



STANISLAUS COUNTY
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
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BOARD OF RETIREMENT MINUTES

APRIL 13, 2005

Members Present: Nick Blom, Maria DeAnda, Jim DeMartini, Gary Dial, Mike Fisher, Darin Gharat, Wes Hall, Ron Martin, and Linda Stotts-Burnett

Members Absent: Gordon Ford

Others Present: Kelly Cerny, Kathy Herman, Deirdre McGrath, Michele Silva, and Tom Watson

1. Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Gary Dial

2. **Announcements**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

Mr. Dennis Anderson addressed the Board to request to add to the June 8, 2005 Agenda the status of the Ventura decision project.

4. **Consent Items**

Motion was made by Maria DeAnda and seconded by Wes Hall to approve the following items as listed.

Motion carried.

a. Approval of the March 22, 2005 Regular Minutes

b. Approval of Service Retirement(s) – Sections 31499.14. 31760.1 and 31810

1. Edward Bosson, Effective 03-18-05
2. Douglas Estes, Effective 03-31-05
3. George Fulton, Effective 03-31-05
4. Tara Greichus, Effective 03-31-05
5. Mary Hardie, Effective 04-22-05
6. Linda Johnson, Effective 03-31-05
7. Sofie Pettygrove, Effective 03-31-05
8. Vijay Ram, Effective 03-15-05
9. Nancy Sitkiewicz, Effective 03-31-05

4. **Consent Items (cont.)**

c. **Approval to RESCIND Service Retirement – Sections 31499.14, 31760.1 & 31810**

1. Carmen Cortez, Effective 03-12-05 (Rescind Approval of 03-09-05)

d. **Approval of Deferred Retirement(s) – Sections 31700**

1. Danny Bayne, Effective 10-15-03
2. Anthony Bejaran, Effective 03-12-05
3. Manuel Chapa, Effective 01-15-05
4. Stephen Collyer, Effective 03-02-05
5. Darlene Engebretsen, Effective 02-23-05
6. Kathy Kohrman, Effective 01-01-05
7. Connie Moreno-Peraza, Effective 07-31-04
8. John C. Payne, Effective 03-31-05
9. John Swartz, Effective 03-26-05
10. Jean Vanden Bosch, Effective 01-01-05
11. Robin Wright, Effective 03-12-05

e. **Approval of Deferred Refund(s) – Section 31700**

1. Bernice J. Morgan-Platner

5. **Closed Session**

Motion was made by Darin Gharat and seconded by Mike Fisher to adjourn to Closed Session at 2:06 p.m.

After returning to Regular Session at 2:34 p.m., Tom Watson, Administrator, read the findings of the Closed Session.

The application of Daniel Hilgen for a Service-Connected Disability Retirement benefit was granted effective November 4, 2004, with medical call back at the discretion of the Administrator.

The application of Taylene Tipton for a Service-Connected Disability Retirement was set for hearing before a hearing officer.

6. **Administrator**

- a. County Counsel Opinion on Inclusion of In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority's (IHSSPA) Four (4) Full-Time Stanislaus County Employees into StanCERA.
- b. Discussion and Approval of Inclusion of In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority's (IHSSPA) Four (4) Full-Time Stanislaus County Employees into StanCERA.

At the request of board member Nick Blom at the March 9, 2005 board meeting, Tom Watson, Administrator, received and shared an informal opinion from County Counsel, and a letter from Jeffrey M. Lambaren, Interim Executive Director Public

6. **Administrator (cont.)**

Authority, on the inclusion of In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority's (IHSSPA) Four (4) Full-Time Stanislaus County Employees into StanCERA. The opinion and letter clarified that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the United Domestic Workers (UDW) does not describe any type of retirement benefits for Providers. Thus, only the four regular full-time county employees are authorized to be included in StanCERA for retirement benefits.

Motion was made by Wes Hall and seconded by Darin Gharat to approve the inclusion of the four (4) full-time employees in StanCERA.

Nick Blom questioned if we could limit the inclusion to the four employees. Each district or agency is taken on as an employer. Once a district or agency is approved then all new-hired employees automatically become members.

Nick Blom directed staff to request a formal written opinion from County Counsel about the Public Authority's inclusion into StanCERA, and if it could potentially bring in hundreds or thousands of In-Home Supportive Service workers, inadvertently without having an actuarial study done to calculate the unfunded liability.

Wes Hall withdrew the motion to approve.

Approval of the inclusion of the four (4) full-time county employees into StanCERA was tabled until a formal County Counsel opinion is received.

c. Quarterly Update of 2005 Administrative Goals (Information Only)

Tom Watson Administrator shared a quarterly update of completed administrative goals ending March 31, 2005. Wes Hall commented he liked the administrative updates and reports the Board is receiving.

d. Discussion and Approval of the State Association of County Retirement Systems' (SACRS) Executive Committee 2005 Nominees as listed.

Motion was made by Nick Blom and seconded by Wes Hall to approve the SACRS 2005 Nominees/Candidates for the Executive Committee as listed.

Motion carried.

7. **Correspondence**

One (1) Retiree's Note of Appreciation was received for the One-Time Supplemental Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

8. **Committee Reports and Recommendations for Action**

STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Retiree Benefits Committee - Wes Hall, Chair

Wes Hall informed the Board that the Committee heard a presentation from attorney Robert Blum, who specializes in retirement health insurance taxability. Mr. Blum offers advice to various counties interested in the possibility of offering non-taxable retiree health insurance. Upon conclusion of Mr. Blum's presentation, it was determined more statistical information and costs would be necessary before moving forward. Patrick McTighe and Michele Silva were directed to obtain more information. Mr. Blum will contact Mike Moehle of our actuary, Mellon Human Resources & Investment Solutions, to discuss feasibility aspects. Mr. Blum will also contact the County and StanCERA financial statement auditors for opinions on General Accounting Standards Board (GASB) reporting requirements and the affects on unfunded liabilities.

b. Retiree Benefits Committee (cont.) - Wes Hall, Chair

Wes Hall reported that Patrick McTighe, BMTI Services, made a presentation regarding the Medicare Part D Prescription Benefits/Costs. Wes Hall informed the Board this will not affect our retirement system. It is more an opportunity for employer prescription funds that are paid out to allow them to receive refunds from the federal government. However, this change could benefit retirees through lower health insurance premiums.

c. Bylaws Committee – Ron Martin, Chair

No Report.

d. Due Diligence Committee – Nick Blom, Chair

Deputy County Counsel Deirdre McGrath addressed the request of non-committee member inclusion on due diligence visits with respect to a quorum and The Brown Act. Two non-committee Board members had asked to join three committee members on the June 2005 due diligence visit to San Francisco. Deirdre McGrath stated if five (5) or more Board members are included in a due diligence visit outside their jurisdiction, there could be an appearance of business being conducted by the decision-making body. If this were to occur, then the public must be given notice per The Brown Act, both in the body's jurisdiction (Stanislaus County) and in the jurisdiction of the building(s) in which a visitation occurs.

8. **Committee Reports and Recommendations for Action (cont.)**

STANDING COMMITTEES (cont.)

- e. Education Committee, Maria DeAnda, Chair

Maria DeAnda discussed the seminar brochure Board members had received about the International Foundation's "Benefits Conference for Public Employees," July 11-13, 2005. Upon review, Maria DeAnda asked for Board approval for members to attend.

Motion was made by Nick Blom and seconded by Mike Fisher to approve Board attendance at the International Foundation's "Benefits Conference for Public Employees," July 11-13, 2005 seminar.

Motion carried.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES

Kathy Herman arrived at 3:00 p.m.

- a. Independence Committee – Darin Gharat, Chair

Chair Darin Gharat gave a brief overview of the Independence Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2005 and the Statement of Independent Operations.

Board members received some rough sketches of planned space allocation for a boardroom, offices, cubicles, etc., in the new office in the 12th Street building. Maria DeAnda recommended that one additional small conference room be added to the plans.

The space allocation allowed Board members to see that over 4,000 square feet is available for leasing.

Motion was made by Nick Blom and seconded by Maria DeAnda to authorize the Retirement Board Chair and Administrator to seek potential clients for the leased space and bring to the Board for final approval.

Motion carried.

- b. Disability Retirement Accountability Committee – Mike Fisher, Chair

No Report.

9. **Members' Forum (Information and Future Agenda Requests Only)**

Deirdre McGrath reminded Board members to keep track of invitations and sponsors of non-conference meals for reporting on their Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700. Kelly Cerny, Executive Administrative Assistant will assist in contacting sponsors for details. Deirdre also said she is glad to be here with Stanislaus County as Deputy County Counsel.

9. **Members' Forum (Information and Future Agenda Requests Only) (cont.)**

Wes Hall will not be attending the SACRS Spring Conference as previously reported. He will not be at the April 26, 2005 Board meeting, but will return for the May 24, 2005, Board meeting.

10. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Watson, Retirement Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
MICHAEL KRAUSNICK, COUNTY COUNSEL

Deirdre McGrath, Deputy County Counsel