

Municipal Police Employee's Retirement System
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
October 18, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System held a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at the system's office at 7722 Office Park Boulevard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lt. (Retired) Chad King at 12:25 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Asst. Chief Dimarco led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Members Present

Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr
Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco
Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson
Lt. (Retired) Chad King (Chairman)
Mayor Gerard Landry
Mr. Rick McGimsey, Commissioner of Administration Designee
Mr. Julius Roberson, State Treasurer Designee
Lt. Tyrone Warren
Chief Beth Westlake
Chief Christopher Wilrye (Vice Chairman)

Members Absent

Chief David Addison
Rep. Tony Bacala
Major Raymond Burkart, Jr
Mayor Greg Cromer
Senator Bob Hensgens

Others Present

Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS Executive Director and General Counsel
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Melissa Frazier, Benefits Administrator
Ms. Emily Thurston, MPERS, Accountant
Ms. Karen Correll, MPERS, Membership Analyst
Ms. Sarah Daniel, MPERS, Accounts Analyst
Mr. David Barnes, NEPC, Investment Consultant
Mr. Greg Curran, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Consulting Actuary
Ms. Sheri Morris, Daigle, Fisse & Kessenich Law Firm, Outside Counsel
Ms. Ashlee McNeely, MPERS, Exec. Management Officer (virtual)

D. Public Comment

Chairman King asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

E. Approval of the August 16, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Asst. Chief Dimarco, seconded by Chief Edwin Bergeron to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 16, 2023. Without objection, the motion carried.

F. Reports of Committees

1. Discussion and Action Regarding Report and Recommendations of the Legislative Committee

Mr. Huxen provided the Board with a report of the items discussed by the legislative committee and stated that no action was taken.

Motion by Chief Wilrye, seconded by Asst. Chief Dimarco to accept the report of the Legislative Committee. Without objection, the motion carried.

2. Discussion and Action Regarding Report and Recommendations of the Investment Committee

Mr. Huxen provided the Board with a report of the items discussed by the investment committee and stated that no action was taken.

Motion by Chief Bergeron, seconded by Asst. Chief Dimarco to accept the report of the Investment Committee. Without objection, the motion carried.

G. New Business

1. Approval of Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire (For Audit Engagements of Governments) for FY 23

Lt. (Retired) King stated that this was an annual requirement. Mr. Huxen stated that it was required as a part of the annual audit.

Motion by Asst. Chief Dimarco, seconded by Chief Wilrye to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal 2023. Without objection, the motion carried.

2. Executive Session (Under the Provisions of R.S. 42:17(A)(10) To Facilitate Privileged Communications Under La. Code Evid. Art. 506):

a. Consideration of the Following Proposed Settlement Agreements:

I. Claim Against Village of Hodge for Failure to Timely Enroll Employees and Pay Contributions

Mr. Huxen stated that there was no need for the Board to enter into executive session for this item. He stated that they had spoken with the Mayor of Hodge who made a proposal to pay a large sum of money up front and to pay the rest over time. Since these terms were not a part of the Board's previous resolution, Mr. Huxen stated that he did not have the authority to accept the terms without Board approval.

Ms. Sheri Morris stated that Hodge was a municipality that MPERS had not filed suit against. They were offered a forty-eight-month payment plan for amounts due. The mayor offered to pay more than half upon receipt of ad valorem taxes and the rest over time. The mayor asked that the Board agree to accept payment without assessing additional interest.

Motion by Asst. Chief Dimarco, seconded by Chief Wilrye to accept the proposed settlement agreement with the Village of Hodge. Without objection, the motion carried.

II. MPERS v. Town of Stonewall, 19th JDC, Number 688504, Div. "25"

Ms. Sheri Morris stated that MPERS had filed suit against Stonewall because they did not have their officers enrolled. She stated that they had won at the state supreme court to maintain the venue in Baton Rouge. This case had both components - the UAL for a dissolved police department and delinquent contributions. She added that it was a unique situation due to their decline in population. What's left in Stonewall is commercial and what has developed is the unincorporated area. Ms. Morris stated that they do not foresee ever having a police force in the future. Instead, since the Sheriff was already having to drive through Stonewall to patrol unincorporated areas, they were opting to have the Sheriff provide police protection. The original offer from MPERS was for \$260,000. The Town asked MPERS to consider a new offer since they were about to enter the trial phase and expected both sides to incur significant court costs and legal fees. Ms. Morris stated that she looked at the settlement options in light of the Board's resolution settlement even though this case did not quite fit. She recommended a proposal that they would pay an amount calculated based on 3 years of employer contributions plus a reimbursement of \$30,000 in litigation costs. The total settlement would be \$55,000 and would avoid the cost of ongoing litigation. She stated that this proposal had not gone before the Stonewall council yet, so an approval would be to make this offer for the council to consider. She stated that this offer would have the same terms as the Board's previous resolution. If Stonewall was later found to have

a former employee go to work for another municipality, they would have to pay those contributions also.

Motion by Rick McGimsey, seconded by Asst. Chief Dimarco to accept the proposed settlement agreement with Stonewall. Without objection, the motion carried.

b. Consideration of Requesting an Attorney General's Opinion Regarding the Applicability of R.S. 11:2220(J) To Certain City Marshals

Mr. Huxen informed the Board that they did not need to discuss item 2b since Ms. Morris figured out the issue.

3. Actuarial Comments (Qualifies as Actuarial Science Education)

Mr. Curran had no comments.

4. Retirement Benefits and Member Services Presentation by MPERS Staff (Qualifies as Education Regarding the Laws, Rules, and Regulations Applicable to MPERS)

Melissa Frazier (Benefits Administrator), Karen Correll (Membership Analyst), and Sarah Daniel (Accounts Analyst) gave the Board of Trustees a presentation on the system staff and each of their respective duties. They discussed each staff member's contributions to the system along with education background and their years of service with MPERS. They also provided the board with key data related to membership, employers, and annual contributions.

Lt. (Retired) King thanked the staff for their service to the system.

5. Executive Director & General Counsel Comments

a. Update on Delinquent Municipalities

Mr. Huxen did not have any comments for the Board.

H. Other Business

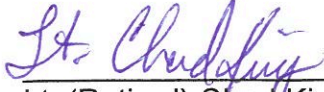
There was no other business to discuss.

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by Chief Wilrye, seconded by Asst. Chief DiMarco, to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 pm. Without objection, the motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: November 15, 2023. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes accurately represent the actions taken at the meeting held on October 18, 2023.



Lt. (Retired) Chad King, Chairman



Ben Huxen,
Executive Director and General Counsel