

Blue Ridge Fire District

PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM LOCAL BOARD

MINUTES of Board Meeting held January 19, 2024

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Mike Bourne called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Chuck Buddle	Present	Ryan MacNeal	Present
Mike Bourne	Present	Brandon Sewell	Present
Judy Varns	Present		

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion to adopt the Agenda. Captain Sewell asked to add PSPRS training information to the agenda. Captain Sewell made a Motion; Mr. Buddle seconded the Motion. All voted yes. **The Motion passed.**

5. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2023. Captain Sewell so moved; Ms. Varns seconded the Motion. All voted yes except Chuck Buddle who abstained as he was not present at the last meeting.

The Motion passed.

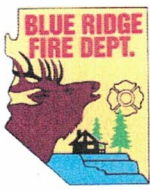
b. Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion to discuss and possible action re: the status of the Medical Retirement Fire Fighter. Captain Sewell so moved. Ms. Varns seconded the Motion. All voted yes.

The Motion passed.

Captain Sewell notified the Board that the Injury was classified as Ordinary and his request of PSPRS that the present Board be able to review sealed documents from three years ago went unanswered.

Mr. Bourne posed some questions to PSPRS regarding the medical disability retirement. PSPRS will only state ARS Statutes and will not assist with this case:

1. How long will these medical retirement payments continue? Response from PSPRS - As long as retiree is eligible.
2. Can the medical retirement be converted to regular retirement? Response from PSPRS – No. The disability could stop if the retired member has sufficiently recovered, in the opinion of the Local Board based on an IME that indicates the retired member is able to engage in a reasonable range of duties and the retiree refuses an offer of employment by an employer in the system.



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3. Should annual IME reviews continue? Response from PSPRS - Statutes provide for annual review. It's the Local Board 's decision to continue with annual reviews until the normal retirement date is reached, which is October 2027 in this case. After that the normal retirement date, no more IME reviews may be requested or required.
4. What is the obligation of BRFD? Response from PSPRS – ARS provides for an annual IME if the Local Board decides to. =

Other questions to PSPRS re: the unfunded liability vs. availability of \$135,000 for this retiree were referred to another person within PSPRS.

Discussion took place re: the direction the Local Board wants to go re: annual IME reviews, the cost being about \$2,000. The last IME was July 2022. Mr. Bourne suggested that the Local Board do their due-diligence and provide an IME review this year. Based on Mr. Buddle's research and network contacts in WA, there are resources for IME examinations in Washington that can assist with getting an IME setup.

Mr. Bourne made a Motion to initiate an IME for the Medical Retirement fire fighter within 90 days. Mr. MacNeal seconded the Motion. All voted yes. The Motion passed.

7. The next PSPRS Board Meeting is May 6, 2024 at 9:00a.m..
8. Captain Sewell noted that PSPRS training is March 6, 2024 in Glendale.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectively submitted:



Beth Wise, Secretary