

# MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, via audio/video conference due to the public health emergency declared in response to the threat presented by COVID-19.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman G. Scott Ford at 9:03 a.m.

## Roll Call

### Members Present

Chief G. Scott Ford, Chairman  
Lt. Chad King, Vice-Chairman  
Rep. Tony Bacala  
Dep. Chief Darrell Basco  
Maj. Raymond Burkart, Jr.  
Maj. (Retired) Kelly Gibson  
Chief Michael Glaser  
Mayor Gerard Landry  
Ms. Amy Mathews, State Treasurer Designee  
Chief Dwayne Munch  
Sgt. (Retired) Larry Reech  
Mayor Donald Villere  
Chief Christopher Wilrye

### Members Absent

Senator Bob Hensgens  
Mr. Rick McGimsey, Commissioner of Administration Designee

### Others Present

Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS Executive Director and General Counsel  
Ms. Ashlee McNeely, MPERS, Executive Management Officer  
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, CFO  
Ms. Melissa Rayburn, MPERS, Benefits Administrator  
Mr. David Barnes, NEPC, Investment Consultant  
Mr. Gary Curran, Actuary  
Mr. Lowell Good, Legislative Auditor's Office  
Mayor Greg Cromer, City of Slidell  
Ms. Lindsay Saienni, Financial Investment News

## Public Comment

Chairman Ford called for public comment. There was no public comment submitted for the record.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### Approval of the July 15, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Wilrye, seconded by Mr. King, to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 15, 2020. Without objection, the motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### NEPC Report on Investments

Mr. David Barnes represented NEPC and first presented the Investment Market Update for July. The total market value of the portfolio as of July 31, 2020 was \$2,261,989,061 and performance was up by 3.4% for the month and was up by 3.4% for the fiscal year to date. He also provided several updates to changes in teams for several investment managers.

### Discussion and Action Regarding an Amendment to the Contract Between NEPC, LLC and MPERS

Mr. Huxen reviewed the details of the contract between MPERS and NEPC for the upcoming year. The current contract ends at the end of February 2021. NEPC decreased its fees by \$40,000 a year (the new amount will be indexed for inflation each year) and offered a five-year extension. Mr. Huxen recommended that the Board amend the contract based on NEPC's past work for the fund. A motion to amend the contract between NEPC, LLC and MPERS was made by Mr. Reech, seconded by Mr. Villere. Without objection, the motion carried.

### Actuarial Comments

Mr. Gary Curran commented that the actuarial rate of return is looking to be about 4.75%, which is not great but is not devastating for the system. The actuaries will need to see other factors before making a final determination, but MPERS should expect some moderate costs to the system. They will know more as time passes and they receive more information.

### Executive Director and General Counsel Comments

Mr. Huxen first announced that this was the last meeting for Mr. Villere as his term as Mayor has ended. He went on to welcome Mayor Greg Cromer from Slidell as the new LMA Designee on the Board of Trustees.

He then updated the Board on the PATROLE project. Staff is all set with the go-live date of September 1, 2020. They have been working with municipalities on training and getting them prepared for the go-live date.

Next, he updated the board on the delinquent municipalities. There has not been much change from the previous month. A few municipalities are overdue by 30 days, but staff is working with them on payment. Baton Rouge is also late on their Act 92 payments but should send payment by the end of the week.

Discussion of the Following Items in Executive Session Under the Provisions of R.S. 42:17(A)(10) to Facilitate Privileged Communications Under La. Code Evid. Art. 506

A motion was made by Mr. Wilrye, seconded by Mr. Reech, to go into Executive Session to discuss this matter. Without objection, the motion carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:47am to discuss Determination of Evidence Required and the Burden That Must Be Met to Prove That a COVID-19 Infection was Sustained in the Line of Duty (Survivor Benefits) or Solely as the Result of Injuries Sustained in the Performance of Official Duties (Disability Benefits). A motion was made by Mr. Villere, seconded by Mr. Reed to exit Executive Session. The Board exited Executive Session at 10:20am.

A motion was made by Mr. Bacala to seek an Attorney General opinion regarding whether, if someone contracts a communicable disease in the line of duty and that person subsequently dies, they fits the definition of an active contributing member who is killed as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty as defined by statute. This motion was seconded by Mr. Villere. Without objection, the motion carried.

The Board then took a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Mark Hall, Sr. who died from complications of COVID-19. A motion was then made by Mr. Reech to classify the death as "in the line of duty" as determined by the U.S. Department of Justice standards, seconded by Mr. Gibson. There was a great deal of discussion on whether this determination should be contingent upon the Attorney General opinion as well as general discussion on the facts of Mr. Hall's case. Ultimately the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 3 nays, with 1 member abstaining.

Mr. Bacala then made a motion stating that the previously passed motion be amended such that the Board waits on the Attorney General Opinion to ensure the two decisions are not in conflict. The motion was seconded by Mr. Landry. The motion failed by a vote of 7 yeas, 6 yeas.

Other Business

There was no other business to come before the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Reech, to adjourn the meeting at 10:51am. Without objection, the motion carried.

To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes accurately represent the actions taken at the meeting held August 19, 2020.

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G. Scott Ford, Chairman

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Ben Huxen,  
Executive Director and General Counsel

THESE AUGUST 19, 2020 MPERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 BOARD MEETING AS SHOWN IN THE EXCERPT FROM THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 MEETING MINUTES BELOW

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### Approval of the August 19, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Wilrye, seconded by Mr. Landry, to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 19, 2020. Without objection, the motion carried.