

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

Thursday, June 20, 2024
8:31 a.m.

Presiding: Chair Brian Williams.

Present: Trustees Travis Balzarini (arrived @8:35 a.m.), Joe Tambe 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.

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Jackie.Purter@sonoma-county.org. Members of the public who joined the Zoom meeting via the Zoom app or by calling in, were able to provide live public comment for each agenda item, after the Board and staff provided their comments.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of the May 23, 2024 Minutes.

Motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Baker to approve the May 23, 2024 Disability Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 4-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Tambe	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, the attendees were locked out. 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. ANTWON COLE, Probation Officer II filed 09/18/23 for a service connected disability retirement. Consideration under Government Code Section 31724 (date allowance becomes effective) is requested.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. Cole be granted a service connected disability retirement.

Government Code Section 31724 was reviewed and the recommendation is to deny the request as there was no administrative oversight or inability to ascertain the permanency of the member's incapacity.

The motion carried 5-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

2. STEVEN LARMAN, Correctional Deputy II filed 11/21/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

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

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

A. Applications for Committee Action, continued:

3. SHELLY ARREDONDO, Supervising Communications Dispatcher filed 12/08/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

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

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

4. GARY FREITAS, Deputy Sheriff II filed 12/15/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

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

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

5. LAURA ZIEFF, general member who retired effective 02/11/21 with a service retirement. On June 3, 2024, Ms. Zieff 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 a Legal Processor I with the County of Sonoma.

Motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Williamson to recommend that Ms. Zieff'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 5-0-0-0. With voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

B. Discussion:

Reviewed the June 2024 Disability Report.

The Disability Committee moved out of Executive Session and reopened the meeting to all Zoom attendees who were locked out of the meeting during the closed session period.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT – OPEN SESSION

Committee Chair Brian Williams reported out in open session that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend granting Probation Officer II Antwon Cole a service connected disability retirement. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend denying his request for Government Code Section 31724. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend granting a service connected disability retirement to Correctional Deputy II Steven Larman, Supervising Communications Dispatcher Shelly Arredondo, and Deputy Sheriff II Gary Freitas. The Committee unanimously recommended granting Retiree Laura Zieff's request to suspend her service retirement and to return to work as an active member with the County of Sonoma.

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION MATTERS

There were no general discussion matters.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the SCERA Board Room located at 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100 in Santa Rosa, CA.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

VIII. APPROVAL

The above minutes for the Disability Committee meeting on June 20, 2024 were approved at the Disability Committee meeting on July 18, 2024.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR