



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

### **MINUTES**

#### **BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday – March 25, 2026

**Board Meeting Agenda**  
**March 25, 2026, 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 – Special Board Meeting held January 15, 2026
  - b. Approval of Transcript – Special Board Meeting held January 15, 2026
  - c. Approval of Minutes – Special Board Meeting held February 13, 2026
  - d. Approval of Transcript – Special Board Meeting held February 13, 2026
  - e. Approval of Minutes – Special Board Meeting held February 18, 2026
  - f. Approval of Transcript – Special Board Meeting held February 18, 2026
  - g. Approval of Minutes – Board Meeting held February 26, 2026
  - h. Approval of Transcript – Board Meeting held February 26, 2026
  - i. Approval of Minutes - Executive Sessions during Board Meeting held February 26, 2026
4. Approval of Board Orders
  - a. Officer Kenneth Heidemann – Duty Disability
  - b. Officer Roberto Ramirez - Duty Disability
  - c. Officer Aisha Sultana – Duty Disability
5. Consideration for Approval of Benefit Applications and Expenses
6. Consideration for Approval of Applications for Disability / Reviews
  - a. Disability Hearing for Lieutenant Franklin Paz - Duty Disability
  - b. Status Review for Officer Patrick Arcillas - Duty Disability
  - c. Disability Hearing for Officer Zarak Khan – Ordinary Disability
  - d. Consideration of 4 Motions Submitted by Officer Svetlana Klinger – Duty Disability
7. Legal Review\*
  - a. In-process case report
  - b. Other
8. Discussion Regarding Cash Flow
9. 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
Max Budovitch *	Trustee, Vice President
Melissa Conyears-Ervin	Trustee
Saul Del Rivero	Trustee
Brian Wright ^	Trustee, Secretary
Brock Merck	Trustee
Annette Guzman *	Trustee

Staff Present:

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

Consultants and Advisors Present:

Rick Reimer *	Board Attorney/Hearing Officer
Dr. Susan Buchanan *	Fund Physician

Court Reporter

Vernetta McCree	Esquire Depositions
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Public in Attendance:

Ralph Licari *	Attorney
Svetlana Klinger *	Police Officer
David Di Santi *	FOP
Monica Ortiz *	FOP
John Catanzara *	FOP
Franklin Paz *	Police Officer
Patrick Arcillas *	Police Officer
Zarak Khan *	Police Officer

Others in attendance not identified

\*Denotes partial attendance

^ Denotes remote attendance

**ROLL CALL**

At the March 25, 2026 Board meeting, Trustee Lally determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:47 a.m.

Trustee Wright requested remote attendance under Section 7 (a) of the Open Meetings Act.  
*A motion to approve remote attendance was made by Trustee Guzman, seconded by Trustee Budovitch.*

ROLL CALL:           For:               Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Guzman, Lally.  
                          Against:       Merck - Yes to participate, no for voting rights  
                          Absent:        Jaworski, Wright.  
                          Motion Passed.

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

There were no advance requests or any in-person requests to address the Board.

**APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

The first order of business was approval of the minutes and transcript of the Board Meetings held January 15, 2026, February 13, 2026, February 18, 2026 and February 26, 2026.

*A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero, to approve the minutes and the transcript of the Special Board Meetings held January 15, 2026, February 13, 2026, February 18, 2026 and the regular Board meeting held February 26, 2026.*

ROLL CALL:           For:               Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck.  
                          Against:        0.  
                          Absent:        Guzman, Jaworski, Wright.

The next order of business was approval of the minutes of the Executive Session of the Board Meeting held February 26, 2026.

*A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Board Meeting held February 26, 2026.*

ROLL CALL:           For:               Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                          Against:        0.  
                          Absent:        Guzman, Jaworski.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD ORDERS**

Attorney Reimer introduced the board order in the disability hearing of Officer Kenneth Heidemann from the February 26, 2026 hearing.

*A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero, to adopt and publish the Board’s written decision and order in the disability hearing of Officer Heidemann.*

ROLL CALL:           For:               Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                          Against:        0.  
                          Absent:        Guzman, Jaworski.

Attorney Reimer needed more time to prepare the Board Order and requested to defer the matter for Officer Aisha Sultana.

The Board skipped this Agenda item.

Attorney Reimer introduced the board order in the disability hearing of Officer Roberto Ramirez from the February 26, 2026 hearing.

*A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero, to adopt and publish the Board’s written decision and order in the disability hearing of Officer Ramirez.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

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

### **DOCKET: SCHEDULE I-A Incurred Expenses for the month of March 2026**

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

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: 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 Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

### **DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-B Refund 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 Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

### **DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-D Payments 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 Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

### **DOCKET: SCHEDULE II-E Refund of Unused Annuity Accumulations**

*A motion to approve the payments for a Refund of Unused Annuity Accumulations as detailed on Schedule II-E was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: 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 Budovitch.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE III-A(1) Annuities Revised**

*A motion to approve Annuities Revised as detailed on Schedule III-A(1), was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL:           For:           Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                          Against:       0.  
                          Absent:        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 Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL:           For:           Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                          Against:       0.  
                          Absent:        Guzman, Jaworski.

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE IV Disability Applications – New**

**Detective Jorge Chavolla**

The Fund’s physician Dr. Buchanan provided a brief summary of the injury/illness to Detective Jorge Chavolla who is seeking an Occupational Disability benefit.

*Following the report from Dr. Buchanan, a motion to award Officer Chavolla with an **Occupational (Heart)** Disability benefit was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Budovitch.*

ROLL CALL:           For:           Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Wright.  
                          Against:       Merck.  
                          Absent:        Guzman, Jaworski.

**Officer LaTanya Smith**

The Fund’s physician Dr. Buchanan provided a brief summary of the injury/illness to Officer LaTanya Smith who is seeking an Occupational Disability benefit.

*Following the report from Dr. Buchanan, a motion to award Officer Smith with an Occupational (Heart) Disability benefit was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL:           For:           Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                          Against:       0.  
                          Absent:        Guzman, Jaworski.

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE V Death Benefits**

*A motion to approve Death Benefits as detailed on Schedule V, was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL:           For:           Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                          Against:       0.  
                          Absent:        Guzman, Jaworski.

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE VI – Prior Service Requests 5-212**

**Officer Steven Sabatino**

Military documentation while on leave in service was verified for Officer Steven Sabatino, 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 Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE VII – Prior Service Request – Other Funds 5-214.2**

**Officer Stephanie Rodriguez**

Prior service documentation was presented by Officer Rodriguez to purchase service while working with the Cook County Sheriff's Office as a Correctional Officer, as detailed in Schedule VII pursuant to Section 5-214.2 of the Code. Fund records indicate that Officer Rodriguez was appointed as a police officer on February 16, 2024, and applied for purchase service on February 26, 2026. The Pension Code requires that an application must be made, in writing, within 2 years after he or she begins employment.

*A motion to deny the request to purchase prior Cook County service for not meeting the 2-year application deadline, as detailed on Schedule VI, was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Budovitch.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

**DOCKET: SCHEDULE VII- – Prior Service Request – Other Funds 5-214.3**

**Officer Russell Willingham**

Military documentation for prior military service was verified for Officer Russell Willingham as detailed in Schedule VII-A pursuant to Section 5-214.3 of the Code.

*A motion to approve the request to purchase prior military service not to exceed two years as detailed on Schedule VI, was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

Trustee Guzman entered the meeting.

**Consideration for Approval of Applications for Disability / Reviews**

*A motion to appoint attorney Rick Reimer as the Hearing Officer for all disability hearings scheduled to be heard at this meeting, was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Guzman.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Guzman, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Jaworski.

Trustee Budovitch left the meeting but will return shortly.

Board went out of Agenda order to hear the disability claim of Officer Zarak Khan

**Officer Zarak Khan**

The hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the Ordinary Disability claim of Officer Zarak Khan.

Officer Khan appeared before the Board with Attorney Ralph Licari as counsel, on his claim that Ordinary disability should be retroactive to July 16, 2022 vs. February 28, 2025 as previously awarded. Records were reviewed and testimony was taken from the claimant.

*A motion to award ordinary disability retroactive to July 16, 2022, was made by Trustee Del Rivero, seconded by Trustee Wright.*

ROLL CALL:                   For:                   Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Guzman, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                                  Against:            0.  
                                  Absent:             Budovitch, Jaworski.

A short break was taken.  
Returning from break, the Board again went out of order to hear the claim of Officer Patrick Arcillas.

**Officer Patrick Arcillas**

The hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the Duty Disability claim for Officer Patrick Arcillas.

Officer Arcillas appeared before the Board with Attorney Ralph Licari as counsel, on his continued claim for Duty Disability. Records were reviewed and testimony was taken from the claimant.

*A motion to enter into executive session per 2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act at approximately 10:27 a.m. was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Merck.*

ROLL CALL:                   For:                   Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Guzman, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                                  Against:            0.  
                                  Absent:             Budovitch, Jaworski.

*A motion to exit executive session and return to open session at approximately 10:53 a.m. was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Del-Rivero.*

ROLL CALL:                   For:                   Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Guzman, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                                  Against:            0.  
                                  Absent:             Budovitch, Jaworski.

*A motion to defer this matter for 60 days, with the expectation that within 30 days Attorney Licari will provide an updated written CPD medical report, was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Guzman.*

ROLL CALL:                   For:                   Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Guzman, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
                                  Against:            0.  
                                  Absent:             Budovitch, Jaworski.

A short break was taken.

**Lieutenant Franklin Paz**

The hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the Duty Disability claim of Lieutenant Franklin Paz.

Lieutenant Paz appeared before the Board with Attorney Ralph Licari as counsel, on his claim for Duty Disability. Records were reviewed and testimony was taken from the claimant.

Trustee Budovitch returned early in the hearing to hear testimony.

Later during the hearing, the Board took a short break, followed with further testimony from the claimant.

*A motion to enter into executive session per 2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act at approximately 1:03 p.m. was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Budovitch.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

*A motion to exit executive session and return to open session at approximately 1:20 p.m. was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Merck.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.

*A motion was made by Trustee Merck, seconded by Trustee Guzman to defer a Board decision for 60 days and to require Attorney Licari to provide in 30 days a written status report regarding the potential return to work reinstatement process.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski

*A motion was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Merck to defer this matter and request that Attorney Licari produce the transcript of Dr. Rafehan's discovery deposition in the civil trial.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski

Another short break was taken before the Officer Klinger hearing.

**CONSIDERATIONS OF FOUR ( 4 ) MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY OFFICER SVETLANA KLINGER – DUTY DISABILITY**

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Illinois Pension Code concerning the ongoing duty disability claim of Officer Svetlana Klinger for purposes of hearing four (4) outstanding motions made by Officer Klinger. Remote testimony was being taken from Officer Klinger through Zoom.

The hearing began at approximately 1:29 p.m. with remote testimony from Officer Klinger. Hearing Officer Reimer requested whether Officer Klinger has anything additional to be added to her four motions.

While a motion for entering into executive session was being made, Hearing Officer Rick Reimer excused himself from the executive session.

*A motion to enter into executive session per 2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act at approximately 1:52 p.m. was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Budovitch.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski

*A motion to exit executive session and return to open session at approximately 1:59 p.m. was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski

**Motion 1**

**MOTION TO ESTABLISH RULES OF EVIDENCE (12-19-2025)**

The Board heard arguments from both Officer Klinger and from Hearing Officer Reimer.

*A motion deny Officer Klinger’s EMERGENCY MOTION TO ESTABLISH RULES OF EVIDENCE\_was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Merck.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski  
Officer Klinger’s motion was denied.

**Motion 2**

**MOTION TO VACATE DEADLINE AND ISSUE AN ORDER (3-3-2026)**

The Board heard arguments from both Officer Klinger and from Hearing Officer Reimer.

*A motion to deny Officer Klinger’s MOTION TO VACATE DEADLINE AND ISSUE AN ORDER\_was made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Del Rivera*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski  
Officer Klinger’s motion was denied.

**Motion 3**

**MOTION TO DISCLOSE EX PARTE COMMUNICATION AND DISQUALIFY TRUSTEES (3-18-2026)**

The Board heard arguments from both Officer Klinger and from Hearing Officer Reimer.

*A motion to deny Officer Klinger’s MOTION TO DISCLOSE EX PARTE COMMUNICATION AND DISQUALIFY TRUSTEES was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Wright.  
Against: Merck.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski  
Officer Klinger’s motion was denied.

**Motion 4**

**MOTION TO VACATE IME DIRECTIVE AND MAY 28, 2026 HEARING DATE; ESTABLISH FAIR SCHEDULING AND PHYSICIAN SELECTION PROCESS (3-18-2026)**

The Board heard arguments from both Officer Klinger and from Hearing Officer Reimer.

*A motion to deny Officer Klinger’s MOTION TO VACATE IME DIRECTIVE AND MAY 28, 2026 HEARING DATE; ESTABLISH FAIR SCHEDULING AND PHYSICIAN SELECTION PROCESS and to set a final hearing date for May 28, 2026 was made by Trustee Lally, seconded by Trustee Conyears-Ervin.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.

Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.  
Officer Klinger's motion was denied.

For the record, Officer Klinger's husband, Mr. David Klinger, is not deemed to be an expert as previously claimed at the February 26, 2026 Board meeting, in the generation, certification or qualification determining physicians to conduct IMEs for PABF. Trustee Lally explicitly informed Officer Klinger that the Board has every intention to move forward with the hearing scheduled for May 28, 2026. In addition, he strongly encouraged Officer Klinger to schedule and attend all three IME physician appointments as previously instructed.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING CASH FLOW**

There was no discussion.

**LEGAL REVIEW**

There was no discussion.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Conyears-Ervin seconded by Trustee Del Rivero.*

ROLL CALL: For: Budovitch, Conyears-Ervin, Del Rivero, Lally, Merck, Wright.  
Against: 0.  
Absent: Guzman, Jaworski.