of the minutes of the Executive Session held during the Board meeting on November 22, 2024.

*A motion was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Merck to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held during the meeting on November 22, 2024.*

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

The next order of business was the Periodic Review of Closed Session Minutes. Under Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act, the Board is required, on a semiannual basis, to review the executive session minutes that has previously closed and determine whether there is a need for those minutes to remain confidential.

*A motion to approve the opening of the minutes recommended by Board counsel and the Executive Director was made by Trustee Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Levine.*

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

*A motion directing legal counsel to work with the Executive Director to determine what verbatim tapes need to be discarded consistent with the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Levine.*

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

**APPROVAL OF BOARD ORDERS**

**Officer Nilofer Nanlawala**

Application; Duty Disability

Board Counsel provided a draft order to the Board for Officer Nilofer Nanlawala.

*A motion to adopt and publish the Board Order as submitted for Officer Nilofer Nanlawala was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Merck.*

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

**Officer Iwona Wrobel**

Application; Duty Disability

Board Counsel provided a draft order to the Board for Officer Iwona Wrobel.

*A motion to adopt and publish the Board Order as submitted for Officer Iwona Wrobel was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Merck.*

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

**CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES**

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

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

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

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-A Refunds of Member Contributions**

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

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

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-B Refunds of Surviving Spouse Contributions**

*A motion to approve the spousal Refunds as detailed on Schedule II-B was made by Trustee Guzman, seconded by Trustee Wright.*

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

**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 Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Guzman.*

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

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-E Refunds Unused Annuity Accumulations (Post Death)**

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

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

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-G Refunds Annula Increase Contributions**

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

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

**CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES - continued**

**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 Wright, seconded by Trustee Merck.*

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

**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 Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Levine.*

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

**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 Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Wright.*

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

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE VII Pension Credit – Portability 5/5-214.2**

Documentation reviewed for portability pension credit.

*A motion to approve the portability requests to purchase pension credit for service under 40 ILCS 5-5-214.2 as detailed on Schedule VII was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Levine, per guidelines established under the Pension Act.*

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

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE VII-A – Military Credit 5/5-214.3**

Military documentation was verified for purchase of military credit.

*A motion to approve requests to purchase pension credit for military service under 40 ILCS 5/5-214.3 as detailed on Schedule VII-A was made by Trustee Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Merck.*

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

**General docket items completed.**



**DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII-A DISABILITY HEARINGS**

*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 Levine, seconded by Trustee Guzman.*

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

**Lieutenant Michael Keeney– Duty Hearing**

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Lieutenant Michael Keeney. Officer Keeney was not present; he was represented by Counsel Thomas Mazur. Attorney Mazur requested another continuance stating additional time was needed to obtain medical documentation for his client.

*A motion to provide Lieutenant a final continuation to January 2025 was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Lally.*

ROLL CALL: For: Conyears-Ervin, Jaworski, Guzman, Lally, Levine, Lonergan, Wright.  
Against: Merck.  
Absent: 0.  
The motion passes.

**Officer Mark Friar– Duty Hearing**

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Officer Mark Friar. Officer Friar was not present; he was represented by Attorney Ralph Licari who asked for a few minutes to allow his client to get into the office.

*The Board accommodated his request and moved to the next business item.*

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF SUSPENSION OF DISABILITY BENEFIT**

The Board discussed the disability requirement of Section 5/5-156 of the Pension Code: “A disabled policemen who receives a . . . benefit shall be examined at least once a year by one or more physicians appointed by the board”. Officer Robert C. Lifonti is on disability. He was informed several times to be examined by a Board approved doctor for disability continuance; to date he has not complied.

*A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Wright to temporarily suspend Officer Lifonti’s disability benefits until such time he is examined by a Board approved physician, and it can be certified that he remains disabled*

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

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING 2025 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Executive Director Kevin Reichart provided the Board with a schedule of potential conferences to attend in 2025 to meet the statutory educational requirements.

*A motion was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Lonergan to accept the schedule of possible conferences to be held in 2025.*

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

**LEGAL REVIEW**

There were no Legal updates provided by Fund Counsel Sarah Boeckman. Ms. Boeckman asked if there were any trustee questions, hearing none the Board moved onto the next item of business.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING CASH FLOW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LIQUIDATION OF INVESTMENTS TO ASSIST IN THE PAYMENT OF BENEFITS**

Executive Director Kevin Reichart presented the Fund cash flow and cash needs. He reported that the Fund has received \$849 million from the City of Chicago for the 2024 payment year. There is a balance due of \$1.3 million.

The Fund did not need to liquidate any assets for the month of December and does not anticipate the need to liquidate any investments in January 2025 either. The first installment of property taxes is expected in March 2025. Ongoing cash flow will continue to be monitored.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Legislative Liaison Derrick Blaida provided the Board with a recent legislative update. The Board asked several questions for clarification regarding Tier 2/Safe Harbor and the DROP plan.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustees were reminded of training requirements for State Ethics Acts and City Sexual Harassment and bystander preventions. The City also requires some of the same prevention classes. City training classes may also be accepted to fulfill the Fund requirement. As Trustees complete these training courses, they are asked to provide copies of class certificates to Executive Director Reichart for PABF record retention.

Executive Director Kevin Reichart circulated a copy of a notification letter, which is being mailed to about 240 retirees who are not enrolled in one of the three approved sponsored City plans. These select retirees will be required to make their own insurance premium payments beginning the month of March 2025. These retirees may still take advantage of the \$3,000 tax exclusion when filing their tax returns, even though these retirees are paying their premiums directly to the insurance carrier.

**Officer Mark Friar– Duty Hearing – RECALLED**

Officer Friar was now in attendance along with Attorney Licari and Richard Reimer is presiding as the Hearing Officer. The hearing is in the matter of Friar vs. Retirement Board which was held in on the Cook County Chancery Division; the case was remanded back to the Board.

*A motion was made to enter into executive session per 2 (c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Levine to discuss the pending case of Friar vs. Retirement Board.*

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

*A motion to exit executive session and return to open session was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Wright.*

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

**Officer Mark Friar– Duty Hearing – RECALLED - continued**

Officer Mark Friar and Attorney Ralph Licari were present. Following a brief discussion amongst the parties who were in agreement, the Board decided to award Officer Friar an ordinary disability benefit without prejudice subject to another hearing after obtaining updated medical opinions.

*A motion was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Wright to award Officer Mark Friar an ordinary benefit without prejudice subject to another hearing after obtaining updated medical opinions.*

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

**ALL BUSINESS CONCLUDED**

*All business concluded a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Wright.*

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