

**Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System  
Minutes of the Audit, Finance, and Risk Management Committee Meeting  
April 16, 2025**

The Audit, Finance, and Risk Management Committee of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System held a Meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

**I. Call to Order**

Acting Committee Chairman Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present**

Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr. (Committee Chair)  
Major Raymond Burkart, Jr.  
Chief Beth Westlake

**Members Absent**

Rep. Tony Bacala, MPERS Board member  
Mayor Greg Cromer, MPERS Board member  
Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, MPERS Board member

**Others Present**

Lt. (Retired) Chad King, MPERS Board member  
Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, MPERS Board member  
Mayor Johathon Taylor, MPERS Board member  
Lt. Tyrone Warren, MPERS Board member  
Mr. Craig Cassagne, Commissioner of Admin Designee, MPERS Board member  
Mr. Julius Roberson, State Treasurer Designee, MPERS Board member  
Chief Christopher Wilrye, MPERS Board member  
Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS Executive Director and General Counsel  
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Emily Thurston, MPERS, Accountant  
Ms. Melissa Frazier, MPERS, Benefits Administrator  
Mr. Gregory Curran, Actuary, Curran Actuarial Consulting  
Mr. David Barnes, NEPC  
Ms. Sheri Morris, Daigle, Fisse, & Kessenich  
Ms. Laura Gail Sullivan, Attorney  
Mr. Shinji Hain, LLA Actuarial Analyst (remote)  
Ms. Erin Estilette, Curran Actuarial Consulting (remote)

**III. Public Comment**

Chief Bergeron called for public comment. There was none.

**IV. Approval of the December 18, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by Chief Beth Westlake, seconded by Major Raymond Burkart, Jr., to approve the minutes of the Committee meeting held December 18, 2024. Without objection, the motion carried.**

**V. New Business**

**A. Discussion and Action Regarding an Increase to the FY 2025 Capital Budget**

The committee discussed the proposal to augment the FY 2025 capital budget for the pension administration system by \$128,000, increasing the budget from \$352,000 to \$480,000, in response to legislative demands and the need to align with IRS updates. The main drivers for this budget alteration were two significant legislative amendments and mandatory IRS guidelines.

**Motion by Chief Beth Westlake, seconded by Major Raymond Burkart, Jr., to accept the Increase to the FY 2025 Capital Budget as presented. Without objection, the motion carried.**

**B. Discussion and Action Regarding the Proposed FY 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets**

Presentations highlighted several key adjustments in the FY 2026 operating budget, including a \$164,000 increase due to rising inflation impacting various service costs. Notably, utility expenses are projected to rise by \$20,000, personnel salaries are set to increase by \$69,000, and additional funding for auditor services is necessary to address compliance issues.

The capital budget includes a significant \$355,000 allocation for chiller replacement and the need for a new elevator control panel and heating system modifications. Quotes for these projects are being solicited, which may require a special meeting to ensure timely decision-making.

Chief Bergeron requested that the Board receive the chiller quote before work begins and asked that staff evaluate whether replacement of associated heat valves would warrant full system replacement and an extended warranty. He noted his willingness to call a committee meeting if necessary.

**Motion by Major Raymond Burkart, Jr., seconded by Chief Beth Westlake, to accept the Proposed FY 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets as presented. Without objection, the motion carried.**


**VI. Other Business**

Mr. Huxen discussed his authority to refine the budget for April 2025, which allows for reallocations to account for overages, particularly in utility expenditures. Edwin Bergeron, Jr. also detailed a planned educational initiative, recommending a formal approach to secure a breakout session at the upcoming Chiefs conference. This aligns with broader educational goals aimed at countering misinformation, with an official request planned for enhancing engagement at this Baton Rouge event.

**VII. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by Chief Beth Westlake and seconded by Major Raymond Burkart, Jr., to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. Without objection, the motion carried.**

To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes accurately represent the actions taken at the meeting held April 16, 2025.

  
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Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr.  
Audit, Finance, and Risk Management  
Committee Chairman

  
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Ben Huxen,  
Executive Director and General Counsel