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

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

Thursday – June 26, 2025

Board Meeting Agenda
June 26, 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 – Investment Meeting held May 27, 2025
    b. Approval of Transcript - Investment Meeting held May 27, 2025
    c. Approval of Minutes – Board Meeting held May 29, 2025
    d. Approval of Transcript - Board Meeting held May 29, 2025
    e. Approval of Minutes - Executive Sessions during Investment Meeting held May 27, 2025
    f. Approval of Minutes - Executive Sessions during Board Meeting held May 29, 2025
    g. Periodic Review of Closed Session Minutes
4. Approval of Board Orders
    a. Officer William Molina – Duty Disability
    b. Officer Sara Hecker – Duty Disability
    c. Officer Mark Friar – Duty Disability
5. Consideration for Approval of Benefit Applications and Expenses
6. Consideration for Approval of Applications for Disability / Reviews
    a. Hearing for Sergeant Christopher Liakopoulos – Duty Disability
    b. Hearing for Officer Sarah Peck – Duty Disability
    c. Hearing for Officer Aisha Sultana – Duty Disability.
7. Legal Review*
    a. In-process case report
    b. Other
8. Legislative Update
9. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the 2026 Funding Resolution
10. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Actuarial Scenario Analysis
11. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Fund Lobbyist RFI
12. Other Business

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

Board Members Present:

John Lally	Trustee, President
Jeffrey Levine	Trustee, Vice President
Brian Wright	Trustee, Secretary
Melissa Conyears-Ervin *	Trustee
Thomas Lonergan	Trustee
Brock Merck	Trustee

Staff Present:

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

Consultants and Advisors Present:

Dr. Susan Buchanan*	Board Physician
Brian Labardi*	Board Attorney/Hearing Officer
Lukasz Kornas*	Board Attorney
Derek Blaida	Fund Lobbyist

Court Reporter

Vernetta McCree	Esquire Depositions

Public in Attendance:

Ralph Licari *	Attorney
David DiSanti *	FOP
Dr. Alexis Reynolds *^	Physician
Christopher Liakopoulos *	Police Officer
Aisha Sultana *	Police Officer

Others in attendance not identified

*Denotes partial attendance

^ Denotes remote attendance

ROLL CALL

Trustee Lally determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:08 a.m.

REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were no advance requests made to address the Board.

President Lally then asked if any of the public would like to address the Board.
Attorney Ralph Licari addressed the Board.

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first order of business was approval of the minutes and transcript of the Investment Meeting held May 27, 2025 and approval of the minutes and transcript of the Board Meeting held May 29, 2025.
A motion was made by Trustee Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Merck, to approve the minutes and the transcript of the Investment Meeting held May 27, 2025, and approve the minutes and the transcript of the Board Meeting held May 29, 2025.

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 Investment Meeting held May 27, 2025.
A motion was made by Trustee Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Merck, to approve the minutes of the Executive Sessions of the Investment Meeting held May 27, 2025.

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 May 29, 2025.
A motion was made by Trustee Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Merck, to approve the minutes of the Executive Sessions of the Board Meeting held May 29, 2025.

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

The next order of business was approval of the Periodic Review of Closed Session Minutes
A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Lonergan, to approve the opening of the minutes recommended to be opened and to keep closed those recommended to remain closed.

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

A second motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Lonergan, instructing legal counsel to work with the Executive Director to determine what verbatim tapes need to be discarded.

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

APPROVAL OF BOARD ORDERS

Attorney LaBardi introduced the board order in the disability hearing of Officer William Molina.
A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Lonergan, to adopt and publish the Board's written decision and order in the disability hearing of Officer Molina.

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

Attorney LaBardi introduced the board order in the disability hearing of Officer Sara Hecker.
Attorney Licari requested the Board defer entry of the board order for Officer Hecker while waiting for further records from the City regarding her return to work status.

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 Wright.

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 Wright.

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

The Board addressed Attorney Licari's motion to defer entry of the board order for Officer Hecker.
A motion to deny the request to defer (indefinitely) the entry of the board order for Officer Hecker was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

A motion to defer entry of the board order, until the July 25, 2025 board meeting, noting the disability is to remain denied as of June 30, 2025 was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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

Attorney LaBardi introduced the board order in the disability hearing of Officer Mark Friar.
A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Lonergan, to adopt and publish the Board's written decision and order in the disability hearing of Officer Friar.

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 month of June 2025

A motion to approve the Incurred Expenses as detailed on Schedule I-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

DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-A Refunds of Member Contributions

A motion to approve the payments for Refunds of Member Contributions as detailed on Schedule II-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-B Refunds of Surviving Spouse Contributions

A motion to approve the payments for Refunds of Surviving Spouse Contributions as detailed on Schedule II-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

DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-C Refunds of Exempt Rank Contributions

A motion to approve the payments for Refunds of Exempt Rank Contributions as detailed on Schedule II-C 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 Lonergan, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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 Annuities as detailed on Schedule III-A was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Lonergan, 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 Annuities to Widows 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 III-C Annuities to Children

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

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

A brief recess was taken.

DOCKET: SCHEDULE IV Disability Applications - New

A brief recess was taken.

Officer Gregory Saint Louis

The Fund's physician Dr. Buchannan provided a brief explanation of the injury/illness to Office Saint Louis. *A motion to award ordinary disability benefits without prejudice pending a full evidentiary hearing was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Wright.*

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

DOCKET: SCHEDULE V Payment of Death Benefits with Summary

A motion to approve the payment of Death Benefits as indicated on Schedule V 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 VI PENSION CREDIT FOR LEAVE IN SERVICE 5/5-212

Military documentation while on leave in service, was verified for Sergeant Kurth and for Officer Pulia to purchase military service credit as detailed in Schedule VI, pursuant to Section 5-212 of the Code.

A motion to approve the request to purchase military service credit while on leave from City service as detailed on Schedule VI, 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 APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY / REVIEWS

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII Disability Hearings

A motion to appoint attorney Brian LaBardi as the Hearing Officer for all disability cases scheduled to be heard at this meeting, was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

The Board chose to go out of order for the hearings of Officer Aisha Sultana, Officer Sarah Peck and Sergeant Christopher Liakopoulos.

Officer Aisha Sultana – Duty Disability Hearing

Before the hearing began, Officer Sultana appeared before the Board and requested a continuance to obtain counsel.

A motion to defer the disability hearing until the September 25, 2025 board meeting was made by Trustee Levine, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

Officer Sarah Peck – Duty Disability Hearing

Officer Peck did not appear before the Board, Attorney Ralph Licari as counsel was present and addressed the Board. Attorney Licari requested a continuance to review updated medical documentation.

A motion to defer the hearing until the July 24, 2025 Board meeting was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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

A brief recess was taken.

Trustee Conyears-Ervin entered the meeting.

Sergeant Christopher Liakopoulos – Duty Disability Hearing

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the duty disability claim of Sergeant Christopher Liakopoulos.

Sergeant Liakopoulos appeared before the Board with Attorney Ralph Licari as counsel, on his claim for 75% duty disability benefits. Records were reviewed and testimony was taken from the claimant.

A brief recess was taken during testimony so Officer Liakopoulos could gather himself.

Dr. Alexis Reynolds, a Clinical Psychologist, appeared before the Board and provided testimony regarding her evaluation and opinion of Officer Liakopoulos.

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 Wright.

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

DOCKET: SCHEDULE VIII Disability Hearings – continued
Sergeant Christopher Liakopoulos – Duty Disability Hearing - continued

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

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

A motion to award duty disability, was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Lonergan.

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

A motion to award duty disability at 75%, with the understanding that an IME is to be completed this calendar year after four-sessions with a doctor, was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Lonergan.

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

The Board briefly discussed upcoming agenda items and decided the next topic would be Legal Review.

Trustee Conyears-Ervin then left the meeting.

LEGAL REVIEW

A motion to enter into executive session for deliberation on pending litigation, per 2 (c) 11 of the Open Meetings Act was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Wright.

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 Wright.

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

No actions were taken.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Derek Blaida, the Fund's legislative liaison, appeared before the Board to provide a legislative update on any legislative action or pending action in Springfield that's relevant to the Fund. Following Mr. Blaida's legislative update, he fielded several questions and comments from trustees.
Mr. Blaida also discussed his services as a liaison.
The Board thanked Mr. Blaida for providing an update and answering all of their questions.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2026 FUNDING RESOLUTION

Executive Director Kevin Reichart provided an update regarding the 2026 funding resolution noting the City contributed more than the mandated City contribution amount. A short discussion was had by all trustees.

A motion to approve the 2025 required funding resolution, for tax levy year 2026, payment year 2027, was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Merck.

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

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ACTUARIAL SCENARIO ANALYSIS

Following a brief discussion regarding an actuarial scenario analysis, Trustee Lally directed Executive Director Kevin Reichart and Deputy Executive Director Tom Beyna to work with GRS, to determine what information GRS needs to provide an impact and scope analysis regarding the new Tier 2 legislation.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FUND LOBBYIST RFI

Executive Director Kevin Reichart addressed the Board whether the Board is inclined to issue an RFI for the expiring lobbyist contract.

A motion to create and issue an RFI regarding a Fund lobbyist to represent the Fund was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Lally.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

None

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Levine.

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