

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

Thursday, August 18, 2022
8:31 a.m.

In accordance with Retirement Board Resolution #156, adopted on September 23, 2021 and effective July 21, 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=mba2b11fd6950fd4198a85d13c54ff8b0>

2. By calling in and listening to the meeting:

Dial 1-408-418-9388

Enter meeting ID: 2481 305 4288

Enter password: 08182022

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Jackie.Purter@sonoma-county.org by 7:30 am August 18, 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: Chair Brian Williams.

Present: Trustees Travis Balzarini, Joe Tambe, Tim Tuscany and Bob Williamson; Alternate Retiree Trustee Neil Baker; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne; Assistant Chief Executive Officer/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess; Member Services Manager Jackie Purter; and Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of the July 21, 2022 Minutes.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to approve the July 21, 2022 Disability Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 4-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Abstain
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:

1. JASON ESQUIBEL, Correctional Deputy II filed 12/28/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. Esquibel be granted a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0 with voting as follows:

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

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

A. Applications for Committee Action, continued:

2. BRIAN KEEL, Correctional Deputy II filed 12/28/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Williamson and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. Keel be denied a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0 with voting as follows:

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

3. JOSEPH MORARITY, Correctional Deputy II filed 01/06/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Williamson and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. Morarity be granted a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0 with voting as follows:

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

4. LUKE SOLORZANO, Deputy Sheriff II filed 01/10/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Balzarini and seconded by Trustee Williamson to recommend that Mr. Solorzano be granted a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0 with voting as follows:

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

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

A. Applications for Committee Action, continued:

5. EDUARDO FERNANDEZ, Correctional Deputy II filed 02/18/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. Fernandez be granted a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0 with voting as follows:

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

6. ROBERT JOHNSON, Correctional Deputy II filed 03/14/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Balzarini and seconded by Trustee Williamson to recommend that Mr. Johnson be granted a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0 with voting as follows:

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

7. BECKY RASMASON, Court Commissioner filed 04/18/22 for a non-service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Ms. Rasmason be granted a non-service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0 with voting as follows:

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

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

B. Proposed Decisions:

ELENA TRANSUE, Deputy Sheriff II filed 05/07/20 for a service connected disability retirement. On 01/21/21 the Retirement Board denied the application for a service connected disability.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Balzarini pursuant to Government Code section 31534 to recommend adopting the Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision and grant Ms. Transue a service connected disability application. The motion carried 5-0 with voting as follows:

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

C. Discussion:

Reviewed the August 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 a service connected disability retirement to Correctional Deputy II Jason Esquibel, Correctional Deputy II Joseph Morarity, Deputy Sheriff II Luke Solorzano, Correctional Deputy II Eduardo Fernandez, and Correctional Deputy II Robert Johnson; unanimously recommended to grant a non-service connected disability retirement to Court Commissioner Becky Rasmason; unanimously recommended to deny a service connected disability retirement to Correctional Deputy II Brian Keel; and unanimously recommended to adopt the Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision and grant Ms. Transue a service connected disability retirement.

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION MATTERS

There were no general discussion matters.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 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 9:11 a.m.

VIII. APPROVAL

The above minutes for the Disability Committee meeting on August 18, 2022 were approved at the Disability Committee meeting on September 22, 2022.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR