

ICERS

IMPERIAL COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE IMPERIAL COUNTY BOARD OF RETIREMENT

September 15, 2021

9:00 A.M.

1221 West State Street

ICERS' Building

El Centro, CA 92243

Chairman Jauregui summarized the current COVID 19 protocols.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jauregui at 9:18 a.m.

A delay to open the meeting was due to technical difficulties.

A. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Lizarraga

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Karen Vogel, Suzanne Bermudez, Norma K. Jauregui, David H. Prince, Luis A. Plancarte, Thomas Garcia, Lizandro Escobosa and AJ Gaddis

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES VIA TELECONFERENCE: Christopher W. Waddell and Kristen Rogers

STAFF PRESENT: Scott W. Jarvis, Retirement Administrator, Regina Rodrigues, Assistant Retirement Administrator

CLERK OF THE RETIREMENT BOARD PRESENT: Kathleen L. Kubler, Retirement Specialist I

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Vivian W. Shultz, ICERS Disability Counsel, Peter Dewar, President, Linea Secure, Mike Letcher, President/CEO of BridgeGroup LLC

OPEN SESSION

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Jauregui led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Discussion of the Agenda:

A. Items to be pulled from the Action Calendar: None

B. Items to be pulled from the Discussion Calendar: None

Discussion of the Agenda continued:

- C. Items to be pulled from the Consent Agenda: None
- D. Emergency/Necessity Items to be added: None
- E. Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION by Vogel, Second by Bermudez and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of members present (YES: Vogel, Lizarraga, Bermudez, Plancarte, Jauregui, Garcia, Prince, Escobosa; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None) the board approved the agenda

- F. Approval of the Consent Agenda:

MOTION by Lizarraga, Second by Escobosa and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of members present (YES: Vogel, Lizarraga, Bermudez, Plancarte, Jauregui, Garcia, Prince, Escobosa; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None) the board approved the Consent Agenda.

- 3. Convene to Closed Session:

Pursuant to California Law (Government Code §54963) a person may not disclose any confidential information that has been acquired by being present in a Closed Session. Unlawful disclosure of confidential information is a violation of California Law and could result in discipline and/or referral to the Grand Jury.

Prior to convening into Closed Session, Chairman Jauregui granted Disability Applicant, Jose Gonzalez time to address the board with a request for clarification and purpose of the agendized item regarding his claim.

Disability Applicant, Luis Carrasco also addressed the board with his request for a continuance to address the board's decision on his claim.

MOTION by Vogel, Second by Prince and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of members present (YES: Vogel, Lizarraga, Bermudez, Plancarte, Jauregui, Garcia, Prince, Escobosa; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None) the board convened in to Closed Session.

SAFETY MEMBER GARCIA WAS PLACED IN THE WAITING ROOM

CLOSED SESSION

- 4. A. ICERS PENDING LITIGATION

Upon advice of its legal counsel, the ICERS Board will recess to Closed Session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a) to confer with its attorney regarding pending litigation which has been initiated formally and to which ICERS is a part.

IMPERIAL COUNTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION, et. al., v. County of Imperial; Imperial County Employees' Retirement Association; Board of Administration of County Employees' Retirement System. Imperial County Superior Court Case No. ECU000786

Closed Session (cont)

SAFETY MEMBER WAS RETURNED TO THE MEETING FROM THE WAITING ROOM

- B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code §54956.9(a).) Disability retirement application relating to the following: (3 attachments)

Elise Pellicer Luis A. Carrasco Jose M. Gonzalez

Maria R. Garcia

- C. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES

Consultation with ICERS' Cybersecurity Consultant, Peter Dewar - President, Linea Secure, pursuant to Government Code §54957(a).

OPEN SESSION

5. Announcement of Closed Session Action:

Board Counsel, Christopher W. Waddell reported on the following:

The board was provided with a status update regarding the ongoing litigation between the Imperial County Sheriff's Association, et. al. v. County of Imperial; Imperial County Employees' Retirement Association; Board of Administration of County Employees' Retirement System. Imperial County Superior Court Case No. ECU000786

Two matters regarding disability retirement applications existing litigation were continued to the regularly scheduled meeting of October 20, 2021.

The board received counsel from ICERS Cybersecurity Consultant.

Board Chairman Jauregui also directed staff to include cybersecurity training for the board as an action item on the agenda for October 20, 2021.

Staff was also given direction to coordinate with the County Information Technologies Services to establish county email addresses for each board member.

6. Public Comments:

This is the time for the public to address the Board concerning items that are not on this Agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Board. Matters on the Action Calendar, Discussion Calendar, or Closed Session Agenda maybe addressed before or during consideration of the Agenda item. Speaking time is limited to three (3) minutes.

Mr. Luis Carrasco thanked the board and wished them a good day.

Mr. Jose Gonzalez commented on his long career as a firefighter and the love of his job.

ACTION CALENDAR

7. Approval of the Minutes of the August 18, 2021, adjourned regularly scheduled meeting:

MOTION by Prince, Second by Garcia and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of members present (YES: Vogel, Lizarraga, Bermudez, Plancarte, Jauregui, Garcia, Prince, Escobosa; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None) the board approved the Minutes of the August 18, 2021 adjourned regularly scheduled meeting.

8. Discussion/Action: The Board will discuss the ongoing Governance Policies and Bylaws revision project and will be asked to consider approving three revised Governance Policies as reviewed and approved by the Ad Hoc Governance Committee:

Kristen Rogers, ICERS Board Co-Counsel discussed each policy and bylaw revision with the board.

MOTION by Prince, Second by Vogel and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of members present (YES: Vogel, Lizarraga, Bermudez, Plancarte, Jauregui, Garcia, Prince, Escobosa; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None) the board adopted the ICERS Leadership Policy, with the noted amendment to Page 7, **Section I K 1.**, The Alternate Seventh (Safety) Member shall vote as a member of the Board only in the absence of the second, third, or seventh member, or where the eighth member and alternate eighth member are absent.

MOTION by Garcia, Second by Vogel and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of members present (YES: Vogel, Lizarraga, Plancarte, Jauregui, Garcia, Prince, Escobosa; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Bermudez) the board adopted the Board Member Responsibilities, Core Competencies and Education Policy, with the noted amendment to the last item in the table at the bottom of Page 15 to read, "Understanding the role of active versus passive management in the investment portfolio."

Chairman Jauregui directed staff that going forward, to incorporate markings on the monthly board investment reporting graphs, that indicate Active or Passive investment management.

MOTION by Lizarraga, Second by Bermudez and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of members present (YES: Vogel, Lizarraga, Bermudez, Plancarte, Jauregui, Garcia, Prince, Escobosa; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None) the board adopted the Ethical and Fiduciary Conduct Policy.

9. Discussion/Action: The Board shall appoint a Voting Delegate and a Voting Delegate Alternate for the SACRS 2021 Spring Conference:

MOTION by Bermudez, Second by Garcia and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of members present (YES: Vogel, Lizarraga, Bermudez, Plancarte, Jauregui, Garcia, Prince, NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Escobosa) the board elected Chairman, Norma K. Jauregui as Voting Delegate, and Retirement Administrator, Scott W. Jarvis as Alternate Voting Delegate, for the SACRS 2021 Fall Conference.

BREAK AT 11:38 A.M., RECONVENED AT 11:56 A.M.

10. Discussion: Strategic Plan Overview Workshop presented by Mike Letcher, President/CEO of BridgeGroup LLC.:

Mr. Letcher provided the board with a slide show presentation introducing the process and development of the strategic plan.

The board will convene to an off-site, Special Meeting on October 6, 2021, where Mr. Letcher will appear in person to conduct the strategic plan workshop.

One week before the workshop the board will receive the strategic planning workbook to include session materials along with board and staff projects.

Chairman Jauregui directed staff to locate an appropriate venue equipped to accommodate the in-person attendance of all board members and staff, and in compliance with social distancing guidelines.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

11. Reports/Correspondence/Announcements:

A. Retirement Administrator:

1. Investment Graphs:

- a. Market Value Graph of the Retirement System's Assets for August 31, 2021:
- b. Book vs. Market Graph – compares the Market Value of the system's assets to the Book Value of Assets for August 31, 2021:

Mr. Jarvis reported on current global and domestic trends and their effects on the market and ICERS investments.

2. Retirement Board Vacancies:

Mr. Jarvis informed the board of ongoing, coordinated efforts, with the Board of Supervisor's Clerk of the Board, as well as the County Executive's Office to fill the vacancy.

3. ICERS' Office Update:

Mr. Jarvis indicated that office and staff operations are successfully functioning to maintain business and member services, and that the recruitment process for an administrative assistant is well underway.

4. Imperial Valley Telecommunications Authority Board Meeting Update:

Mr. Jarvis reported the recent IVTA Board meeting.

5. SACRS Fall Conference – November 9-12, 2021:

Mr. Jarvis reminded the board that registration is now open for those interested in attending the conference at the Loews Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles.

Mr. Jarvis also expressed his gratitude to Board Members Lizarraga and Garcia, as well as Scott J. Whalen and Brian Wong of Verus Investments, for joining him to participate in the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) Spotlight Series.

B. Board Members:

Board Member Lizarraga expressed her appreciation to participate in the experience of the SACRS Spotlight Series and for the opportunity to share and respond to inquiries about ICERS.

Board Member Garcia also expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to highlight attributes of ICERS and Imperial County.

C. ICERS Legal Counsel:

Legislative review:

Mr. Waddell provided a status update on pending legislation.

CONSENT AGENDA

12. BUDGET:

Approval of the following Budget claims for the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year, to include Board Members in attendance at the 09/15/2021 meeting; Administrative Budget Expense Summary; and Treasurer's Cash Account Summary per Govt. Code 31580.2 & 31521:

A. Administrative Budgets

B. Treasurer's Cash

13. Administrative Agenda:

A. Enrollment of New Employee Member to ICERS: (21)

<u>General Members</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Date</u>
Perez, Miguel	Public Works	08/13/2021
Castro, Gissel	Behavioral Health	08/13/2021
Castro, Louis	Behavioral Health	08/13/2021
Cosio, Jesus	Betty Jo McNeece	08/13/2021
German, Karina	Public Health	08/13/2021
Medina, Alejandro	Social Services	08/13/2021
Rodriguez, Gabriel	Public Works	08/13/2021
Valenzuela, Guadalupe	Behavioral Health	08/13/2021
Williams, Deanna	Behavioral Health	08/13/2021
Villa, Vianka	Sheriff	08/27/2021
Anderson, Shelby R.	Sheriff	08/27/2021
Tafoya, Margaret G.	District Attorney	08/27/2021
Mares, Jessica I.	Sheriff	08/27/2021
Martin, Erelyn	Sheriff	08/27/2021
Serpas, Samantha S.	Sheriff	08/27/2021
Peraza, Charles A.	Public Health	08/27/2021

Enrollment of New Employee Member to ICERS: (cont.)

Castro, Cassandra P.	Behavioral Health	08/27/2021
Mata, Juliet M.	Behavioral Health	08/27/2021
Hernandez, Natalie	Social Services	08/27/2021
Rivas Huerta, Maria	Air Pollution Control District	08/27/2021

<u>Safety Members</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Date</u>
Sonico, Paul J.	Sheriff	08/27/2021

B. Terminations: (9)

<u>General Members</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Term Date</u>
Aispuro Gonzalez, Luz	Behavioral Health	05/12/2021
Davila, Belinda	Behavioral Health	07/15/2021
Gamboa, Diego	Public Health	06/04/2020
Jacobo, Pablo	Sheriff	06/08/2021
Mora Villa, Jose	Sheriff	06/20/2021
Ornelas, Leticia	Behavioral Health	07/21/2021
Romero, Andrea	Social Services	06/24/2021
Romero, Belen	Social Services	07/30/2021

Safety Member

Ortiz Ayala, Dayana	Probation	07/21/2021
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C. Service Retirement:

1.	Bulong, Georgina	General Member
	Department:	Deferred/Behavioral Health
	Effective Date:	07/16/2021
	Service:	09.470072 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.006567</u> Years
	Total:	09.476639 Years
2.	Sampson-Diaz, Victoria	General Member
	Department:	Public Health/Deferred
	Effective Date:	08/13/2021
	Service:	05.475024 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.002221</u> Years
	Total:	05.477245 Years

D. Medical Leave Buyback:

1.	Smith, Kristen	General Member
	Department:	Behavioral Health
	Service Credit:	00.104447
2.	Garcia, Ana V.	General Member
	Department:	Social Services
	Service Credit:	00.753524

Medical Leave Buyback: (cont.)

3.	Mendoza, Angelica Department: Service Credit:	General Member Behavioral Health 0.215865
E.	Make-Up Buyback:	
	Yanez-Loya, Francisca E. Department: Service Credit:	General Member Behavioral Health 0.915865
F.	Deferred / Inter System:	
1.	Ramirez, Anthony Department: Effective: Service: Sick Leave: Total:	General Member Public Works 11/14/2020 03.136538 Years <u>00.102471 Years</u> 03.239009 Years
2.	De La Trinidad, Maria Department: Effective: Service: Sick Leave: Total:	General Member Social Services 03/05/2021 03.724279 Years <u>00.010125 Years</u> 03.734404 Years
3.	Equihua, Isaen Department: Effective: Service: Sick Leave: Total:	General Member Behavioral Health 01/08/2021 01.907692 Years <u>00.051240 Years</u> 01.958932 Years
4.	Flores, Juan J. Department: Effective: Service: Sick Leave: Total:	General Member Behavioral Health 05/15/2021 16.112466 Years <u>00.268875 Years</u> 16.381341 Years
5.	Sanchez, Ramon Department: Effective: Service: Sick Leave: Total:	General Member Public Works 06/12/2021 14.131212 Years <u>00.093471 Years</u> 14.224683 Years

Deferred / Inter System: (cont.)

6.	Cardenas, Jordana	General Member
	Department:	Behavioral Health
	Effective:	03/13/2021
	General Service:	01.384615 Years
	Safety Service:	02.009615 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.072188</u> Years
	Total:	03.466418 Years
7.	Esqueda, Jael A.	General Member
	Department:	Behavioral Health
	Effective:	05/01/2021
	Service:	00.550000 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.023975</u> Years
	Total:	00.573975 Years
8.	Robb, Gabriela Moreno	General Member
	Department:	Planning & Development
	Effective:	03/20/2021
	Service:	04.055769 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.049130</u> Years
	Total:	04.104899 Years
9.	Sandez, Edthmyr	General Member
	Department:	Treasurer/Tax Collector
	Effective:	02/12/2021
	Service:	02.426082 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.079788</u> Years
	Total:	02.505870 Years
10.	Herring, Christopher	General Member
	Department:	Public Health
	Effective:	07/06/2021
	Service:	07.390865 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.213288</u> Years
	Total:	07.604153 Years
11.	Fuentes, Andrew J.	General Member
	Department:	Sheriff
	Effective:	04/08/2021
	Service: (General 3)	02.576923 Years
	Service: (Safety 3)	<u>00.140264</u> Years
	Total:	02.763591 Years
12.	Savercool, Monica	General Member
	Employer:	Superior Court
	Effective:	07/09/2021
	Service:	10.144399 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.002933</u> Years
	Total:	10.147332 Years

Deferred / Inter System: (cont.)

13.	Fonseca, Jonathan	General Member
	Department:	Behavioral Health
	Effective:	06/18/2021
	Service:	07.379327 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.111091 Years</u>
	Total:	07.490418 Years

G. Deferred:

1.	Duenas, Boby	General Member
	Department:	Fire
	Effective:	04/04/2021
	Service:	08.650000 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.017837 Years</u>
	Total:	08.667837 Years
2.	Carrera, Carolina	General Member
	Department:	District Attorney's
	Effective:	06/04/2021
	Service:	06.149399 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.058538 Years</u>
	Total:	06.207937 Years
3.	Torres, Nicole	General Member
	Department:	Sheriff's
	Effective:	03/06/2021
	Service:	06.019231 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.072673 Years</u>
	Total:	06.091904 Years
4.	Bonillas, Marial	General Member
	Department:	Behavioral Health
	Effective:	11/19/2020
	Service:	12.633548 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.001644 Years</u>
	Total:	12.635192 Years

H. Non-Vested:

1.	Meza, Estela	General Member
	Department:	Behavioral Health
	Effective:	03/26/2021
	Service:	00.978692 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.001885 Years</u>
	Total:	00.980577 Years
2.	Puyot, Elise N.	General Member
	Department:	County Clerk/Recorders
	Effective:	03/13/2021
	Service:	01.918630 Years
	Sick Leave:	<u>00.030880 Years</u>
	Total:	01.949510 Years

Non-Vested: (cont.)

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| 3. | Rivas, Carolina
Department:
Effective:
Service:
Sick Leave:
Total: | General Member
Behavioral Health
04/16/2021
00.442308 Years
<u>00.013784 Years</u>
00.456092 Years |
| 4. | Vargas, Yhezel
Department:
Effective:
Service:
Sick Leave:
Total: | General Member
District Attorney
05/01/2021
04.841832 Years
<u>00.009990 Years</u>
04.851822 Years |
| 5. | Millan, Eliza
Department:
Effective:
Service:
Sick Leave:
Total: | General Member
Behavioral Health
06/05/2021
02.973365 Years
<u>00.017010 Years</u>
02.990375 Years |
| 6. | Montanez, Geneva
Department:
Effective:
Service:
Sick Leave:
Total: | General Member
Social Services
04/18/2021
03.094351 Years
<u>00.000966 Years</u>
03.095317 Years |
| 7. | Esquer, Ramona
Department:
Effective:
Service:
Sick Leave:
Total: | General Member
Behavioral Health
06/04/2021
00.451202 Years
<u>00.001332 Years</u>
00.452534 Years |
| I. | Final Payment of Service Retirement Allowance & Death Benefit per Govt. Code Section 31676.11: | |
| | Thompson, Muir M.
Deceased: | General Member
06/20/2021 |
| J. | Return of Contributions per Section 31781(a): | |
| | Redondo, Anthony | Safety Member Deceased |
| K. | Member Service Statistics (1 attachment) | |

OTHER ITEMS

14. Special Training:
ICERS' Previously Approved Training (1 attachment)

15 The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m., to the special meeting of October 6, 2021.

NORMA K. JAUREGUI, Chairman

DAVID H. PRINCE, Secretary