

**MEETING OF THE RETIREMENT BOARD
OF THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' AND OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND
OF COOK COUNTY AND EX OFFICIO FOR THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF COOK COUNTY**

**70 West Madison, Suite 1925
Chicago, IL 60602**

September 1, 2022 - 9:30 A.M.

The County Employees' and Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County and the Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County are herein collectively referred to as the "Fund."

Call to Order and Roll Call

Trustees Present: Lawrence Wilson, President; Patrick McFadden, Vice-President; Stephen Hughes, Secretary; John Blair, Bill Kouruklis; Kevin Ochalla, Tracy Reed

Staff Present: Brent Lewandowski, Interim Executive Director; Margaret Fahrenbach, Legal Advisor; Michael Maratea, Director, Finance and Administration; Gary LeDonne, Director, Benefits Administration; Francis Gonzalez-Crussi, Senior IT Manager; Saron Tegegne, Comptroller

Others Present: Mary Pat Burns, Burke Burns & Pinelli, Ltd; Andrew Gavrilos, Cook County Treasurer's Office; Colin Kruse, Cook County Board of Commissioners; Derek Blaida

President Wilson asked if any member of the public wanted to address the Board, but no one requested to do so.

1. Review and Consideration of August 4, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Blair that the Board adopt the presented minutes from the Board meeting on August 4, 2022.

Vote Result: **MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE**

2. Review and Consideration of:
a. Bills, Payroll Records

After receiving confirmation from Fund staff that the presented payments were consistent with the administrative budgets approved for 2022, it was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Blair that the action taken by Fund staff in remitting the indicated payments for the presented bills and payroll records in August, 2022, be ratified and that the Board approve the

recommendations from Fund staff to remit payments for the expenses incurred in August, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson

NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

b. Annuities, Spouse and Child Annuities, and Refunds

The Fund staff presented their recommendations to the Board regarding the applications for employee annuities, spouse and child annuities, and refunds and confirmed that they followed the Fund's procedures in reviewing and processing the applications in making their recommendations.

It was moved by Trustee Reed and seconded by Trustee Blair after due consideration of the applications presented to the Board and having received confirmation from Fund staff that they followed the Fund's procedures in reviewing and processing the applications, that the recommendations for the presented annuities and refunds be approved.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson

NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

c. Ordinary and Duty Disabilities

The Fund staff presented their recommendations to the Board regarding the applications for ordinary and duty disability benefits and confirmed that they followed the Fund's procedures in reviewing and processing the applications in making their recommendations. Brent Lewandowski, Interim Executive Director, stated that there would be a separate motion regarding the application for a continuation of ordinary disability benefits filed for the Member identified by Office Number 152896. The Fund's fiduciary counsel recommended that the separate motion be made because of pending litigation regarding this Member.

It was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Blair after due consideration of the disability applications presented to the Board and having received confirmation from Fund staff that they followed the Fund's procedures in reviewing and processing the applications, that the recommendations for the presented disability applications be approved.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson
NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

It was moved by Trustee Reed and seconded by Trustee McFadden after due consideration of the application for a continuation of ordinary disability benefits filed by the Member identified by Office Number 152896, that the Board find that the Member is eligible for ordinary disability benefits from July 2, 2019 through November 30, 2019, at a rate of \$125.96 per day.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson
NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

3. Health Benefits Matters – August 11, 2022, Health Benefits Committee Recommendations
 - a. Review and Consideration of Health Plan Rates for 2023

The Board considered the rates for 2023 that had been recommended by the Health Benefits Committee (“HBC”) at their meeting on August 11, 2022. The HBC had considered the subsidies and rates that were presented by Segal Company and had discussed the project health care expenses for 2023. The recommendation from the HBC included the rates for annuitants and survivors. The Interim Executive Director stated that the Fund has required all members to purchase Medicare Part A in order to participate in the CCPF Health Plan. The Board has allowed a \$65 premium credit for those members who were required to purchase Medicare Part A coverage.

It was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Hughes that the Board adopt the recommendation made by the Health Benefits Committee at their meeting on August 11, 2022, that the annuitant and survivor rates for the CCPF Health Plan, as proposed and prepared by Segal Company, be approved effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson
NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

It was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Reed that the Board approve the reduced rates which provide for a premium credit of \$65, as proposed and prepared by Segal Company, for members participating in the CCPF Health Plan who

are required to purchase Medicare Part A effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson

NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

b. Review and Consideration of Dental Plan Renewal with Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

The Board considered the continuation of a dental plan offered to annuitants and their dependents through Guardian Life Insurance Company of America. Guardian proposed to continue the coverage from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. The rates for the Dental PPO program would increase by 5% and the rates for the Dental HMO program would not change.

It was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Hughes that the Board approve the continuation of the Dental Plan offered by Guardian, with no changes to the benefits or administration of the plan, at the rates presented, effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson

NAYS: None

4. Administrative Matters

a. Consideration and Possible Approval of Renewal for CDW-G Server Workstation Endpoint Management Change Order

The Interim Executive Director stated that the Fund retained CDW-G to provide services for network monitoring and workstation endpoint management pursuant to a SOW that would expire on September 8, 2022. CDW-G had provided a Change Order for the SOW that would extend the service for an additional year upon substantially the same terms and fees as provided in the expiring SOW. He stated that the SOW presented to the Board had been approved as to form by fiduciary counsel and that a representative from CDW-G had signed it. He requested authority from the Board to execute the Change Order on behalf of the Fund.

It was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Hughes that the Board approve the proposed Change Order with CDW-G to provide server and workstation endpoint management services for the Fund from September 8, 2022, through September 7, 2023, at an annual fee not to exceed \$48,600 and that the Interim

Executive Director, subject to legal review, be authorized to execute and deliver the presented Change Order, or any other related written agreement, on behalf of the Fund to effectuate the foregoing.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson

NAYS: None

b. Consideration and Possible Approval of Trustee Attendance at Conference pursuant to Section 1-150 of the Pension Code

The Interim Executive Director stated that the Board had provided, as part of the Administrative Budget for 2022, that a trustee's attendance at certain conferences would be approved as required by Section 1-150 of the Illinois Pension Code. He stated that a trustee requested to attend a conference that was not included in those that had been approved as part of the Budget process and asked that the Board approve attendance at the indicated conference.

It was moved by Trustee Blair and seconded by Trustee Hughes, pursuant to Section 1-150 of the Illinois Pension Code and consistent with the recommendations of the Fund staff and fiduciary counsel, that the expenses, including any associated travel expenses, incurred by any trustee or Fund staff in attending the indicated education conference shall be approved, provided that the reimbursement shall be in and for amounts that are consistent with the Fund's Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson

NAYS: None

c. Interim Executive Director Report

The Interim Executive Director reported that the Cook County Commissioner Pension Committee meeting originally scheduled for July 29, 2022, had been cancelled and was rescheduled to September 21, 2022. He agreed to provide the link for the meeting so that the trustees could view the proceedings electronically.

He reminded the trustees that, pursuant to the Illinois Pension Code, they each needed to complete 8 hours of ethics training annually. In addition to the educational opportunities approved by the Board and presented at various meetings, training regarding sexual harassment and cyber security would be provided to the trustees this year. The trustees were asked to report to the Fund any training that they had received in 2022. The trustees should contact the Fund if there were questions about the hours of training they had received this year.

The Fund staff had completed the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (AFCR) and submitted them to the Government Finance Officers Association (GOFA) on August 30, 2022. The reports have been posted to the Fund's website and hardcopies will be available for the trustees at the Board meeting in November. The Interim Executive Director thanked the Fund staff for completing and submitting the AFCR.

The Fund has received an extension of time to submit the Illinois-Based Utilization Report regarding the use of Illinois-based economic opportunity investments made in 2021. The report will be filed by September 9, 2022.

He reported that the Fund's cyber security insurance policy will expire on October 8, 2022, but carriers would not submit proposals to renew the coverage more than 30 days prior to the expiration date. The Fund has been in contact with its broker, Alliant, to obtain cyber security insurance and the broker has reported that the Fund will see a rate increase.

The Interim Executive Director stated that the Annual Contribution Statements for balances as of December 31, 2021, were mailed to current County and Forest Preserve District employees this week.

The Investment Committee meeting originally scheduled for August 23rd had been rescheduled to September 8, 2022, at 9:30 am.

5. Legal Matters

It was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Blair that the Board convene an Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson

NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

It was moved by Trustee Kouruklis and seconded by Trustee Hughes that the Board adjourn the Executive Session and return to open session.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

a. Felony Conviction Review – Office No. 170434

There was no motion made or required to be made following the return to open session regarding Item 5a.

b. Consideration and Possible Adoption of Hearing Officer's Recommendation for Office #140961

It was moved by Trustee Hughes and seconded by Trustee Ochalla that the Board adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommendation regarding the Member identified by Office Number 140961 and that the Board reaffirm its earlier denial of the benefits the Member had requested. It was further moved that the Board's action would be a final agency decision pursuant to Section 9-236 of the Illinois Pension Code.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Blair, Hughes, Kouruklis, McFadden, Ochalla, Reed, Wilson
NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

6. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Personnel Matters

There was no motion made or required to be made following the return to open session regarding Item 6.

7. Old Business/New Business

There was no old business or new business discussed.

8. Adjournment

It was moved by Trustee Blair and seconded by Trustee Ochalla that the meeting be adjourned.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

The next Board meeting was scheduled for October 6, 2022, at 9:30 am.