

**Municipal Police Employee's Retirement System
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees Meeting
July 23, 2025**

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System held a meeting on Wednesday July 23, 2025, at the system's office at 7722 Office Park Boulevard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:31 am by Chief Christopher Wilrye.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Members Present

Chief David Addison
Rep. Tony Bacala
Craig Cassagne, Commissioner of Administration
Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco
Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson
Mr. Julius Roberson, State Treasurer Designee
Lt. Tyrone Warren
Chief Beth Westlake
Chief Christopher Wilrye
Major Raymond Burkart, Jr.

Members Absent

Mayor Rick Allen, City of Leesville
Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr.
Mayor Jonathan Taylor, Town of Livingston
Lt. (Retired) Chad King
Senator Bob Hensgens

Others Present

Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS Executive Director and General Counsel
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Emily Thurston, MPERS, System Analyst
Ms. Melissa Frazier, MPERS, Benefits Analyst
Ms. Karen Correll, MPERS, Membership Analyst, remote
Mr. Greg Curran, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Consulting Actuary
Ms. Sheri Morris, Attorney - Daigle, Fisse, & Kessenich
Mr. David Barnes, NEPC
Ms. Laura Gail Sullivan, Attorney
Mr. Caleb Atwell, Mayor of Killian
Ms. Lindsay Saienni (FIN News), remote
Ms. Erin Estilette, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd., remote

IV. Public Comment

No public comments.

V. Approval of the May 21, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

Motion by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, and second by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 21, 2025. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, seconded by Chief Beth Westlake, to move agenda item VII. F. 20. MPERS vs. Town of Killian, 19th JDC, Number 692605, Section 21 up for discussion before moving to item VI. Without objection, the motion passed.

Mr. Caleb Atwell, the new mayor of Killian for the last 22 days, introduced himself and then provided an overview of the current municipal financial situation. Mr. Atwell highlighted the challenges faced by the town's police department. It was noted that Killian has a total of three police officers who were never enrolled in MPERS. Mr. Atwell stated the police department's budget is approximately \$200,000, with \$100,000 allocated for salaries. The municipality is facing financial distress with no sales tax revenue and only \$18,000 in the bank. It was stated that there is anticipation of an appropriation from the legislature to the treasurer's office which could provide funds earmarked for equipment purchases. These funds might potentially be diverted to address financial issues. Mr. Atwell explained that the city is contemplating a difficult decision to potentially eliminate the police department and contract services with the Livingston Parish Sheriff.

There were discussions which revolved around a long-pending case regarding municipalities that failed to enroll officers and pay contributions, which has been ongoing for the last 5 years (and Killian has never enrolled a single officer, despite its officers not being covered under Social Security). Potential resolutions included settling delinquent contributions and addressing possible future partial dissolutions. The offer for Killian included a payment of approximately \$50,000, which may be used as credit for officers purchasing their service or towards partial dissolution. It was stated that settlement parameters needed further refinement due to incomplete records to verify amounts. There was concern whether \$50,000 would be sufficient to resolve the case completely, depending on officers' decisions regarding service time purchase. It was discussed that additional payments might be required from officers electing to purchase service time, as current funds do not cover employer contributions for all impacted officers.

Motion by Rep. Tony Bacala, seconded by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to allow Mr. Ben Huxen and Ms. Sheri Morris to further negotiate, finalize, and report back on the specifics of a pending \$50,000 settlement agreement with Killian. Without objection, the motion carried.

VI. Reports of Committee

A. Report and Recommendations of the Investment Committee (Action Item)

Mr. Huxen reviewed the performance report by Mr. Barnes, the presentations by Acadian, KBI, and LSV with the selection of the international manager – Acadian, and the update on asset allocation by Mr. Barnes.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, seconded by Chief David Addison, to approve the report and recommendations of the Investment Committee. Without objection, the motion carried.

VII. New Business

A. Actuarial Comments

Mr. Greg Curran began by stating he estimated around 7.98% as the actuarial rate of return for the year after accounting for Mr. Barnes' estimated market return of 11.2% for fiscal 2025. Mr. Curran stated the DROP accounts that receive system returns would be credited half a percent less and they would receive around 7.48%. He mentioned this was all preliminary as his office is waiting for audited financials to make final calculations, but he doesn't expect the final number to be too far off.

B. Executive Director & General Counsel Comments

Mr. Huxen reviewed the employer debt list. The best estimated total amount of employer debt is about \$18.3 million, but they think it could be higher. They have data that Mr. Curran will be looking at to determine the effect of this on the employer contribution rate.

1. Update on Delinquent Municipalities/Employers and Certifications to Treasurer Fleming (Action Item)

Mr. Huxen referred the Board to a spreadsheet prepared by Taylor Camp on delinquent municipalities not included in the employer debt list. No questions were asked and no action was taken.

C. Requests for Membership

Mr. Huxen explained that Officer Devin Byrd is currently employed by the Brusly Police Department. Officer Byrd was previously employed by Pearl River and sent an affidavit to MPERS that states it has come to his attention that he is not eligible to enroll in MPERS due to a document he signed while employed with Pearl River PD. The affidavit stated the document opted him out of being enrolled with MPERS because the Town of Pearl River had their own retirement system. He was never advised that it would permanently prevent him from being enrolled in MPERS. Officer Byrd expressed he would never have signed the document had he known it would prevent him from ever

enrolling in MPERS. Officer Byrd is asking the board to approve his membership. Mr. Huxen stated that his current employer, Brusly Police Department, has no issue with his enrollment. Mr. Huxen let the board know that he spoke to Ms. Morris, attorney, and Mr. Gauss with Ice Miller, and both thought this was the appropriate route to go.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, and seconded by Chief Beth Westlake, to approve Officer Devin Byrd's request for membership. Without objection, the motion carried.

D. If Necessary, Executive Session (Under the Provisions of R.S. 42:17(a)(10) To Facilitate Privileged Communications Under La. Code Evid. art. 506) Regarding the Items Under VII. E. Through G.

Mr. Huxen recommended entering into Executive Session to discuss agenda items E through G. This involved discussions of legal strategy regarding noncompliant employers, discussion and consideration of proposed settlement agreements, current litigation, and/or prospective litigation, and the City of New Orleans v. MPERS lawsuits.

E. Legal Strategy Regarding Noncompliant Employers (Action Item)

F. Discussion and Consideration of Proposed Settlement Agreements, Current Litigation, and/or Prospective Litigation (Action Item)

1. Town of Benton
2. MPERS vs. Kelvin McCoy, In His Official Capacity as Mayor for the Town of Boyce, et al., 19th JDC, Number 753207, Section 32
3. MPERS vs. Town of Cheneyville, et al., 19th JDC, Number 730043, Section 22
4. MPERS vs. Town of Cottonport, et al., 19th JDC, Number 728606, Section 26
5. MPERS vs. Town of Cullen, et al., 19th JDC, Number 764860, Section 22
6. Village of Clayton
7. Town of Dubach
8. MPERS vs. Town of Elton, et al., 19th JDC, Number 729135, Section 31
9. Town of Erath
10. MPERS vs. Town of Ferriday, et al., 19th JDC, Number 729285, Section 22

11. Village of French Settlement
12. MPERS vs. Town of Glenmora, et al., 19th JDC, Number 731063, Section 31
13. MPERS vs. Alvin Bradley, Sr., in His Official Capacity as Mayor for the City of Grambling, et al., 19th JDC, Number 749512, Section 26
14. MPERS vs. Town of Grand Coteau, et al., 19th JDC, Number 734857, Section 32
15. MPERS vs. Town of Greensburg, et al., 19th JDC, Number 729284, Section 26
16. MPERS vs. Sherbin Collette, In His Official Capacity as Mayor for the Town of Henderson, et al., 19th JDC, Number 741228, Section 21
17. Village of Hodge
18. Town of Hornbeck v. MPERS, 13th JDC, Number C-105333
19. MPERS vs. Loria Hollins, in Her Official Capacity as Mayor for the Town of Jonesville, et al., 19th JDC, Number 753206, Section 21
20. MPERS vs. Town of Killian, 19th JDC, Number 692605, Section 21
21. MPERS vs. Herman Williams, in His Official Capacity as Mayor for the Town of Lecompte, et al., 19th JDC, Number 741267, Section 23
22. MPERS vs. John Lemoine, in His Official Capacity as Mayor for the City of Marksville, et al., 19th JDC, Number 753210, Section 21
23. MPERS vs. Village of Moreauville, 19th JDC, Number 723617, Section 25 and Partial Dissolution
24. Town of Oakdale
25. Town of Oberlin
26. Michael Alquist, Peter Hermann, Guy Butterworth, Cameron Hillhouse, Police Chief Jack Sessions, Jayson Germany, and Courtney Badon vs. Town of Pearl River, et al., 22nd JDC, Number 2025-10102, Div. "C"
27. Village of Pine Prairie
28. MPERS vs. Town of Roseland, et al., 19th JDC, Number 731190, Section 23

29. Village of Sicily Island
30. MPERS vs. Town of Springfield, et al., 19th JDC, Number 730012, Section 30
31. Village of Sun
32. Village of Tangipahoa
33. Village of Turkey Creek
34. MPERS vs. Village of Varnado, et al., 19th JDC, Number 739462, Section 24
35. Town of Welsh
36. Town of Wisner

G. City of New Orleans Lawsuits

1. City of New Orleans v. MPERS, et al., 19th JDC, Number 724562, Section 24 Subject Matter: Leave Conversion Issues
2. City of New Orleans vs. MPERS, 19th JDC, Number 732243, Section 24 Subject Matter: Earnable Compensation
3. City of New Orleans vs. MPERS, 19th JDC, Number 751911, Section 25 Subject Matter: Partial Dissolution

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, and seconded by Chief Beth Westlake, to enter executive session at 11:50 am. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Chief Beth Westlake, and seconded by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to resume regular session at 12:16 pm. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, and seconded by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to authorize and direct Mr. Ben Huxen to certify delinquency to the Treasurer for the following municipalities: Benton, Boyce, Cottonport, Clayton, Elton, Erath, Glenmora, Grand Coteau, Marksville, New Orleans (leave conversion delinquency), Oberlin, and Sun. Mr. Julius Roberson abstained. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, and seconded by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to authorize and direct Mr. Ben Huxen to certify the following municipalities to the Treasurer for partial dissolutions if they do not pay in full by the August deadline: Moreauville, Oakdale, and Pine

Prairie. Mr. Julius Roberson abstained. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, and seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, to approve the proposed settlement with Cottonport. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, and seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, to approve the proposed settlement agreement with Dubach. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Chief Beth Westlake, and seconded by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to determine that French Settlement did not partially dissolve the Police Department in FY23. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, and seconded by Chief Beth Westlake, to reject the \$35,000 proposed settlement with Moreauville. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, and seconded by Chief Beth Westlake, to approve the settlement agreement with Roseland. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, and seconded by Chief David Addison, to approve the proposed settlement agreement offered to Tangipahoa and authorize and direct Mr. Ben Huxen to certify their delinquency to the Treasurer immediately if they do not accept by the July 31st deadline. Mr. Julius Roberson abstained. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, and seconded by Chief Beth Westlake, to approve the August 9th deadline for Turkey Creek to submit an alternative 15-year payment schedule for the payment of the full \$267,346 liability plus accrued interest and to demonstrate how they will accelerate payments in the future years to compensate for the proposed reduction in initial payments and to authorize Mr. Huxen to certify the delinquency to the Treasurer if no payment plan is accepted. Mr. Julius Roberson abstained. Without objection, the motion carried.

VIII. Other Business

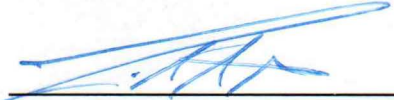
None.

IX. Adjourn At 12:23 pm.

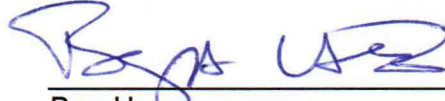
Motion by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco and seconded by Chief Beth Westlake to adjourn at 12:23 pm. Without objection, the motion carried.

Next Meeting Date is August 20, 2025, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes accurately represent the actions taken at the meeting held on July 23, 2025.



Chief Christopher Wilrye, Vice-Chairman



Ben Huxen,
Executive Director and General Counsel