

# VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

## BOARD OF RETIREMENT

### DISABILITY MEETING

June 2, 2014

### MINUTES

**DIRECTORS** Tracy Towner, Chair, Safety Employee Member  
**PRESENT:** William W. Wilson, Vice Chair, Public Member  
Steven Hintz, Treasurer-Tax Collector  
Joseph Henderson, Public Member  
Mike Sedell, Public Member  
Tom Johnston, General Employee Member  
Deanna McCormick, General Employee Member  
Arthur E. Goulet, Retiree Member  
Will Hoag, Alternate Retiree Member  
Chris Johnston, Alternate Safety Employee Member

**DIRECTORS** Peter C. Foy, Public Member  
**ABSENT:**

**STAFF** Tim Thonis, Interim Retirement Administrator  
**PRESENT:** Lori Nemiroff, Assistant County Counsel  
Henry Solis, Chief Financial Officer  
Julie Stallings, Retirement Operations Manager  
Donna Edwards, Retirement Benefits Specialist  
Chantell Garcia, Retirement Benefits Specialist  
Stephanie Caiazza, Program Assistant

**PLACE:** Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association  
Second Floor Boardroom  
1190 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93003

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**ITEM:**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Towner called the Disability Meeting of June 2, 2014, to order at 9:00 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Goulet requested that the agenda be amended to remove New Business Item "VII.C. Authorization to Attend CALAPRS Trustee Roundtable, June 13, 2014", because he no longer desired to attend.

MOTION: Approve the Agenda, as amended.

Moved by T. Johnston, seconded by McCormick.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Wilson, Towner

No: -

Absent: Foy, Sedell

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Business Meeting of May 19, 2014.

MOTION: Approve the Minutes.

Moved by Goulet, seconded by Hintz.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Wilson, Towner

No: -

Absent: Foy, Sedell

**IV. RECEIVE AND FILE PENDING DISABILITY APPLICATION STATUS REPORT**

MOTION: Receive and file the Report.

Moved by Goulet, seconded by Henderson.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Wilson, Towner

No: -

Absent: Foy, Sedell

**V. APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY RETIREMENT**

A. Application for Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement; Romuld, Debbie A.; Case No. 14-001.

Paul Hilbun was present representing the County of Ventura Risk Management. The applicant, Debbie A. Romuld, was present.

Both parties declined to make statements.

The following Motion was made:

MOTION: Grant the applicant, Debbie A. Romuld, a non-service connected disability retirement.

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Henderson.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Wilson, Towner

No: -

Absent: Foy, Sedell

Both parties agreed to waive Preparation of Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

Mr. Sedell entered the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

- B. Application for Service Connected Disability Retirement, Diaz, Ester V.;  
Case No. 12-012.

Paul Hilbun and John I. Gilman, Attorney at Law, were present representing the County of Ventura Risk Management. The applicant was not present.

After discussion by the Board, the following Motion was made:

MOTION: Adopt the Hearing Officer's Supplemental Report to Previously Proposed Findings and Recommendations and deny the applicant, Ester V. Diaz, a service connected disability retirement.

Moved by Wilson, seconded by McCormick.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Wilson, Sedell,  
Towner

No: -

Absent: Foy

- C. Application for Service Connected Disability Retirement; Hillberg, Donald;  
Case No. 10-028.

Paul Hilbun and B. Derek Straatsma, Attorney at Law, were present representing the County of Ventura Risk Management. Laurence D. Grossman, Attorney at Law, was present representing the applicant. The

applicant, Donald Hillberg, was also present.

After statements by both parties and discussion by the Board, the following Motion was made:

MOTION: Approve the Hearing Officer's recommendation and grant the applicant, Donald Hillberg, a service connected disability retirement.

Moved by T. Johnston, seconded by McCormick.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Towner

No: Sedell, Wilson, Goulet

Absent: Foy

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Consideration of 2014/15 Business Plan.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve.**

The Interim Retirement Administrator presented the 2014/15 Business Plan to the Board.

Following discussion between the Board and Staff, Mr. Towner directed the Personnel Review Committee to discuss with Staff the potential investment officer position, and the increase and reclassification of certain positions.

Mr. C. Johnston requested and Staff agreed to provide more detailed information regarding the recommendation to delay implementation of the new disability hearing procedures, including additional projected Information Technology costs.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: Approve the adoption of 2014/15 Business Plan.

Moved by Sedell, seconded by Wilson.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Wilson, Sedell,  
Towner

No: -

Absent: Foy

B. Review and Adoption of Proposed Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve.**

Chief Financial Officer Henry Solis presented the 2014/15 Business Plan to the Board.

MOTION: Approve the adoption of the 2014/15 Budget.

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Henderson.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Wilson, Sedell,  
Towner

No: -

Absent: Foy

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Review of Ventura County Employees' Retirement Information System (VCERIS) Project Status Report, Month Ending April 2014.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and File.**

After discussion by the Board and Staff, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Receive and File.

Moved by Sedell, seconded by Wilson.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Wilson, Sedell,  
Towner

No: -

Absent: Foy

Chair Towner left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Wilson served as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

- B. Review and Consideration of VCERA Board Travel Policy.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve.**

After discussion by the Board and Staff, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Approve the VCERA Board Travel Policy, with direction to Staff to provide more information about meal reimbursement rates.

Moved by Henderson, seconded by T. Johnston.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes: Goulet, Hintz, T. Johnston, Henderson, McCormick, Sedell, C.  
Johnston, Wilson

No: -

Absent: Foy, Towner

- C. Authorization to Attend CALAPRS Trustee Roundtable, June 13, 2014.  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve.**

Removed from Agenda.

**VIII. INFORMATIONAL**

- A. SACRS Public Pension Investment Management Program 2014; July 20 –  
23, 2014, U.C. Berkeley.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**X. STAFF COMMENT**

None.

**XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Mr. Hoag informed the Board that the Personnel Review Committee will review the Cooperative Personnel Services (CPS) contract for the retirement administrator recruitment.

Mr. T. Johnston informed the Board that he will likely be absent for the next three meetings.

Mr. Henderson led the Board in thanking Tim Thonis for his services as Interim Retirement Administrator for VCERA.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TIM THONIS, Interim Retirement Administrator

Approved,



TRACY TOWNER, Chairman