



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

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

Thursday – January 23, 2025

Board Meeting Agenda
January 23, 2025, 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 December 20, 2024
 - b. Approval of Transcript - Board Meeting held December 20, 2024
 - c. Approval of Minutes - Executive Sessions during Board Meeting held December 20, 2024
4. Consideration for Approval of Benefit Applications and Expenses
5. Consideration for Approval of Applications for Disability / Reviews
 - a. Hearing for Officer Willie B. Smith – Duty Disability
 - b. Hearing for Officer Sarah L. Peck – Duty Disability
 - c. Hearing for Officer Svetlana Klinger – Duty Disability
 - d. Hearing for Detective Mizel N. Brooks – Duty Disability
 - e. Hearing for Lieutenant Michael D. Keeney – Duty Disability
6. Legal Review*
 - a. In-process case report
 - b. Other
7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding 2025 Budget*
8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Balance Owed From the Required Funding Due For Payment Year 2024.
9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding 2025 Calendar
10. 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
Jill Jaworski *	Trustee
John Lally	Trustee, President
Jeffrey Levine	Trustee, Vice President
Thomas Lonergan	Trustee
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
Thomas Mazur*	Attorney
Willie B Smith *	CPD
Sarah Peck*	CPD
Michael Keeney*	CPD
Others in attendance not identified	

*Denotes partial attendance

^ Denotes remote attendance

ROLL CALL

Recording Secretary Wright determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:16 a.m.

REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Attorney Ralph Licari

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first order of business was approval of the minutes and transcripts of the Board Meeting held December 20, 2024.

A motion was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Lonergan to approve the minutes and the transcripts of the Board meeting held on December 20, 2024.

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

The next order of business was approval of the minutes of the Executive Sessions of the Board Meeting held December 20, 2024

A motion was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Lonergan to approve the minutes of the Executive sessions held on December 20, 2024.

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

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES

DOCKET: SCHEDULE I-A Incurred Expenses for the Months of December 2024 and January 2025

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

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

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 Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES - continued

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 Merck, seconded by Trustee Lonergan.

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

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

A motion to approve the Payments to Heirs of Deceased Annuitants as detailed on Schedule II-D was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Lonergan.

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

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

A motion to approve the Refunds of Unused Annuity Accumulations as detailed on Schedule II-E was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Lonergan.

ROLL CALL: For: Lally, Levine, Lonergan, Merck, Wright.
 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 Levine, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

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 Levine, seconded by Trustee Lonergan.

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

DOCKET: SCHEDULE III-C Annuities to Children - Revised

A motion to approve the Revised Child Annuity as detailed on Schedule III-B was made by Trustee Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES - continued

DOCKET: SCHEDULE IV Disability Applications - New

Officer Tasha Flippin, Claiming Duty Disability

The Fund's physician Dr. Buchannan provided a brief explanation of the injury/illness.

A motion to defer disability benefits awaiting a full evidentiary hearing was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

Officer April Janiszewski, Claiming Ordinary Disability

The Fund's physician provided a brief explanation of the injury/illness.

A motion to enter into executive session for deliberation per 2 (c) 4 of the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Lally seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

A motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Lonergan.

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

The Board decided to bypass any action on the April Janiszewski matter until later in the meeting.

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 Merck.

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

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.

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

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFIT APPLICATIONS AND EXPENSES - continued

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 Merck, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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

General docket items completed with the exception of Docket Schedule V for April Janiszewski, the Board to reconsider this disability claim later in this meeting.

DISABILITY HEARINGS CLAIMS/REVIEWS

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 Wright, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

Officer Willie B. Smith– Duty Hearing

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Officer Willie B. Smith. Officer Smith appeared before the Board, with counsel, on his claim for a duty disability benefit. The records were reviewed and testimony was taken from the claimant.

Whereas, during the Smith proceeding, Trustee Jaworski entered the meeting.

Whereas, during the Smith proceeding, Trustee Conyears-Ervin entered the meeting.

A motion to enter into executive session for deliberation per 2 (c) 4 of the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

A motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII-A DISABILITY HEARINGS - continued

Officer Willie B. Smith– Duty Hearing - continued

A motion to award Officer Willie B. Smith with a 75% duty disability benefit was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Conyears-Ervin.

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

The motion did not pass.

A motion to award Officer Willie B. Smith with a 50% duty disability benefit was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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

The motion passed.

Detective Mizel N. Brooks – Duty Hearing

Attorney Ralph Licari appeared before the Board on the matter of a duty disability benefit for Detective Mizel N. Brooks. Attorney Licari requested a continuance since his client is unable to attend due to extenuating medical conditions.

A motion to approve a continuance to the July 24, 2025 Board meeting was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

Officer Sarah L. Peck – Duty Hearing

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Officer Sarah L. Peck. Officer Peck appeared before the Board, with counsel, on her claim for a duty disability benefit. The records were reviewed and testimony was taken from the claimant.

A motion go into executive session per 2 (c) 4 of the Open Meetings Act for deliberation was made by Trustee Jaworski, seconded by Trustee Lally.

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

A motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Jaworski.

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

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII-A DISABILITY HEARINGS - continued

Officer Sarah L. Peck – Duty Hearing - continued

A motion to award Officer Sarah L. Peck an ordinary disability benefit without prejudice on an interim basis, subject to a full evidentiary hearing, and that Officer Peck is to be provided with a list of three Board approved IME doctors, to evaluate and report on injury causation, was made by Trustee Jaworski, and seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

Officer Svetlana Klinger – Duty Hearing

This hearing was to be conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the disability claim of Officer Svetlana Klinger. Officer Klinger did not appear before the Board and is not in receipt of any disability benefit. Disability Manager Bob Crawford stated that Officer Klinger was last seen before the Board in September 2023 and a further continuance is requested. Mr. Crawford also added that consideration for disability has been pending and continued for six years dating back to an injury date in May, 2018.

A motion was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Levine to grant Officer Klinger a continuance to the May 22, 2025 Board meeting and Mr. Crawford is to inform Officer Klinger that this is a final continuance.

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

Whereas, following roll call for Officer Klinger, Trustee Conyears-Ervin left the meeting citing she is good with approving the upcoming budget proposal.

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

A motion go into executive session per 2 (c) 4 of the Open Meetings Act for deliberation was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Jaworski.

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

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII-A DISABILITY HEARINGS - continued

Lieutenant Michael Keeney – Duty Hearing - continued

A motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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

A motion to award Lieutenant Michael Keeney with a 75% duty disability benefit was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Merck.

ROLL CALL: For: Merck, Wright.
 Against: Jaworski, Lally, Levine, Lonergan.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman.
 The motion did not pass.

A second motion to award Lieutenant Michael Keeney with an ordinary disability benefit was made by Trustee Jaworski, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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

DISABILITY HEARINGS CLAIMS/REVIEWS - completed

DOCKET: SCHEDULE IV Disability Applications Revisited – continued disability matter for April Janiszewski

Officer April Janiszewski, Claiming Ordinary Disability – continued from earlier in the board meeting.

At this time, the Board resumed consideration of the ordinary disability claim for Officer Janiszewski. Dr. Buchanan provided a very brief medical update on the matter.

A motion to award Officer April Janiszewski with an ordinary disability benefit was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Lally.

ROLL CALL: For: Wright, Lally, Levine, Lonergan.
 Against: Merck.
 Absent: Conyears-Ervin, Guzman.
 Abstained: Jaworski.
 The motion did not pass.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE IV Disability Applications Revisited – continued disability matter for April Janiszewski

Officer April Janiszewski, Claiming Ordinary Disability – continued from earlier in the board meeting.

Trustee Levine requested the Board reconsider the claim of Officer April Janiszewski acknowledging that Trustee Jaworski was not fully advised of the disability in consideration when she abstained on the previous vote. Trustees agreed to reconsider and a motion was made.

A motion to reconsider the disability claim for Officer Janiszewski was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

A motion to go into executive session per 2 (c) 4 of the Open Meetings Act for deliberation reconsidering the disability claim for Officer Janiszewski was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

A motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Jaworski.

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

A motion to award Officer April Janiszewski with an ordinary disability benefit was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

LEGAL REVIEW

Hearing Office Richard Reimer provided a brief update regarding the court decision providing Officer Lori Bechina with duty disability benefits at 75%. No Board motion is required.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2025 BUDGET

Executive Director Kevin Reichart provided a brief introduction to the 2025 budget proposal.

A motion go into executive session per 2 (c) 1 of the Open Meeting Act for budget deliberation regarding personnel matters was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2025 BUDGET - continued

A motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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

A motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

A second motion to approve a salary increase for Executive Director Kevin Reichart, which was omitted from the submitted budget, was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the City Balance Owed from the Required Funding Due for Payment Year 2024.

Executive Director Kevin Reichart indicated that the City fell short on making their required funding contribution payment for 2024. He further indicated a draft letter was prepared to inform the city of such shortfall amount.

A motion to inform the City in writing requiring them to make up the shortfall in required 2024 contributions was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding 2025 Calendar

The regular board meeting to be held on April 24th is to be moved to April 28th, combined with the investment meeting. Also, there is a conflict with the regular board meeting scheduled for August 28th so the proposal is to move it to August 25th.

A motion to change the April regular meeting date to April 28th and to change the August regular meeting date to August 25th was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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

Other Business

Executive Direct Reichart informed the Board that the ~200 members who must pay their own insurance premiums beginning in March 2025, were mailed a letter of notification letter and furthermore, 75% of these members also received a follow up phone call. The remaining 25% who did not get a phone call either did not return staff's call, or the phone number they provided is no longer in active service. Staff are continuing to attempt contact with the remaining members.

HELPS/PSO letters are being mailed by our vendor. This is for retired public safety officers who are eligible to exclude up to \$3,000 of income for health insurances premiums paid.

The 2024 gift checks for \$500 were printed and are being mailed by Northern Trust. The mailing date is expected to be Friday, January 24, 2025 to those retirees who meet the poverty level income threshold.

All business concluded a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Jaworski, seconded by Trustee Wright

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