

**Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
November 17, 2021**

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, via audio/video conference due to the public health emergency declared in response to the threat presented by COVID-19.

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman G. Scott Ford at 9:05 a.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Ms. Camp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call**

**Members Present**

Rep. Tony Bacala  
Maj. Raymond Burkart, Jr  
Chief G. Scott Ford, Chairman  
Maj (Retired) Kelly Gibson  
Mayor Gerard Landry  
Ms. Amy Mathews, State Treasurer Designee  
Mr. Rick McGimsey, Commissioner of Administration Designee  
Sgt. (Retired) Larry Reech  
Lt. Tyrone Warren  
Chief Christopher Wilrye

**Members Absent**

Mayor Greg Cromer  
Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco  
Chief Michael Glaser  
Senator Bob Hensgens  
Chief Dwayne Munch

**Others Present**

Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS Executive Director and General Counsel  
Ms. Ashlee McNeely, Executive Management Officer  
Ms. Melissa Frazier, MPERS, Benefits Administrator  
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, CFO  
Mr. Greg Curran, G.S. Curran & Co, Actuary  
Mr. David Barnes, NEPC, Investment Consultant  
Mr. John Schroder, Louisiana State Treasurer  
Mr. Joey David

**D. Public Comment**

Mr. Ford called for public comments. There were no public comments.

**E. Regular Business**

1. Approval of the October 20, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Mr. Wilrye, seconded by Mr. Landry, to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 20, 2021. Without objection, the motion carried.**

**F. New Business**

1. NEPC Report on Investments and private Equity Investment Performance Review (Qualifies as Investment Training)

Mr. David Barnes, NEPC Investment Consultant, presented an overview of recent inflation across the market.

He presented the Investment Market Update for October 2021. The total market value of the portfolio as of October 31, 2021, was \$2,781,628,475 (representing NET investment gains of about \$64 million) and performance was up 2.3% for the month of October and up 11.2% year to date and 24.3% in the last 12 months. He also provided the Board an update on the private equity portfolio, the international equity portfolio, bond portfolio, as well as the private real estate portfolio.

2. Actuarial Comments, Including but Not Limited to Discussion and Action Regarding the Actuarial Valuation Report for Fiscal Year Ended 6/30/2021 (Qualifies as Actuarial Science Education)

Mr. Curran gave an overview of the valuation report. He reminded the board that the target actuarial valuation interest rate was previously set at 6.75% based on an analysis of the reasonable range for the portfolio as allocated at the beginning of 2021. He reminded the Board that the G.S. Curran & Company consultant average capital market assumptions used to determine the reasonable range included opinions from NEPC as well as other investment professionals. Mr. Curran stated that although the prior year assumed rate of return of 6.95% was well within the reasonable range, but that the significant returns of fiscal 2021 provided a unique opportunity to lower the valuation interest rate to the target level of 6.75% with only a small increase in the minimum actuarially determined employer contribution rate.

Mr. Curran stated that there was a typographical error on page 23 that did not affect any of the calculations within the report. He stated that the report provided to the system staff for posting would include a fix to this typo.

Mr. Curran and Mr. Ford discussed their concerns over the shortage of police. They discussed how this was affecting the retirement system.

Mr. Curran stated that this was the first year that the projected payroll for the system was adjusted to account for an expected decline in plan population. The Board discussed concerns related to the cost impact of continued losses in membership and impacts of the partial dissolution law. Mr. Burkart expressed concerns related to the loss of employee and employer contributions due to the reduction in hires. They further discussed the possible crisis caused by the increase in retirees and decrease in hires.

**Motion by Mr. Bacala, seconded by Mr. Reech, to accept the actuarial valuation report for Fiscal 2021 presented by Mr. Curran including the lower valuation interest rate of 6.75% along with the required increase in the employer contribution rate from 29.75% to 31.25% effective July 1, 2022. Without objection, the motion carried.**

3. Discussion and Action Regarding Potential Attorney General's Opinion Request Regarding the Definition of Employee under R.S. 11:2213(11)(a)(iii) and Application of R.S. 11:2220(G)

Mr. Huxen recommended that the system ask for an Attorney General's opinion on two issues.

Which non-police officer employees can become a member of MPERS? For example, can a radio operator enroll as a member? The law states that "any person in a position as defined in the municipal fire and police service system who is employed on a full-time basis" may join the system. Mr. Huxen stated that some municipalities don't participate in civil service which could mean that those municipalities can only enroll the chief and the chief's secretary. He further discussed that there was nothing in the law stating that a member must be post-certified but full-time officers must be empowered to make an arrest. There was discussion about positions that are employed by the police department but do not participate in civil service. Mr. Huxen further explained that the statutes say you must be employed on a full-time basis by the police department, be under direction of the chief of police, and be paid by the applicable police department.

The second issue surrounds the question of when has an employee earned benefits equal to 100% of their average final compensation? MPERS historically stopped requiring employee contributions once a member reached 30 years of service regardless of entry into DROP or reemployment

after retirement. Mr. Huxen expressed concern about this practice given his interpretation of the law. Mr. Huxen stated that the issue had been fixed for those who did not have 30 years prior to July 1, 2021, but there is a question about what to do about 75 members currently benefitting from the system without contributing. After discussion, Mr. Huxen stated that he believed the system needed the Attorney General's opinion to provide something from someone other than the system.

**Motion by Mr. Bacala, seconded by Mr. Wilrye, to authorize the executive director and general counsel to request the Attorney General's opinion regarding the definition of "employee" under R.S. 11:2213(11)(a)(iii) and the application of R.S. 11:2220(G). Without objection, the motion carried.**

4. Discussion and Action Regarding Adoption of the 2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Huxen stated that the meeting dates were subject to change. He clarified that the meeting in December 2022 would be on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion by Mr. Wilrye, seconded by Ms. Matthews, to adopt the 2022 board meeting schedule subject to changing the December date to the 14<sup>th</sup> of 2022. Without objection, the motion carried.**

5. Executive Director & General Counsel Comments

a. Update on Delinquent Municipalities

Ms. Camp updated the list of delinquent municipalities. She stated that three were sent to the treasurer's office: Oberlin, Sunset, and Moreauville. She stated that the Village of Sunset had since paid their delinquent funds and that the Town of Oberlin had funds that the Treasurer would send to MPERS if they do not get up to date on their contributions. Ms. Camp indicated that the next employer to be referred to the treasurer's office would likely be the town of White Castle.

G. Other Business

There was no other business to come before the Board.

H. Adjourn

**A motion was made by Mr. Burkart, seconded by Mr. Wilrye, to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m. Without objection, the motion carried.**

Next Meeting Date: December 15, 2021. Baton Rouge, LA.

To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes accurately represent the actions taken at the meeting held November 17, 2021.



---

G. Scott Ford, Chairman



---

Ben Huxen,  
Executive Director and General Counsel