

**SONOMA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD
DISABILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Thursday, July 21, 2022
8:30 a.m.

In accordance with Retirement Board Resolution #156, adopted on September 23, 2021 and effective June 16, 2022, the Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association Disability Committee meeting was held virtually and in compliance with California Government Code section 54953(e).

Members of the public were able to watch or listen to the meeting using one of the two following methods:

1. By joining the WebEx meeting application on a computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://sonomacounty.webex.com/sonomacounty/j.php?MTID=m87d5edf9a743d1edd5d5e59bb4cf71>

2. By calling in and listening to the meeting:

Dial 1-408-418-9388

Enter meeting ID: 2499 559 7578

Enter password: 07212022

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Jackie.Purter@sonoma-county.org by 7:30 am July 21, 2022. Members of the public who joined the WebEx meeting, either through the WebEx app or by calling in, were able to provide live public comment for each agenda item, after the Board and staff provided their comments.

Presiding in the
SCERA Board Room: Chair Brian Williams.

Present Via WebEx: Alternate Retiree Trustee Neil Baker.

Present in the
SCERA Board Room: Trustees Joe Tambe, Tim Tuscany and Bob Williamson; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne; Assistant Chief Executive Officer/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess; Member Services Manager Jackie Purter; and Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay.

Absent: Trustee Travis Balzarini.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of the June 16, 2022 Minutes.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to approve the June 16, 2022 Disability Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 4-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

The Disability Committee moved into Executive Session and closed the meeting to all attendees who were not necessary for the determination of a disability retirement. While the meeting was closed, those attendees were placed into the WebEx lobby by the WebEx host and did not hear or see the meeting. The WebEx screen indicated that the attendees were in the lobby and those still present were re-connected to the meeting once the Board returned to open session.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee met in closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b) to consider the employment status and evaluation of performance of SCERA members as concerns eligibility for disability retirement and reinstatement to active membership.

A. Applications for Committee Action:

KATHRYN SNYDER, general member who retired effective 10/12/14 with a service retirement. On May 11, 2022, Ms. Snyder submitted a request that her retirement be suspended and that she be reinstated per Government Code section 31680.4. She has been offered the position of an Account Clerk II with the County of Sonoma.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Williamson to recommend that Ms. Snyder's retirement benefit be suspended and that she be reinstated as an active member in the retirement association pursuant to Government Code Section 31680.4. The motion carried 4-1. With voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

B. Proposed Decision:

MAZEN AWAD, Captain requested an application on 06/29/21 for a service connected disability retirement. Application request was reviewed and denied for not meeting Government Code Section 31722 (timeliness of application). Mr. Awad service retired 03/10/20 and did not file within 4 months of retiring and was unable to prove permanence back to his date of retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Williamson pursuant to Government Code section 31534 to recommend adopting the Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision and deny Mr. Awad a service connected disability application. The motion carried 4-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

C. Discussion:

Reviewed the July 2022 Disability Report.

The Disability Committee moved out of Executive Session and reopened the meeting to all WebEx attendees who were placed in the lobby during the closed session period.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT – OPEN SESSION

Committee Chair Brian Williams reported out in open session that the Committee unanimously recommended to grant Retiree Kathryn Snyders' request to suspend her service retirement and to return to work as an active member with the County of Sonoma. The Committee unanimously recommended to adopt the hearing officer's proposed decision to deny Captain Mazen Awad's request for a service connected disability retirement application as he did not meet the timeliness requirements for filing per section 31722.

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION MATTERS

There were no general discussion matters.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the SCERA Board Room located at 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100 in Santa Rosa, CA or virtually via WebEx.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

VIII. APPROVAL

The above minutes for the Disability Committee meeting on July 21, 2022 were approved at the Disability Committee meeting on August 18, 2022.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR