

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF CHINO VALLEY**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023
1:00 PM**

**CHINO VALLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
202 N. STATE ROUTE 89, CHINO VALLEY, AZ**

Present: Jack Miller, Chair; Dean Keller, Board Member; Cheri Romley, Board Member; Deana Winn, Board Member; Amy Chamberlin, Board Member

Absent:

Staff Present: William Wittington, Board Attorney; Laura Kyriakakis, HR Director

Attendees: Steve Jones, Applicant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a.** Consideration and possible action to approve the November 8, 2022, special meeting minutes.

MOVED by Voting Member Cheri Romley, seconded by Dean Keller, Voting Member to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Voting Member Cheri Romley, Voting Member Dean Keller, Voting Member Deana Winn, Voting Member Amy Chamberlin

NAY:

5 – 0 PASSED

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

5. OLD BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a.** Possible vote to go into executive session for legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) for discussion and consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection regarding Steve Jones's disability application.

MOVED by Voting Member Cheri Romley, seconded by Dean Keller, Voting Member to enter into Executive Session at 1:01 p.m.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Voting Member Cheri Romley, Voting Member Dean Keller, Voting Member Deana Winn, Voting Member Amy Chamberlin

NAY:

5 – 0 PASSED

- b. Executive session for legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) and pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) for discussion and consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection with regard to:

- McKenzie Szymanski – Lateral Police Officer DOH 2/5/2023 and her acceptance into the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System.

8. NEW BUSINESS RESUMED

- a. Discussion and possible action to accept McKenzie Szymanski in the Public Safety Retirement System.

- The Board discussed making special mention of several pre-existing conditions in Ms. Szymanski's medical history.
- Mr. Whittington stated that the Board could mention any conditions they wished but there should be reference to any pre-existing conditions as recorded in the medical history questionnaire submitted by Ms. Szymanski.

MOVED by Mayor Jack Miller, seconded by Cheri Romley, Voting Member to accept Officer Szymanski into the Retirement System, making reference to all pre-existing conditions on page 4 of her medical examination, effective February 7, 2023.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Voting Member Cheri Romley, Voting Member Dean Keller, Voting Member Deana Winn, Voting Member Amy Chamberlin

NAY:

5 – 0 PASSED

- b. Discussion and possible action to terminate Michael Garcia from the Public Safety Retirement System.

MOVED by Voting Member Amy Chamberlin, seconded by Cheri Romley, Voting Member to terminate Michael Garcia from the Public Safety Retirement System effective February 2, 2023.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Voting Member Cheri Romley, Voting Member Dean Keller, Voting Member Deana Winn, Voting Member Amy Chamberlin

NAY:

5 – 0 PASSED

- c. Discussion and possible action regarding Steve Jones's application for disability.

The Board and Mr. Jones discussed the following:

- The board asked Mr. Jones how he felt about applying for disability.
- Mr. Jones stated that he felt dirty about applying for disability. He felt like he had let his coworkers down and that he should be stronger and finish his last two years.

- Applying for disability wasn't something that he wanted to do because he cared about his coworkers. He felt that if he was on the street with them they'd all go home safe because he was going to take care of whatever business needed to be taken care of. He didn't know if doing that would be in the best interest of himself and the department.
- Mr. Jones stated that he had looked down the barrel of a gun and was afraid that the next time he'd be overzealous and wouldn't let it happen again. He stated he experienced shooting a suspect four times with a rifle and it didn't stop the suspect from picking up a gun and having to be shot again by another officer.
- The Board asked Mr. Jones how he would feel about taking another IME and if he felt he got to talk Dr. Parker honestly.
- Mr. Jones stated that he felt defeated after his appointment with Dr. Parker. He felt that Dr. Parker was just there to collect a paycheck. He felt rushed and like he didn't get to say what he wanted to say because Dr. Parker said, "I don't have time for this. I'm not your shrink."
- He stated that Dr. Parker did say Mr. Jones's condition was job related and that he was unsafe to carry a firearm at the time and work as a Police Officer with a firearm, which was part of his job title. Dr. Parker felt that Mr. Jones was "fixable" with medication. Mr. Jones stated that he needed to be as sharp as possible to do his job effectively.
- Mr. Jones stated that he would do whatever needed to be done because he had worked hard for his pension. When he came to Chino Valley he didn't care what the job was, he just wanted health care for his family and a pension. He stated he went through a similar experience eight years ago and came back because he wanted to get to his pension. He had a 15 year pension from the electrical field that was worth \$380/month.
- He stated his psychologist said he needed to address this issue and that he couldn't power through.
- Mr. Jones stated that he would go back to Dr. Parker if that's what the Board wanted him to do, although he felt like he had been kicked in the teeth when he left Dr. Parker the first time.

MOVED by Voting Member Amy Chamberlin, seconded by Dean Keller, Voting Member to send Mr. Jones for a second IME with a new doctor.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Voting Member Cheri Romley, Voting Member Dean Keller, Voting Member Deana Winn, Voting Member Amy Chamberlin

NAY:

5 – 0 PASSED

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Submitted: March 16, 2023

By: Sara Burchill, Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: May 31, 2023